

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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Greetings on the Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. Guru Ji was the embodiment of compassion, sacrifice & universal brotherhood. Let us draw inspiration from his teachings & rededicate ourselves to the ideals of social equality, unity and service to humanity.

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CM Omar Wants J&K Film Festival To Put UT On Global Cinema Map

Lays Roadmap For J&K's First IFF, Aims To Restore Kashmir's Role In Cinematic Production



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a review meeting to assess preparations for the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK)-2026, envisaged as a landmark initiative to revive the region's cinematic legacy.

The meeting held extensive deliberations on the festival's vision, its screening & programming strategy, branding, digital outreach, industry partnerships and international participation.

Director Information & Public Relations Shreya Singhal gave a comprehensive presentation outlining the proposed framework for the inaugural edition of the festival.

Reviewing the proposals, the Chief Minister said the International Film Festival should evolve into a globally recognized cinematic event celebrating storytelling while showcasing Jammu & Kashmir's breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage, artistic traditions and emerg-

ing creative talent. He stressed the need to deliver a professionally curated festival of international standards capable of attracting renowned filmmakers, producers, artists and cinema enthusiasts from across the world.

CM Omar Abdullah underlined that the festival must not be viewed merely as a film event but as a defining cultural and economic platform for Jammu & Kashmir. He said it should generate opportunities in tourism, investment, employment and the creative economy while reaffirming J&K's historic place as India's preferred destination for film production, creative pursuits and cinematic tourism.

Emphasizing the importance of nurturing the local creative ecosystem, the Chief Minister directed that local filmmakers, writers, directors, actors, cinematographers, technicians, photographers, designers, artisans, craftsmen and other creative professionals be meaningfully integrated. ●P-06

Amarnath Yatra To Commence From July 3 Amid Multi-Layer Security Arrangements

Mock Drills Held Across Pilgrimage Routes; Traffic Curbs, Rail Restrictions And Rescue Teams Put In Place

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra is all set to commence on July 3 amidst unprecedented multi-layer security arrangements.

According to the details available, authorities are conducting mock drills, deploying specialised rescue teams, regulating traffic and railway operations, and centralising official communication to ensure the smooth conduct of the 57-day pilgrimage.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on July 2 for the twin routes of Baltal in Ganderbal district and Pahalgam in Anantnag district. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 28 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Ahead of the Yatra, Srinagar Police on Tuesday conducted a multi-agency mock drill at the Transit Yatri Camp in Pantha Chowk to test preparedness for emergencies, including a



fidayeen attack, road accidents, medical emergencies, evacuation and rescue operations.

The exercise involved personnel from the police, CAPFs, Traffic Police, State Disaster Response Force, Fire and Emergency Services, Health Department, Civil Administration and ambulance services. Officials said the drill focused on

response time, communication, coordination and adherence to standard operating procedures before a detailed debriefing to identify operational gaps.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, V K Birdi also reviewed security deployment in Ganderbal district and said extensive mock drills had been conducted while all security

agencies were working in close coordination to ensure a safe pilgrimage.

Security agencies have intensified surveillance across Jammu and Kashmir, with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Jammu and Kashmir Police and other Central Armed Police Forces maintaining round-the-clock vigil on highways, transit camps, pilgrimage routes and key installations.

The CRPF has deployed a 30-member specialised Mountain Rescue Team along the Baltal route to respond to emergencies in the high-altitude terrain. Equipped with oxygen cylinders, portable stretchers, ropes, medicines and rescue equipment, the team will assist pilgrims in medical emergencies and coordinate with other agencies during natural disasters such as landslides or flash floods.

Authorities have also operationalised a 24x7 Command and Control Centre in Srinagar to monitor the ●P-06

Deputy CM Betrayed Omar Abdullah's Trust: NC MLA



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Ruling National Conference MLA Javid Iqbal Choudhary on Tuesday said that the Deputy Chief Minister has broken the trust of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as well as the public and has ganged up against them by joining hands with their rivals after the CM had directed him to undo wrongs in the allocation of funds.

MLA Budhal Javid Choudhary slammed the Deputy Chief Minister over what he called a dictatorial and authoritarian attitude. "He has broken the trust of the CM as well as the public," he said.

Javid added that the Deputy CM was directed by the CM during a meeting at Dachigam on June 03 to undo the wrongs in the allocation of funds as well as other matters. "What the Deputy CM did is shocking! He didn't rectify the mistakes but instead joined hands with our rivals to teach us a lesson for speaking against him," he said.

He said that the Deputy CM is threatening MLAs with expulsion. ●P-06

On Amarnath Yatra Eve, LG Sinha To Attend Tawi Arti Today

YOGESH

JAMMU: On the eve of Amarnath Yatra, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will attend Tawi Arti at Tawi River Front Jammu today

morning and flag off the first batch of pilgrims from the city of Jammu on Thursday.

An official said that the Lieutenant Governor will be attending Tawi Arti at Tawi River

Front Jammu. The event is expected to be attended by Ministers, local MLAs of Jammu, senior civil, police and security officials besides representatives of the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine

Board and other departments.

He said the first batch of pilgrims will be ceremonially flagged off from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp by LG Sinha on Thursday morning. ●P-06

Mahesh Dixit Takes Charge As New Intelligence Bureau Chief



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Senior IPS officer Mahesh Dixit on Tuesday took charge as the new Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), succeeding Tapan Kumar Deka who retired after a four-year tenure.

Dixit, a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre (now serving Telangana), will head the premier internal intelligence agency for a two-year tenure.

His appointment was cleared last week by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prior to his elevation, Dixit was serving as the Special Director in the IB, and was in-charge of counter-terror desk besides overseeing other departments of strategic importance.

A qualified medical doctor-turned-law enforcement professional, Dixit brings nearly three decades of extensive experience to the top post. Within the security establishment, he is widely recognised for his strong ground-level intelligence network and sharp counter-terrorism acumen.

Throughout his career, Dixit has managed diverse and sensitive portfolios, ranging from operations ●P-06

Srinagar Logs Season's Second Hottest Day At 35.2°C; Monsoon Rains To Bring Relief

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir sweltered under continuing heatwave conditions on Tuesday with Srinagar recording the season's second-highest maximum temperature at 35.2 degrees Celsius, even as the Meteorological Department forecast relief from Wednesday with the arrival of monsoon winds and the influence of a western disturbance.

Officials at the Meteorological Centre here said that the Valley will witness a gradual change in weather over the next few days, with rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds expected across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The weather office said heatwave or heatwave-like conditions are likely to persist till Tuesday before temperatures begin to ease from Wednesday.

According to the department, spells of rain and thundershow-



ers are expected at many places in Poonch, Rajouri, Shopian, Budgam and Kulgam, while isolated rainfall is also likely along the Reasi-Banihal-Ramban axis and in Gulmarg, Uri and Sonamarg.

It said a few places in Poonch, Rajouri, Budgam, Shopian, Kulgam and adjoining areas could witness brief but intense showers accompanied by thun-

derstorms and gusty winds over the next couple of hours.

The MeT office has forecast one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places across Jammu and Kashmir from July 1 to July 5. It said isolated areas may experience heavy rainfall, intense showers, thunderstorms and strong winds between July 2 and July 4. ●P-06

General Dhiraj Seth Takes Over As 31st Chief Of The Army Staff

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: General Dhiraj Seth on Tuesday assumed charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who retired after more than four decades of distinguished service to the nation.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, General Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986. Over a distinguished military career spanning nearly four decades, he has had extensive experience across the operational, strategic, capability development and institutional domains, contributing significantly to the Indian Army's combat effectiveness and long-term transformation.

The General Officer has commanded at every level in diverse operational environments. His command assign-



ments include an Armoured Regiment in the Desert Sector, an Armoured Brigade in the Western Theatre, and a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu & Kashmir. As a Lieutenant General, he commanded the Sudarshan Chakra Corps, one of the Indian Army's premier strike formations. He subsequently served as General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, overseeing key national and international military engagements and ●P-06

Amarnath Yatra Vistadome Train To Chug Between Banihal-Budgam For 2 Months

UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The Northern Railway has curtailed the operation of the Vistadome Special train for two months in view of security arrangements for the annual Amarnath Yatra.

An official said that Vistadome train which normally operates between Katra to Budgam Railway stations, will run only between Banihal to Budgam from July 1 to August 31, 2026 or till further orders.

The official said the decision has been taken following security inputs and recommendations from the Jammu and Kashmir Police to facilitate smooth conduct of the pilgrimage and effective crowd management during the Yatra.

He said the Vistadome service will continue to operate on the Banihal-Budgam section, while train operations on the Katra-Banihal stretch will



remain suspended during the two-month period.

Known for its panoramic glass coaches offering scenic views of the Kashmir Valley, the Vistadome Special is a popular attraction among tourists. The arrangement will be reviewed after the conclusion of the Yatra, the official added. Meanwhile, ahead of the

departure of the first batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims from Jammu towards Kashmir on Thursday, the Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police has announced traffic restrictions on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway for Wednesday.

According to a traffic advisory, no movement of heavy motor vehicles (HMs) will be allowed

from Qazigund towards Jammu and from Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after 7:00 PM on July 1.

However, light motor vehicles (LMVs) will be permitted to ply up to 11:00 PM from Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar and from Qazigund towards Jammu. Commuters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly.

Traffic officials also advised passengers and LMV operators to undertake travel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway during daytime and avoid night travel due to the possibility of shooting stones, landslides and ongoing construction work between Ramban and Banihal, which may cause inconvenience to commuters.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday conducted a dry run of the Amarnath Yatra convoy on NH-44 to assess ●P-06

Summer Break For Kashmir Schools Likely From July 6

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department is likely to announce summer break for all schools of Kashmir division from July 06.

An official said that the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has proposed 10 days summer break for schools of Kashmir division.

"The directorate has proposed 10 days summer break for all government and private schools from Monday (July-6) and the final decision of School Education Department is expected to come soon," the official said.

It also said, "The Education Minister Sakina Itoo and the School Education Department will chair a general meeting on July-01 wherein the final decision is likely to be taken." (KNO)

Delhi-Ladakh Dialogue GoI Team To Meet LAB, KDA Leaders In Leh On July 2



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Union Government's representatives are set to meet leaders of the Ladakh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on July 2 in Leh to sort out differences that have arisen after the May 22 meeting between the two sides, sources disclosed.

Sources said that a team of representatives from the Centre is likely to meet both bodies spearheading the agitation for constitutional safeguards in Ladakh. "The team is likely to be headed by a senior official in the Minis-

try of Home Affairs (MHA)," they said, adding that these will be informal talks, given that formal discussions are held only at the level of the sub-committee and the high-powered committee constituted for Ladakh.

Differences have emerged between the two sides over the minutes of the last sub-committee meeting held in New Delhi on May 22, in which both sides appeared to have built consensus over key issues. After draft minutes of the meeting were shared with LAB and KDA, both bodies alleged that crucial points relating ●P-06

Div Com, IGP Jammu interact with civil society members

Brief media fraternity about comprehensive arrangements for SANJY-2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In order to ensure a safe, smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage of Amarnathji Yatra 2026, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti, Tuesday interacted with the Civil Society members, heads of religious, social and other prominent organisations.

The Div Com said that the administration has made comprehensive arrangements for the pilgrims in all five districts of Jammu Division where the Yatra route falls with regard to on-spot registration, RFID card, KYC centres, accommodation, larger facility, medical room, sanitation, power and water supply and security arrangements.

Highlighting the significance of the annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji, the Div Com emphasised the role of civil society members, social & religious organisation and the people of Jammu as the host to the national event in which people from all over the country and world participate with immense devotion and spirituality.

During the meeting, members of the Civil Society shared their views and suggestions for providing the best and memorable experience to the pilgrims. The Div Com said that their valuable suggestions shall be incorporated and expressed gratitude for the support and assistance from their end for welfare of the Pilgrims.

IGP Traffic, Managing



Director JPDCL, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Jammu, senior officials from Civil and Police administration and representatives of religious, social organizations, transporters, Taxi Union, Traders, Bazaar associations, hoteliers, and other prominent citizens attended the meeting.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner and the IGP Jammu also addressed a press conference outlining the comprehensive security, logistical and administrative arrangements put in place for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

He urged the pilgrims for strictly following the cut-off timings and guidelines issued by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the District Administrations to ensure a spiritually enriching and convenient experience of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The Div Com said that proper arrangements have been made for the reception of pilgrims at Lakhanpur entry point, where the Kathua district administration and police have implemented full security and welcome protocols. The pil-

grims are required to enter Lakhanpur from 6 AM to 8 PM for proceeding towards Jammu in mini convoys. After 8 PM they can spend for the night at Lakhanpur in the Government accommodations especially set up for the pilgrims.

People who have registered online can receive their RFID cards at Lakhanpur, Chichi Mata Temple, Samba, Jammu Railway Station, Tawi Riverfront or Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas. Pilgrims must complete their e-KYC and collect their RFID tags from these centres before entering the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas by 10 PM a day before departing for Pahalgam or Baital Base camps in the Yatra convoy under proper security protocol, he said.

The Divisional Commissioner further said that pilgrims who are travelling in personnel vehicles towards Srinagar must strictly adhere to cut-off timings set by the traffic department, with vehicles required to cross the Nagrota TCP between 6 AM to 12:00 PM, Jakhani by 1:00 PM, Chanderkote by 2:00 PM and Banihal by 3:00 PM in order to enter Kashmir in day light. Pilgrims who are reaching by train, can

also receive RFID card at Udhampur railway station. Pilgrims can also receive the RFID cards at Chanderkote and Banihal in Ramban.

In Jammu, the main registration centre is established at Tawi Riverfront with proper facilities. On-spot registration shall begin from Wednesday morning at the Tawi River Front, with a token system already initiated today to manage daily quotas for pilgrims seeking registration. Registration centres are also set up at Mahajan Sabha for general public and at Geeta Bhawan and Purani Mandi for Sadhus.

The Divisional Commissioner further said that accommodation for approximately 55,000 pilgrims has been made across the Jammu division, comprising government centres, temporary facilities and shelters set up with the cooperation of civil society organisations. Adequate arrangements for food through langars, drinking water, power supply, sanitation, security and medical support have been ensured across all these locations. A total of 2100 toilets have been set up for pilgrims at accommodation centre, yatri niwas, halt points and along the National Highway-44.

The Tourism Department has introduced dedicated AC buses operating on four routes with guides and refreshments to facilitate visits to regional destinations including the Suchetgarh Border, Gharana Wetland, Akhnour Fort, Raghunath Bazaar, Bahu Fort, and Mahamaya Temple.

Further, it was informed that Transport Department has issued fixed rate lists for autos, e-rickshaws, and taxis to prevent overcharging.

Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti said that Yatra shall be conducted in regulated manner for which meticulous planning, resources and arrangements have been put in place. He stressed on adherence to the cut off timings publicised by Traffic department for smooth movement of yatra vehicles.

The IGP informed that proper security arrangements have been made across the entire 260-kilometre route, transit camps and langar sites.

Pilgrims must travel strictly via National Highway 44 (NH-44). Alternative routes such as Dhar Road or Mughal Road are strictly out of bounds for Yatra vehicles. Drivers must ensure full fuel tanks before joining convoys and strictly avoid driving under the influence, he said.

He further cautioned the pilgrims to beware of fraudulent websites and unauthorised WhatsApp groups offering fake registrations. He urged the pilgrims to rely solely on the official Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board platform for all registration-related matters.

SANJY-2026

IGP Traffic chairs review meeting to finalize Traffic Management Arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Traffic J&K, M. Suleman Choudhary, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and finalize traffic management arrangements for the smooth, safe and seamless movement of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 pilgrims along the Kashmir axis.

The meeting was attended by DIG South Kashmir Range, Javed Iqbal Matoo, DIG CRPF Anantnag, SSP Kulgam, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, SSP Traffic National Highway Ramban, SP Headquarters Anantnag, SP NHW Qazigund, besides other senior officers of the Civil Police, CRPF, Traffic Police and district administration of Anantnag and Kulgam.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the traffic management plan was undertaken with emphasis on ensuring close coordination and effective synergy among all stakeholder agencies for the safe and uninterrupted movement of Yatra convoys. The implementation and strict adherence to



the notified convoy cut-off timings were discussed at length and all officers were directed to ensure their meticulous enforcement without exception.

The IGP stressed the importance of seamless inter-agency coordination, real-time information sharing, prompt clearance of traffic bottlenecks and effective regulation of civilian traffic to facilitate hassle-free movement of Yatra convoys. He also emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of road conditions, swift response to emergencies and efficient deployment of police personnel at all vulnerable and congestion prone locations.

The officers were instructed to maintain close liaison with the district administration, CRPF, road maintenance agencies and other concerned departments to ensure immediate response to any unforeseen situation. Special emphasis was laid on effective dissemination of traffic advisories, regulation of stranded vehicles whenever required, and ensuring minimum inconvenience to the general public while maintaining the highest priority for Yatra convoy movement.

The IGP reiterated that the safety and convenience of the pilgrims remain the foremost priority and directed all officers to work in close coordination, maintain high standards of professionalism and ensure flawless execution of the traffic management plan throughout the Yatra period.

DC B'la visits Uri Border Villages, reviews progress under Vibrant Villages Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, Tuesday undertook a field visit to several Vibrant Villages, including Tulawari, in the border Sub-Division Uri to assess the progress of developmental works and review implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP).

During the visit, the DC inspected various development works and assessed the availability of essential public services across the Vibrant Villages. He interacted with local residents, heard their grievances, and directed the concerned officers to redress their concerns on priority.

S.F. Hamid directed all officers to maintain close coordination with local communities, regularly monitor the progress of works, and ensure that all developmental interventions are executed in a transparent, efficient, and time-bound manner.

Earlier, the DC chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Officers Club, Uri, attended by SDM Uri, CPO Baramulla, and nodal officers for the Vibrant Villages Programme.

The meeting focused



on the saturation of VVP indicators across all identified Vibrant Villages of Uri Sub-Division to ensure holistic development of border villages through improved infrastructure, enhanced public services, livelihood generation, and better connectivity.

In a significant decision taken during the meeting, it was resolved that senior district-level officers shall undertake night stays in the Vibrant Villages for on-ground assessment and close monitoring of developmental works and public

service delivery. The nominated officers will interact with local residents and Panchayat representatives, review the status of infrastructure, connectivity, health, education, drinking water and electrification, and submit detailed visit reports for time-bound follow-up.

The DC reviewed the status of ongoing and proposed projects under VVP and directed the concerned departments to ensure their timely completion while upholding quality standards.

DIPR accords farewell to Ashok Kumar on superannuation after four decades

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, Tuesday accorded a warm and heartfelt farewell to Information Officer Ashok Kumar Sharma, who superannuated from government service after rendering more than 40 years of dedicated and exemplary service to the department.

A farewell function was organised to honour Sharma's remarkable professional journey and acknowledge his invaluable contributions to the growth and functioning of the Department over more than four decades.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Information, Shreya Singhal, lauded Ashok Sharma's unwaver-



ing commitment, professionalism and sincerity throughout his career. She described him as a dedicated officer whose work ethic, humility and sense of responsibility earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues across the department. She wished him a healthy, happy and fulfilling retired life.

The officers and officials present on the occasion also recalled Sharma's long and distinguished association with the Department, highlighting his contribution to public communication and the discharge

of official responsibilities with diligence and integrity. They extended their best wishes for his future endeavours and prayed for his continued good health and happiness.

Expressing his gratitude, Ashok Kumar Sharma thanked the Department, his colleagues and staff members for their unwavering support and cooperation during his long tenure. He fondly reminisced about his journey in the Department and described his years in service as enriching and memorable.

GDC B'pora organises series of awareness activities under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora on Tuesday organised a series of awareness activities under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to reinforce the message of a drug-free society and promote awareness among students about the ill effects of substance abuse.

The NSS Units of the college organised an Anti-Drug Pledge Ceremony under the leadership of Principal, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, and the guidance of Programme Officer, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay. Students participated enthusiastically and took a solemn pledge to abstain from drug abuse and spread awareness about its harmful effects. The programme highlighted the collective responsibility of youth in combating the drug menace and promot-

ing a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle.

On the occasion, the College Literary Club also organised an interactive session on substance abuse under the convenership of Prof. Sadaf Shaif. The session educated students about the adverse effects of substance abuse on individuals and society and stressed the importance of adopting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Meanwhile, the Red Ribbon Youth Club of the college organised a signature campaign under the leadership of Principal Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, coordinated by Dr. Mehrajuddin Talie, Convener, Red Ribbon Youth Club. Students and faculty members actively participated by signing a pledge to fight the menace of drugs and promote a healthy, addiction-free society.

KVK B'pora organizes Awareness Programme on Apple Leaf Blotch Miner

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bandipora-1, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, in collaboration with the Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar, Tuesday organized a one day awareness programme on "Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and its Management."

The programme aimed to create awareness among apple growers regarding the identification, surveillance, damage symptoms, and scientific management of the emerging invasive pest. A large number of apple growers from different villages of Bandipora district participated in the programme along with scientists from SKUAST-Kashmir, officials of the Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, and KVK Bandipora 1.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tariq Sultan, Head, KVK Bandipora-1,



emphasized the importance of timely awareness programmes for protecting apple orchards from emerging insect pests. He urged growers to remain vigilant, monitor their orchards regularly, and adopt scientific recommendations for effective pest management.

Dr. Barkat Hussain, Professor, Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, highlighted the importance of early detection, regular surveillance, and coordinated efforts among scientists, extension agencies, and farmers to contain the spread of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner.

Dr. Zewar Hussain, Associate Professor, Division of Entomology,

explained the methods of field surveillance, pest identification, and monitoring techniques. He advised farmers to inspect their orchards regularly and seek timely technical guidance whenever infestations are observed.

Dr. Sajad Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, delivered the keynote technical lecture on the biology, life cycle, damage symptoms, and adoption of integrated pest management practices for effective control of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. She advised farmers to regularly monitor their orchards and report any unusual pest incidence for timely scientific intervention.

enemies, and timely application of recommended insecticides for effective management of the pest.

Dr. Tahir Saleem, Subject Matter Specialist, Vegetable Science, KVK Bandipora-1, highlighted the importance of scientific orchard management practices, balanced nutrition, and timely advisory services for maintaining healthy orchards and improving apple productivity. He encouraged farmers to remain in regular contact with KVK Bandipora-1 for need based technical guidance.

Shabnum Mumtaz, Subject Matter Specialist, Entomology, KVK Bandipora-1, emphasized the importance of early pest surveillance, orchard sanitation, and adoption of integrated pest management practices for effective control of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. She advised farmers to regularly monitor their orchards and report any unusual pest incidence for timely scientific intervention.

DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, PULWAMA.

Subject: Implementation of "SAMADHAN SAMAROH" (Supreme Court Action for Mediated Adjudication and Disputes Harmonization Across Nation).

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of public in general, litigants in particular, Ld. Bar Members and Para Legal Volunteers of District Pulwama that Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India is organizing "SAMADHAN SAMAROH" to facilitate amicable resolution of suitable cases pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

As per the communication received by this authority, the initiative has commenced on 21st April, 2026 and will culminate in a Special Lok Adalat on 21st, 22nd & 23rd August, 2026.

Therefore, public in general, litigants in particular and Ld. Bar Members having their any case pending before Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India which is suitable for amicable settlement viz. civil disputes, matrimonial matters, service matters, accident claims, compoundable criminal cases etc. are requested to immediately contact the office of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Pulwama (7006251009) to ensure their participation in "SAMADHAN SAMAROH".

Wide publicity of the initiative is being ensured through the District Information Officer, Pulwama in leading newspapers and through other available means for information of the general public and maximum participation of the litigants for successful "SAMADHAN SAMAROH".

Moreover, all Para Legal Volunteers (Adhikar Mitras) of District Pulwama are directed to disseminate information about "SAMADHAN SAMAROH" in their assigned areas, identify litigants having pending cases before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India which is suitable for settlement.

No. :DLSA/Pul/2026/542-47
Dated: 30.06.2026
DIPK-2696-26
DT: 30/06/2026

Sd/-
Secretary
District Legal Services Authority
Pulwama

AMARNATH JI YATRA
Div Com Kashmir reviews facilities for Yatris at Srinagar Airport



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In preparation for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements put in place at Srinagar International Airport to ensure a safe, seamless, and hassle-free travel experience for pilgrims.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the facilities established for Yatris, including dedicated eKYC counters, Yatra Facilitation Centre, passenger reception areas, and other essential facilities available at the airport.

On the occasion, senior officials from the Civil Administration, Airport Authority, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the preparedness and coordination measures undertaken by their respective departments to facilitate the smooth movement of pilgrims at the Airport.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com stressed the need for coordination and robust communication mechanisms to ensure the timely resolution of issues and uninterrupted services for the pilgrims.

Pertinently, in a major step towards facilitating the seamless and pilgrim-friendly Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, the local Administration have substantially augmented the registration infrastructure across Kashmir.

The total number of pilgrim facilitation counters has been increased from 54 in 2025 to 131 in 2026, which includes a significant increase in E-KYC counters from 21 to 59, RFID counters from 20 to 32, and on-spot registration counters from 13 to 40.

The additional registration facilities have been established at key locations including Pantha Chowk, Srinagar International Airport and Railway Station Nowgam.

During the visit, the Div Com was accompanied by DC Budgam Athar Aamir, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam, and other officers from the concerned departments.

Sakeena Itoo urges academic leaders to embrace AI with responsibility, ethical values

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday urged the academic leaders to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) with responsibility and ethical values, adding that AI is reshaping education, governance and virtually every sphere of human activity.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the valedictory session of two-day Digital Readiness Workshop for Academic Leaders on the theme "Building AI-Ready Institutions" at Kashmir University here today.

The workshop was organised by University of Kashmir (KU) in collaboration with Intel, bringing together academic leaders, administrators and faculty members to deliberate on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) for academic excellence, institutional transformation and effective governance.

The workshop was organised as part of the University's continued efforts to promote digital readiness and innovation in higher education, the workshop was designed to equip academic leaders with the knowledge, practical insights and strategic competencies required to integrate AI into teaching-learning processes, research, academic administration and institutional leadership.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo described Artificial Intelligence as a transformative force that is reshaping education, governance and virtually every sphere of human activity. She said that AI is steadily becoming an indispensable part of almost every profession and urged academic leaders to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills necessary to harness its immense potential for the greater public good.

Calling for the judicious and ethical use of AI, the Minister said the technology has already demonstrated remarkable capabilities in diverse sectors, including healthcare through early detection of critical diseases, agriculture by improving crop quality assessment and weather forecasting, and disaster mitigation through predictive technologies. She observed that such inter-



ventions have the potential to significantly improve governance, decision-making and service delivery when implemented responsibly.

Emphasising the need for a balanced approach, Sakeena Itoo said that while Artificial Intelligence can analyse vast volumes of data and generate valuable insights, it cannot replace human wisdom, emotions, empathy and ethical judgement. "AI is opening doors to global knowledge and innovative solutions, but it must always complement human intelligence rather than substitute it. As AI becomes more powerful, our commitment to ethics and responsible use becomes even more important," she said, urging the participants to apply the knowledge gained during the workshop in their respective institutions and departments", she said.

In her remarks Vice Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan congratulated the participants on the successful completion of the workshop and expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic response received from academic leaders.

She said the University looks forward to receiving participants' feedback, which would help strengthen similar capacity-building initiatives in emerging technologies in the future.

Reaffirming the University's commitment to academic innovation and institutional excellence, Prof. Khan said the University of Kashmir would continue collaborating with leading organisations such as Intel to organise programmes that enhance the professional competencies of academic leaders, faculty members and administrators.

She expressed confidence that the workshop would enable participants to effectively integrate AI into academic leadership and institutional practices while building future-ready educational institutions.

Plan to Make Tourism a Year-Round Reality: Advisor Wani

MUHAMMAD SUHAIL

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani on Tuesday announced that the Jammu and Kashmir government will craft a holistic road-map in tandem with all stakeholders to ensure the sector thrives round the calendar, a move aimed at bolstering the Union Territory's economy, which remains heavily dependent on the annual pilgrim and leisure rush.

Addressing the annual general meeting of the Tourism Advisory Steering Committee (TASC) here, Wani, credited the outgoing team for successfully reviving the season through aggressive promotional drives across multiple locations. "They did a great job. They went to many places to promote tourism. As a result, we saw the season coming back to our country," he said.

The National Conference senior leader said that the administration is no longer satisfied with the peak-off-season binary. "Our tourism has a very widespread economy. We want tourism to be a year-round phenomenon, not just during peak season and off-season. We will sit with them and discuss how to attract tourists every month," he stated, adding that stakeholders are free to put forth their suggestions without any preconceived notions from the government's side.

Speaking on the Amarnath Yatra preparations, the Advisor stressed that the hospitality of Kashmir remains unwavering and central to the annual pilgrimage's smooth conduct. "We have always welcomed tourists, even on bad days. You should remember that the local population plays an important role. We are known for hospitality, and we will fulfill our hospitality," he said.

Commenting on the recent spate of Parliamentary delegations visiting the Valley, Nasir Sogami termed it a confidence-building measure for the rest of the country. "Parliamentary committees go to different states. Jammu and Kashmir also came. Jammu and Kashmir is their priority. They did their meetings here; they did their reviews. When high-profile guests come here, we should not have any obstacle. This gives confidence to the rest of the country," he said.

The CM's Advisor also urged journalists to balance criticism with positive messaging on developmental strides. "It is not necessary to send negative messages. This creates an atmosphere of distrust. You can criticise us, we have no problem with that—but you should send good messages to people. Tourism is flourishing, business is improving, and new developments are happening. MLAs are working in every constituency. If you send good messages, people will understand and there will be trust in the system," he said. (KNS)

University of Kashmir hosts book release ceremony of 'Durr-e-Naayaab'

Sakeena Itoo calls 'Durr-e-Naayaab' her most meaningful contribution to society

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of Urdu, University of Kashmir (KU) Tuesday organised the release of Durr-e-Naayaab (The Rare Pearl), a biography authored by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, at Main Campus.

The event brought together eminent academicians, literary personalities, students, scholars and writers to celebrate a work that chronicles the life, public service and enduring legacy of veteran political leader late Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo.

The book release function was presided over by Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, while Sakeena Itoo attended the programme as the Chief Guest and author of the book.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo expressed her gratitude to the Department of Urdu and the University of Kashmir for organising the release of Durr-e-Naayaab at the UT's premier institution.

Describing the occasion as deeply meaningful, the Minister said that she considered it a tribute to the enduring legacy of her late father and appreciated the University's initiative in bringing the work before



the academic community. "I thank the Department of Urdu and the University of Kashmir for honouring the rich legacy of my late father by releasing this book at this premier institutional and highest seat of learning," she said.

Calling Durr-e-Naayaab perhaps the most meaningful contribution she could make to society, the Minister said the biography represented years of painstaking research, reflection and emotional commitment. She remarked that if she was ever asked to identify her greatest contribution beyond public life, she would point to this book, which documents the values, struggles and unwavering commitment of a leader whose life was devoted to public service.

She added that the work was compiled after years of sustained effort and drew extensively upon family archives, personal memo-

ries and historical records. Reflecting on the emotional journey behind the book, Sakeena Itoo said that writing the biography of a person with whom one shares a deep emotional bond was one of the most difficult literary exercises. She recalled that many forgotten anecdotes were revived through her mother's recollections, which helped reconstruct significant episodes of her father's life.

The Minister also shared that several personal letters written by her father while he was away from home for studies became invaluable source material, offering intimate insights into his ideals, thoughts and unwavering commitment to the people.

She observed that he worked tirelessly to expand educational opportunities, improve healthcare facilities and promote inclusive development across the

region. Expressing concern over the declining culture of reading, the Minister urged the younger generation to rediscover the habit of reading books, particularly biographies that preserve the lives and contributions of selfless leaders. She said young readers would discover valuable lessons in courage, sacrifice, public service and ethical leadership through such works.

In her presidential address, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan congratulated Sakina Itoo on producing a work of lasting literary and historical value despite her demanding responsibilities as Minister. She described the biography as an extraordinary accomplishment.

She observed that documenting the life of a distinguished public figure while simultaneously discharging multiple public respon-

sibilities was a remarkable achievement worthy of appreciation.

Prof. Khan also highlighted the rich academic and literary legacy of the Department of Urdu, observing that generations of its faculty members had made immense contributions to the intellectual and cultural landscape of Kashmir and the country.

Referring to Durr-e-Naayaab, she said the biography presents a compelling account of late Wali Mohammad Itoo's public life, grassroots engagement and commitment to the welfare of the people. She added that the work provides readers with a deeper understanding of the region's social ethos, cultural values and traditions of public service.

The Vice-Chancellor further remarked that while reading the biography, she realised how profoundly the author's own personality had been shaped by the ideals and values of her late father. She said the book vividly captures the qualities of humility, dedication and compassion that defined his life and expressed confidence that it would inspire young readers to embrace integrity, selfless leadership and service to society.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean Academic

Affairs Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal and Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literature, Prof. Aijaz Mohammad Sheikh shared their views on the book and appreciated the author's efforts in documenting the life and contributions of late Wali Mohammad Itoo.

The speakers observed that Durr-e-Naayaab successfully combines personal narrative with historical documentation, enabling readers to understand the values, vision and leadership qualities that characterised late Wali Mohammad Itoo's public life.

Earlier, Head, Department of Urdu, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Malik, delivered the welcome address and welcomed the dignitaries, guests and participants. He highlighted the Department's continued commitment to promoting Urdu language and literature through academic and literary initiatives.

A review of Durr-e-Naayaab was presented during the programme, followed by a panel discussion that explored the literary, historical and social dimensions of the biography.

The programme later featured a review of the book and an engaging panel discussion on its literary, historical and socio-political relevance.

Div Com inspects functioning of ICCC Srinagar

Urges yatris to contact on Toll free number 01942740003 for information, assistance



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With just couple of days remaining for the commencement of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Tuesday visited Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC), Srinagar to assess the functioning of the surveillance & monitoring centre for ensuring smooth conduct of annual religious pilgrimage.

During the visit, the Div Com watched glitch-free streaming of visuals of Yatra camps and routes. On the occasion, he also interacted with the deployed staff and assessed data compilation during the day besides availability of department-wise information regarding on ground services, logistics and essential commodities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com highlighted the importance of the ICCC for inter-departmental coordination and synchronization of collective efforts of agencies for successful conduct of yatra.

He said that the camera network helps administration in prompt dissemination of messages and undertake appropriate actions during vagaries of weather.

While terming ICCC as a nerve centre of Yatra monitoring, the Div Com said that teams of various departments are deployed at the centre to monitor cameras round-the-clock for foolproof arrangements and ensuring best facilities to the pilgrims.

He informed that weather related updates will also be shared by IMD through display screens installed enroute and camps for real-time information. The Div Com informed that Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor has already taken comprehensive review of arrangements during his visit to Baltal and Nunwan base camps.

Leveraging on the previous record influx of Yatris, the Div Com asked devotees to come with much fervor for the pilgrimage and requested them to share their feedback with the administration on 01942740003 for improvement in facilities. He said ICCC is a one point solution for yatris to get any yatra related information or assistance instantly.

Over 4.49 lakh stakeholders attend mass PTMs across Kashmir: DSEK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: More than 4.49 lakh stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers and community members, participated in the fourth round of mass Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) conducted across schools in Kashmir, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) said on Monday.

The meetings were organised simultaneously in 5,333 schools across the Valley as part of the academic calendar for the 2026 session, the directorate said in a statement.

According to official figures, the participants

included 3,10,890 students, 1,05,673 parents and community members, and 32,578 teachers and school heads.

DSEK Director Naseer Ahmad Wani thanked parents and local communities for their participation and said the large turnout reflected a growing partnership between schools and families in improving educational outcomes.

The PTMs focused on students' academic progress, behavioural development and overall well-being, while also providing a platform for parents to interact directly with teachers and school administrators, the statement said.

Senior education officials, including Chief Education Officers, monitored the meetings and addressed concerns raised by parents during the interactions.

Wani directed officers and teaching staff to act on the feedback received during the meetings and ensure timely follow-up on issues highlighted by parents, the directorate added.

The successful conduct of the fourth round of mass PTMs reaffirmed the department's commitment to community participation, transparency and continuous improvement in the school education sector across Kashmir, the statement said. (KNS).

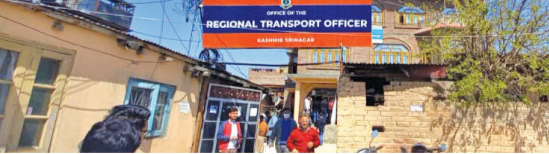
RTO Kashmir Issues Heatwave Advisory, Asks Public to Avoid Office Visits

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Amid the intense heatwave sweeping across the valley, the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir on Tuesday issued a public advisory urging citizens to refrain from visiting the office premises unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

In a bid to ensure public convenience while safeguarding them from the scorching temperatures, the RTO has launched a dedicated WhatsApp helpline. The move is aimed at facilitating seamless delivery of transport-related services while minimising physical footfall at the office.

According to an official communiqué issued by the



RTO accessed news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) citizens facing any grievance, issue, or requiring assistance pertaining to transport services have been advised to submit their complete details via the WhatsApp number 9622002432.

The RTO has assured that all grievances will be redressed within a stipulated time frame of 48 hours. "If any additional information or documents are required, the applicant will be

informed through a reply on WhatsApp itself," the notice read. The public has been earnestly requested to make use of this digital facility and avoid unnecessary visits to the office during the prevailing heatwave conditions.

The advisory comes as Kashmir continues to reel under unusually high temperatures, prompting authorities across departments to issue health and safety warnings for the general public. (KNS)

Javid Dar meets HoDs, public delegations at Civil Secretariat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Tuesday met senior officers of the Rural Development, Animal Husbandry and Horticulture departments besides interacting with several public delegations at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

During the meetings, the Minister reviewed a wide range of public issues and developmental projects

pertaining to the concerned departments. He took stock of the progress of ongoing initiatives and emphasized the need for timely implementation of development works to ensure effective delivery of public services.

The public delegations apprised the Minister of various issues and demands concerning their respective areas.

Giving a patient hearing to all the representations, Javid Dar assured the delegations that every genuine grievance would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Peace Needs Partners, Not Just Promises

When Mirwaiz Umar Farooq recently called for renewed dialogue between India and Pakistan, he tapped into a desire that almost everyone in the region shares. No one in their right mind wants perpetual conflict. Every regular person in India wants a stable, quiet neighbourhood where their kids don't have to grow up under the shadow of a baseline threat. But the hard truth is that you can't build a lasting peace on a foundation of empty words. It requires trust, genuine intent, and, most importantly, safety. India has never been the one slamming the door on talks. Over the decades, one government after another has extended an olive branch to Pakistan, hoping to finally turn the page. But too often, those hands were bitten by cross-border violence and tragic acts of terrorism. It's hard to sit down at a diplomatic table when the ground beneath you is shaking. That is why India's stance has been so unyielding: you simply cannot hold a meaningful conversation while violence is still being actively encouraged.

It is easy to point to peace processes in other parts of the world and ask, "Why not here?" But South Asia's wounds are deep and unique. India's caution isn't just stubborn politics; it is the result of decades of painful scars. Real people—ordinary citizens and the soldiers sent to protect them—have paid for these lessons with their lives. Before anyone can expect formal talks to start up again, there needs to be a real, verifiable effort to shut down terror networks and build a modicum of trust. Meanwhile, life on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir is changing. If you look at the region today, you see a massive push for everyday essentials: better roads, new tunnels, upgraded schools, working hospitals, and a massive boom in tourism and investment. The area still faces plenty of hurdles, but the stability of the last few years has given regular families a real shot at a normal, prosperous life. Protecting that progress has to be the priority. Ultimately, talking is always better than fighting. But a bridge cannot be built from just one side. True peace is a mutual responsibility. You cannot cultivate a friendship when one party refuses to drop the weapon behind their back.

India is ready to talk—it always has been. But as a sovereign country, its first duty is to protect its people. A peace that is fragile and built entirely on wishful thinking won't last. A peace built on strength, mutual respect, and verifiable trust will. Taking a cautious, measured approach right now isn't a rejection of diplomacy; it's a commitment to making sure that when we finally do sit down to talk, the effort actually succeeds.

Who Owns A Ph.D. In The Age Of AI?

The UGC's Evolving Anti-Plagiarism Framework Forces Indian Universities To Confront A Deeper Crisis: The Rise Of Surrogate Human Scholarship.

DR. MD NAWAZ SARIF

A young doctoral scholar sits before a blinking cursor late into the night. Weeks of struggling over a complex literature review vanish with a single, well-engineered prompt typed into a generative AI chatbot. In less than a minute, five polished pages materialize. The prose is elegant, the synthesis appears sophisticated, and the citations look authoritative. As the scholar hovers over the copy-paste command, a profound question emerges: If this text settles into the final dissertation, who is the true author of the Ph.D.—the researcher or the machine?

This is no longer a hypothetical ethical dilemma; it is the central institutional crisis confronting contemporary higher education. Generative AI is not merely optimizing the mechanics of research; it is actively decoupling human thought from text production. Consequently, the challenge facing Indian universities is fundamentally epistemological and ethical, rather than technological.

Every disruptive leap in information technology has triggered historical anxiety. Gutenberg's printing press was feared for potentially atrophying human memory; the classroom calculator was tipped to destroy mental arithmetic; the early internet was accused of manufacturing superficial scholarship. Yet, generative AI represents a challenge of an entirely different order. Previous tools curated or calculated data; AI imitates human cognition. By instantly drafting research proposals, synthesizing literature, generating code, and structuring arguments, it forces an uncomfortable question: Can authentic human scholarship survive when originality itself becomes technologically optional?

This crisis of academic credibility is already playing out globally. In the United Kingdom, institutions reported nearly 7,000 confirmed cases of AI-driven academic misconduct during the 2023-24 academic cycle, with sector-wide data showing a steep climb to roughly 5.1 cases per 1,000 students. This surge has forced a radical redesign of traditional assessments. In the United States, elite universities are trapped in complex legal and disciplinary battles over digital authorship. Conversely, Australian universities discovered the limitations of defensive technology when automated AI-detection software repeatedly flagged genuine student submissions as machine-generated, proving that algorithms cannot serve as the final arbiters of human authenticity.

India's research ecosystem is facing an identical, systemic vulnerability. At Lucknow University earlier this year, an originality screening using DrillBit software flagged a staggering 116 out of



121 submitted Ph.D. theses—over 95 percent—for plagiarism or heavy AI-assisted content requiring deeper investigation, with similarity indexes skyrocketing well past the permitted 5 percent threshold. Similarly, Osmania University saw nearly 600 doctoral dissertations returned for major revisions over a two-year window after Turnitin checks caught deep structural AI copying, while Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University was forced to halt the evaluation of multiple theses packed with synthetic content that breached the 40 percent similarity line. These numbers reveal that AI-mediated misconduct is no longer an isolated anomaly; it has permeated the bedrock of Indian research.

Against this backdrop, the University Grants Commission's (UGC) evolving regulatory approach marks a critical paradigm shift. While the landmark 2018 regulations were built to catch traditional, text-matching plagiarism, the current institutional stance recognizes a far more elusive threat: the outsourcing of intellectual ownership. A thesis can bypass standard text-matching databases entirely and still fail the fundamental test of scholarship if its core concepts, data interpretations, or insights were synthesized by an algorithm.

The regulatory trajectory reflects this urgency. In 2018, advanced generative AI did not exist in the academic lexicon. By 2023, universities responded with fragmented, unenforceable local bans. Today, in 2026, the policy consensus has matured from naive prohibition to strict governance. The UGC's current framework establishes an unambiguous line: unacknowledged AI-generated content in doctoral work constitutes academic fraud.

Crucially, this framework distinguishes between mechanical assistance and cognitive substitution. Employing AI functions as a permissible tool when utilized as a sophisticated assistant to refine grammar, smooth prose, organize bibliography matrices, translate drafts, or debug raw software code—provided every output is critically audited and verified by the researcher. The boundary is strictly

I can level the playing field for first-generation scholars struggling against systemic language barriers, streamline data parsing, and strip away routine administrative drudgery. The objective must be ethical integration, not blind exclusion.

crossed, however, when a scholar chooses to outsource the core intellectual labor: the formulation of the research problem, the conceptual framework, the methodological choices, the data analysis, and the final conclusions. These must remain the unvarnished products of the candidate's own mind.

The ethical line is breached the moment technology replaces cognitive struggle. Submitting AI-authored chapters, fabricating datasets, inventing synthetic interviews, or passing off algorithmic inferences as personal field insights are not instances of digital innovation; they are clear acts of research malpractice.

To enforce this, the UGC has tied these ethical boundaries to stringent institutional penalties based on clear similarity tiers. For work showing a similarity level between 10% and 40%, the dissertation is rejected and returned for mandatory revision within six months. If the metric escalates to between 40% and 60%, the candidate faces a strict one-year bar on re-submission. In the most egregious cases, where similarity exceeds 60%, institutional regulations mandate the outright cancellation of the scholar's Ph.D. registration.

Significantly, the architecture of

accountability has expanded. Research supervisors who fail to exercise due diligence can now face institutional penalties, including the loss of their supervisory privileges. Academic integrity is no longer treated as an individual student obligation, but as a shared institutional liability.

While digital infrastructure like the Shodhganga repository, the Shodh-Shuddhi initiative, and enterprise access to platforms like Turnitin and DrillBit Extreme have fortified India's quality control, these tools are not infallible. Plagiarism software counts text matches; it cannot evaluate authentic comprehension. Therefore, the real task before Indian universities extends far beyond bureaucratic compliance. Institutions must fundamentally redesign the doctoral journey. Rather than evaluating only the final, polished product, supervisors must evaluate the process of inquiry through mandatory iterative drafts, annotated research diaries, and verified trails of intellectual evolution. Most critically, the oral viva voce examination must be restored to its rightful place as the definitive trial of authorship. A genuine scholar can navigate, defend, and justify conceptual anomalies in a way a text-generating model never can.

Simultaneously, academia must resist the regressive temptation to demonize these tools. Generative AI possesses an immense capacity to democratize research. It can level the playing field for first-generation scholars struggling against systemic language barriers, streamline data parsing, and strip away routine administrative drudgery. The objective must be ethical integration, not blind exclusion. The ultimate metric is not whether a scholar utilized AI, but whether they remain intellectually accountable for every word on the page.

The trajectory of Indian higher education will not be decided by whether researchers use artificial intelligence—their adoption of it is inevitable. The defining question is whether our universities can preserve the value of a doctoral degree in an era where the written word can be synthetically manufactured in seconds.

When a machine can draft a dissertation within hours, the true measure of an academic institution is its capacity to distinguish between a generated output and original human thought. A Ph.D. is not earned by the name printed on a leather-bound cover; it is earned through the grueling, often frustrating discipline of independent inquiry. Technology can generate answers, but only human beings can create knowledge.

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Mastering The Scroll

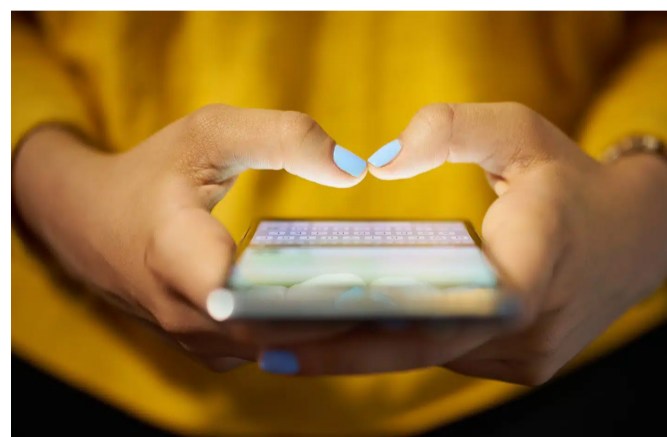
Social Media Between Benefit And Harm

FAZILA MUSHTAQ

Every single day we fall into the exact same routine; the moment we have a free second, our thumbs automatically go to our phones, we start flicking upward endlessly, chasing the next post, the next short video or the next notification. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, X, YouTube and Snapchat have completely changed how we talk to each other how we learn and how we share our lives but as our world becomes more and more digital we have to face a really important truth: that social media is a double-edged sword whether it brings good into our lives or become a major problem depends entirely on how and why we use it. The Bright side of the right mindset: social media actually offers some amazing benefits it has broken down distance, making it incredibly easy for families and friends to stay close and chat instantly no matter how many miles apart they are, for students and anyone who loves to learn it is like a massive free library where we can find helpful online courses, scholarly lectures, research papers and study groups in just a few clicks.

The dark side is the trap of endless scrolling and hidden Anxiety. But despite all these good things, spending too much time on our screens is quietly changing our behaviour for the worse. The way these apps are

designed with "infinite scrolling" sets a dangerous trap that leads straight to addiction. We lose track of time, procrastinate on important tasks, and see our productivity drop. For students, the constant ping of notifications completely ruins their focus, which almost always leads to lower grades. Even worse is what it does to our mental health. Social media is basically a highlight reel where people only post their absolute best moments, their wealth, their looks, their vacations, and their happiest days. When we constantly compare our messy, everyday realities to these perfectly edited, idealised lives, it creates a toxic mix of stress, anxiety, low self-esteem, and a heavy feeling that our own lives just aren't good enough. On top of that, because people can hide behind a screen, we see a massive rise in cyberbullying, online harassment, and the careless sharing of fake news. When we let online likes replace real-life conversations, our family relationships weaken, and our actual face-to-face social skills begin to rust. From an Islamic viewpoint, social media is just a tool. It doesn't have a morality of its own; its character comes entirely from the person holding the phone. Islam places a massive emphasis on human dignity, honesty, and privacy. Using these platforms to humiliate someone, share gossip, or spread rumours without checking if they are true goes completely against Islamic ethics. Every single time we are about



to post or share something, we need to pause and honestly ask ourselves: Is this true? Is it helpful? Is it respectful?

Islam also strictly warns us against wasting our most precious asset: our time. Allah reminds us of this beautifully in Surah Al-Asr (103:1-3): "In time, indeed, mankind is in loss, except those who believe, do righteous deeds, encourage one another to the truth, and encourage one another to patience."

Time is a gift from Allah, and it is a currency we are supposed to invest wisely, not throw away by spending hours mindlessly scrolling through short reels that bring zero benefit to our minds or our souls. The Prophet Muhammad perfectly described how easily we lose track of this blessing when he said, "There are two blessings which many people lose: health and free time." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

The heavy anxiety that

comes from comparing ourselves to others on social media is something Islam addressed over 1,400 years ago. Constantly looking at everyone else's "perfect" life easily sparks Hasad (destructive envy) and completely kills our Shukr (gratitude) for the everyday blessings Allah has already given us. To protect our hearts from this digital sickness, the Prophet gave us a timeless piece of advice: "Look at those who are beneath you and do not look at those who are above you, for it is more suitable that you should not underestimate the blessings of Allah." (Sahih Muslim)

When our phone notifications start pulling us away from our real-life duties, like our Salah (prayers), our studies, and Silat-ur-Rahm (keeping good ties with our parents and family)—the screen is no longer serving us; we are serving the screen. This addiction not only pulls us away from

reality, but it also opens the door to bad influences, inappropriate content, and choices that we will eventually deeply regret. The beautiful thing, though, is that the very same phone in your hand can become a source of immense reward (Thawab) if you change your Niyah (intention). If a believer opens an app with the conscious goal to share beneficial knowledge, encourage good actions, stand up for justice, help a person in need, or keep in touch with relatives, that ordinary act of scrolling completely transforms into a form of Ib dah (worship) that pleases Allah. Note: at the end of the day, social media is neither a total curse nor a perfect blessing; it is simply a mirror that reflects our own self-discipline. When we use it mindfully, it is an amazing tool for education, connection, and spreading good vibes. But when we let it run wild, it drains our time, hurts our mental health, and damages our character as Muslims living in a digital world, the path forward is clear: we need to look at our screens through the lens of the Qur'an and the Sunnah. By speaking kindly and truthfully, respecting people's privacy, filtering out harmful content, and strictly guarding our time, we can finally master the scroll—ensuring our digital footprints help us succeed in this life and the next.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Rising Patriarchal Resistance Against Gender Equality



SHOBHA SHUKLA

Only 54 months are left to deliver on the promise of gender equality (SDG-5), and health and wellbeing (SDG-3) by 2030. But the sense of urgency and purpose is acutely missing and instead of going forward, in many instances we are slipping backwards. Growing anti-rights and anti-gender pushbacks are trying to reverse whatever progress has been made on gender and health rights, especially for girls and women and gender diverse communities. The latest attack on the gender rights come in the form of a draft African Charter on Family, Sovereignty and Values that was endorsed by 20 African countries at the 4th African Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Family, Sovereignty and Values held in Ghana in early June 2026.

This controversial draft emphasises upon the so-called 'African values', 'traditional family structures' (marriage defined as between a man and a woman), 'sovereignty' against 'foreign ideologies', and calls for withdrawing from international agreements like the legally binding Maputo Protocol on women's rights. It is intended for eventual consideration by the African Union in February 2027.

In the words of Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Right To Health, "This regressive draft Charter is the first African continent-wide patriarchal push to dislodge human rights and replace them with so-called 'moralistic' viewpoints. More importantly, it urges African governments to withdraw from progressive and rights- and evidence-based agreements, including the historic and legally binding Maputo Protocol of 2003, which has been playing a defining role in promoting gender equality, as well as protecting reproductive and health rights of women and girls in Africa. Such a regressive attempt will also wrongfully firewalled families from accountability in situations such as violence, coercion or discrimination, making it impossible for vulnerable girls,

women and gender diverse people to seek justice where needed."

Dr Mofokeng was delivering her opening remarks at a SHE & Rights session hosted by the Global Center for Health Diplomacy and Inclusion (CeHDI), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Asia Pacific Media Alliance for Health, Gender and Development Justice (APCAT Media) and CNS.

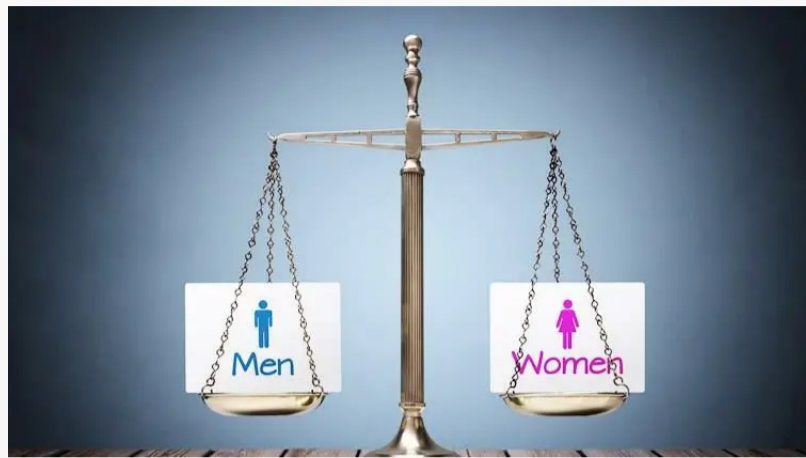
UN Special Rapporteur on Right To Health Dr Mofokeng urged governments to disengage with this draft Charter and instead honour and deliver on the promises they have made on gender equality and human rights to health, where no one is left behind. An analysis of this draft Charter done by ISLA (Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa) shows that the draft Charter is not merely conservative but it constitutes a restructuring of rights through legal distortion. Sovereignty is used to resist accountability and family protection is used to justify exclusion. Culture is invoked to limit equality protections and human rights is reframed as a 'foreign ideology'. A family is defined as marriage through the lens of a marriage between a man and woman. There is a shift from rights-based governance to 'values'-based regulation.

Distorted definition of family

The draft Charter defines family through the lens of a marriage between a man and woman. "This directly conflicts with established international and regional human rights laws and jurisprudence. The draft Charter frames the family as a primary unit for policy design, governance and service delivery. It prioritises family welfare, family cohesion and family authority above individual consideration. This becomes especially dangerous when families themselves are sites of violence, coercion, discrimination or unequal power relations. The draft Charter provides no safeguards to ensure that prioritising family cohesion cannot override women's rights, children's rights, bodily autonomy, or protection from abuse," said Sibongile Ndashe, Executive Director, Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA).

Sovereignty versus the individual

Sibongile Ndashe rightly points out that the draft Charter expands sovereignty to justify extensive government control over morality, health, education, sexuality and family life.



Agrees Fania Nkansa, Communications Lead, at Purposeful - a feminist hub rooted in Sierra Leone. "According to the draft Charter the woman is not the primary political actor. She is not even the survivor. The family and the government runs everything. And particularly in African continent where the family is very rarely a site of safety or a sight of protection or a site of nurturing and growth, but often times for women it is a site of violence, and a sight of shame."

For Nkansa, the draft Charter wants to reframe human rights protections as 'foreign impositions' rather than African aspirations. It is an attempt to substitute a frame from autonomy, equality, dignity, and bodily integrity to 'sovereignty', 'parental authority', 'tradition', and 'cultural preservation'.

Is the draft Charter a wolf in sheep's clothing?

Lethogonolo Mokgoroane, South African legal practitioner, calls it a draft Charter in sheep's clothing, as it "...uses rights language to strip rights. It speaks of 'protecting the family' while removing protections from families that do not conform to its narrow definition. It speaks of African values while promoting values that were designed in Arizona and incubated in Washington DC."

Mokgoroane, who is a non-binary person, is distraught because "the draft charter defines gender as limited to male and female, erasing the existence of intersex and gender diverse persons. It defines family exclusively through heterosexual marriage and biological parenthood, excluding same-sex families, single parent families, gender diverse parents or gender diverse children. In the 'world' of the draft Charter, these people do not exist, and when the law says you

do not exist, the consequences are not abstract."

"The draft Charter also rejects comprehensive sexuality education - the very education that evidence has shown leads to better sexual and reproductive health outcomes, lower rates of HIV transmission, lower rates of unintended pregnancies, and lower rates of gender-based violence. The draft Charter replaces evidence with ideology. It replaces public health with moralism and invokes sovereignty as a basis for non-compliance with international human rights obligation."

Mokgoroane contends that the African Inter-Parliamentary Conferences on Family, Sovereignty and Values that have developed this draft charter are supported, funded and shaped by US-based conservative organisations, like Family Watch International, which is an anti-LGBTI organisation that has been channelling resources into Africa to change laws and shift policies. Not surprisingly, "This is legislative capture dressed as deliberation. The draft Charter was incubated in conferences funded by US-based organisations whose presence has no mandate for many African people. It has deployed the language of African authenticity while importing an agenda that serves American conservative Christianity. It speaks of protecting the African family while removing protections from families that do not conform to its narrow definition. It speaks of African values but its ideologies originate in an American evangelist movement."

Global repercussions

Dr Pam Rajput, former Chairperson of Government of India's High-Level Committee on the Status of Women, warns that this anti-rights pushback is not only regressive, but

also contagious. It is not an issue for Africa alone. "The question is what it means for the future of women's rights everywhere. Rollback of rights in one region can become a precedent elsewhere." How do we counter the anti-rights pushes and advance gender equality and right to health?

Human rights and gender justice activists unanimously call for fighting tooth and nail to defeat the draft Charter and to uphold the Maputo Protocol of 2003, which is a legally binding human rights treaty that commits to ending gender-based discrimination across Africa and was ratified by 46 of the 55 African Union member countries. It is one of the most widely accepted and most progressive human rights instruments on the African continent. It prohibits discrimination against women and gender diverse peoples; guarantees rights to health, including sexual and reproductive health; guarantees the right to dignity, and protection from all forms of violence; and calls for elimination of harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

Nkansa argues that "Maputo Protocol is significant not only because of its legal protections, but because it demonstrates that gender equality and women's rights are not external concepts that were imposed on Africa, but they are principles that African governments themselves negotiated and adopted. African women activists, policymakers, legal experts, governments played a central role in shaping the Protocol."

For Mokgoroane, "We must insist with every tool available to us - legal, political, and moral - that gender equality and the right to health are not negotiable and not reversible. They are constitutional. They are human rights and they are ours."

Rajput calls for adding all global voices in favour of the Maputo Protocol and against the proposed draft African Charter. "We must resist collectively and the feminist solidarity must be global. Human dignity and human rights are not divisible by geography. They cannot be selectively applied or culturally withdrawn at the will of some people. We need to challenge anti-rights narratives and build cross-regional alliances to reaffirm the universality of rights."

Shobha Shukla is a feminist, health and development justice advocate.

The Increasing Risk Of Climate Change

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

In India, the monsoon is not just a season, but the fulcrum of the country's economy, agriculture, water resources, and livelihoods.

For centuries, the monsoon has been considered life-giving because its rains nourish fields, fill rivers and reservoirs, and provide relief from the scorching heat. However, in recent years, the nature of the monsoon has been rapidly changing. Now, it brings not only relief but also numerous risks. In some places, sudden cloud-bursts occur, strong winds and thunderstorms disrupt life, and in others, lightning strikes claim lives. In an era of changing weather and climate change, the risks associated with the monsoon have become more serious and widespread than ever before. This is why weather-related risks have become not only a subject of scientific study but also a matter of social, economic, and humanitarian concern.

Currently, it is clearly visible that the traditional nature of weather is changing. While rainfall used to be relatively regular and balanced, now prolonged droughts are followed by sudden bursts of excessive rainfall. Similarly, the incidence of thunderstorms and lightning is also increasing. Meteorologists believe that the Earth's rising temperatures have affected the structure and behavior of the atmosphere. With more energy and moisture available in the atmosphere, weather events are becoming more intense and unpredictable. This is directly impacting human life, agriculture, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Lightning is one of the natural phenomena that affects thousands of people every year. In India, the number of deaths due to lightning strikes is higher than that of many other natural disasters. Of particular concern is that most of the victims are from rural areas, where a large number of people work in the open. Farmers, agricultural laborers, livestock herders, and construction workers are more vulnerable to these weather hazards. When clouds suddenly gather and

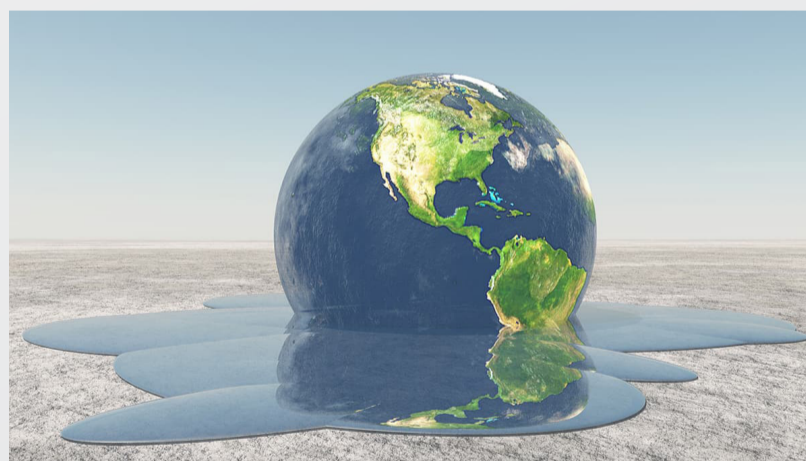
thunderstorms begin, many people do not understand the severity of the danger and remain in open spaces. As a result, many people lose their lives due to lightning strikes.

Scientifically, lightning is the result of complex processes occurring in the atmosphere. When the surface becomes extremely hot and the air above it is relatively cold, the warm, moist air begins to rise rapidly. This process is called convection. The rising air cools, condenses, and forms clouds. If the atmosphere is sufficiently humid and energetic, these clouds form large cumulonimbus clouds. Collisions between water droplets, ice particles, and hailstones within these clouds generate electrical charges. When the imbalance of charges becomes too great, lightning strikes, resulting in an electrical discharge between the ground and the clouds.

During the monsoon, moist winds from the oceans reach much of the Indian subcontinent. These winds carry large amounts of water vapor, essential for cloud formation and rainfall. But this moisture, when combined with an extremely warm atmosphere, can also create powerful storms. This combination of moisture and temperature increases weather instability. This is why thunderstorms and lightning are more frequent during the monsoon months. Weather experts believe that as global temperatures rise, the atmosphere will hold more moisture, increasing the likelihood of such events.

Climate change is the most important aspect of this entire scenario. Industrialization, excessive use of fossil fuels, deforestation, and uncontrolled urbanization have increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As a result, the Earth's average temperature is continuously increasing. This increase in temperature is not limited to increasing heat, but is affecting the entire weather system. A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, which increases the likelihood of intense rainfall and thunderstorms. This is why today's weather appears more unpredictable and extreme than before.

Urbanization is also playing a signif-



icant role in increasing weather risks. The abundance of concrete, asphalt, and buildings in large cities creates a heat island effect. This causes temperatures in cities to be higher than surrounding rural areas. Hotter surfaces cause air to rise faster, which can increase the likelihood of local cloud formation and storms. Additionally, inadequate drainage systems in urban areas can lead to waterlogging and flooding during heavy rainfall.

India's geographical diversity also influences weather events. In the Himalayan region, mountains cause air to rise rapidly, leading to increased cloud formation. In Northeast India, high humidity and mountainous terrain combine to create conditions for intense rainfall. In Central India and the Gangetic Plain, the combination of heat and humidity gives rise to thunderstorms. In coastal areas, the interaction between sea breezes and land heat influences weather patterns. Thus, each region of India faces different risks due to its geographical and climatic factors.

Weather hazards have the greatest impact on vulnerable sections of society. People living in rural areas often lack safe shelter and timely information. Even when warnings are issued for lightning or severe storms, the information doesn't reach the last person. Furthermore, economic limitations also force people to take risks. Farmers and laborers often continue

working despite bad weather because their livelihoods depend on it. In such circumstances, natural hazards transform into social and economic risks.

Technical solutions alone are not enough to reduce the damage caused by weather-related disasters. Increasing public awareness and weather literacy is also essential. People need to be made aware of the importance of moving away from open spaces when they hear thunder, the dangers of standing under tall trees, and the precautions to take during lightning. Schools, municipal councils, NGOs, and the media all have a crucial role to play in this regard. If society understands weather risks, many lives can be saved.

Meteorology has made remarkable progress today. Satellites, Doppler radar, automated weather stations, and advanced computer models are making weather forecasts more accurate. In many cases, the likelihood of thunderstorms and lightning can now be predicted in advance. The India Meteorological Department and other agencies regularly issue warnings. But the challenge is to effectively communicate these warnings to the public and motivate them to take action. Merely providing information is not enough; it is also essential to ensure that people understand and act on that information.

Governments must integrate weather risk management into their

development plans. Special safety measures can be implemented by identifying areas prone to lightning strikes. Safe community shelters can be built in rural areas. Weather-based advisory systems for agricultural operations can be strengthened. Disaster management training can be made mandatory in schools and public institutions. Additionally, timely warning messages can be sent using mobile technology and digital communications.

Long-term efforts are also essential to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Forest conservation, the expansion of green energy, carbon emissions reduction, and sustainable development policies can help mitigate future risks. If global warming is not controlled, both the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events could increase. Therefore, addressing climate change is not only an environmental imperative, but also a human security and sustainable development imperative.

In this era of changing climate, it is crucial to understand that natural events are no longer the same. Events like monsoon rains, thunderstorms, storms, and lightning are becoming more complex and risky. The most effective means of protection against them are scientific understanding, timely warnings, public awareness, and community preparedness. If we simply leave the weather to fate or natural destiny, the risks will continue to grow. But if we combine science, policy, and social participation, the impact of these hazards can be significantly reduced.

The monsoon is India's lifeline and will continue to be so. We need to understand its changing nature and adapt our policies, systems, and behavior accordingly. Only a society aware of weather risks can meet future challenges. In this era of changing climate, preparedness is the key to safety, and understanding is the best defense.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

CM Omar Wants J&K

with the film festival through exhibitions, facilitating networking opportunities and business engagements.

He further instructed the organizers to facilitate structured interactions between local talent and eminent national and international filmmakers, producers, directors, actors and industry experts through master-class & in-conversation sessions, workshops, panel discussions, mentoring sessions and knowledge-sharing programmes.

Such engagements, he said, would provide aspiring professionals from Jammu & Kashmir with global exposure, technical expertise and industry networks while encouraging innovation and excellence in filmmaking.

The Chief Minister also called for instituting a special segment to recognize distinguished actors, filmmakers, directors, producers, cinematographers, musicians and other cinema personalities who have played a significant role in keeping Jammu & Kashmir's cinematic legacy alive by creating memorable films in the region over the decades.

Recognizing their contribution, he said, would celebrate Kashmir's enduring association with Indian cinema while inspiring a renewed partnership between the film industry and Jammu & Kashmir.

Highlighting the festival's wider developmental potential, the Chief Minister said it should also create meaningful opportunities for local artisans, craftspeople, entrepreneurs, tourism stakeholders, ensuring that the benefits of the event extend well beyond the film fraternity. He directed the concerned departments to make the festival a comprehensive celebration of Jammu & Kashmir's artistic, cultural and entrepreneurial excellence.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the festival's branding strategy, global outreach, programming, digital engagement, technical collaborations, venue management, audience experience, promotional campaigns and institutional partnerships. The proposed festival will feature international competition, Indian cinema, documentaries, short films, student films, animation, regional cinema, industry forums, workshops and cultural programmes.

The proposed four-day festival, scheduled to be held in September 2026, will host screenings across multiple venues, offering an immersive experience for filmmakers, delegates and audiences.

The meeting also reviewed proposals for developing a dedicated digital ecosystem, including a festival website and an AI-enabled mobile application to facilitate film submissions, registrations, accreditation, scheduling, audience engagement, media outreach and real-time festival management. Plans for an integrated social media campaign and global promotional strategy also came up for discussion.

Proposals relating to technical partnerships with premier film institutions for festival curation, jury support, capacity building and specialized training for local youth were also deliberated upon. The festival is expected to bring together eminent filmmakers, actors, producers, technicians, film critics and cultural personalities from India and abroad.

Reiterating his vision, the Chief Minister said the International Film Festival should firmly establish Jammu & Kashmir as a world-class destination for cinema while leveraging the opportunities created under the J&K Film Policy to attract greater investment, film productions and creative enterprises. He directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely completion of all preparatory activities for the successful conduct of the inaugural festival.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Information, R Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Zubair Ahmad, Director Information Shreya Singhal, Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey, senior officers from the Tourism and General Administration Department, representatives of NFDC and other concerned officers.

Amarnath Yatra To

movement of pilgrims through real-time surveillance and inter-agency coordination.

In a move aimed at preventing misinformation, the Jammu and Kashmir government has authorised only the Divisional Commissioners and Inspectors General of Police of Kashmir and Jammu divisions to brief the media on Yatra-related matters.

According to a circular issued by the Tourism Department, the designated officers will coordinate with the Information Department and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board to ensure dissemination of

verified information.

Traffic restrictions have also been imposed on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. Heavy motor vehicles will not be allowed to move from Qazigund towards Jammu and from Jakheni in Udhampur towards Srinagar after 7 pm from July 1, while light motor vehicles will be permitted till 11 pm. During the pilgrimage, heavy vehicles will operate on alternate days depending on traffic conditions, with commuters advised to follow daily advisories.

Railway authorities have temporarily curtailed the Vistadome Special train service, which will operate only between Banihal and Budgam from July 1 to August 31 instead of its extended route to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, citing security requirements during the pilgrimage season.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg reviewed arrangements at Srinagar International Airport, including e-KYC counters, Yatra Facilitation Centres and passenger reception facilities. Officials said registration infrastructure has been significantly expanded this year, with the number of facilitation counters increased from 54 last year to 131, including additional e-KYC, RFID and on-the-spot registration counters at Srinagar airport, Pantha Chowk and Nowgam railway station.

Officials said the coordinated security, transport and facilitation measures are aimed at ensuring the safe and smooth conduct of this year's pilgrimage—(KNO)

On Amarnath Yatra

Meanwhile, Jammu has completed elaborate preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra, with authorities putting in place comprehensive registration, accommodation, transportation and security arrangements to facilitate a smooth pilgrimage beginning this week.

The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, the principal base camp for the pilgrimage in Jammu, has been fully geared up to receive thousands of devotees arriving from across the country.

Registration counters, RFID and verification facilities, accommodation, medical aid, sanitation, drinking water, transport assistance and langar services have been streamlined to ensure a hassle-free experience for pilgrims at Tawi River front.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, said all departments are working in close coordination and the administration is fully prepared to manage the movement of pilgrims.

He informed that elaborate logistics have been put in place, including round-the-clock control rooms, emergency medical facilities, transport arrangements and deployment of sufficient manpower at key locations.

Officials said all logistical arrangements have been synchronized with security agencies to ensure the safe movement of pilgrims towards the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal.

Traffic management plans, convoy movement schedules, medical response teams and disaster management mechanisms have also been finalized.

The administration has appealed to pilgrims to adhere to the prescribed guidelines, carry valid registration documents and cooperate with officials for smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The 57-day Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3 and conclude on August 28, with authorities expressing confidence that the extensive preparations made in Jammu will ensure a safe, secure and comfortable pilgrimage for devotees—(KNO)

Deputy CM Betrayed

from the NC if they raise their voice against him.

He further alleged that the Deputy CM has allocated almost all funds of Rajouri district to his own constituency, Nowshera. "Out of Rs 33.71 crore expenditure under SASCI in 2025-26, Rs 21.47 crore has been utilized in the Nowshera segment," he said, adding that Rs 9.22 crore allocated to district Rajouri under the scheme has also been diverted to his segment.

Javid claimed that out of Rs 1.28 crore utilized under the Non-Functional Buildings scheme in 2025-26, Rs 1.03 crore has gone solely to the Deputy CM's segment.

He also claimed that works worth Rs 200 crore under the UT Capex Budget have been accorded administrative approval for 2025-26. "Bridges worth Rs 137 crore have been sanctioned in his constituency, but not a single bridge has been sanctioned in other segments," he said—(KNO)

Mahesh Dixit Takes

in the Northeast and Ladakh to handling anti-Naxal desks.

While serving in Telangana, his collaborative efforts with the state IB and state police were instrumental in build-

ing what is widely considered one of India's best counter-terrorism units, particularly at a time when Hyderabad had emerged as a key hub for pan-Islamic terrorist outfits, including the Indian Mujahideen and HUJI.

He also had a stint at the Indian mission in Moscow.

As the head of the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB) in Srinagar, Dixit is credited by officials with playing a pivotal role in maintaining internal stability in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370.

Last year, acting on an initial lead from the Srinagar police, he was instrumental in successfully busting a major "white-collar" terror network in the valley.

Dixit is considered in the intelligence fraternity as "finest mind" and is widely recognised within the security establishment for his measured approach to crisis management.

He was appreciated during his recent tenure in Jammu and Kashmir, where he handled most volatile security challenges during the post-Article 370 time during which he kept a tight vigil on separatist networks and monitoring shifting regional threats, while simultaneously fostering much-needed operational synergy among different wings of the security forces on the ground.

Dixit was also praised when climate activist Sonam Wangchuk launched high-profile protests in 2024 demanding full statehood and Sixth Schedule inclusion for the Ladakh region.

He was deeply involved behind the scenes, working to defuse tensions and facilitate a dialogue between the central government and Ladakhi leadership in Leh.

In recognition of his service, he has been highly decorated, receiving the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, the Police Medal for Meritorious Service, and the Police Antrik Suraksha Seva Padak.

Dixit takes the reins of IB from 1988-batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka, a legendary figure in India's intelligence fraternity who had exposed Pakistan's hand in 26/11 Mumbai attack and subsequently the identity of all 10 terrorists of banned Lashkar-e-Taiba.

He directed the National Security Guard commandoes during counter-attack in 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

First appointed as the IB chief in June 2022 for a two-year term, Deka was granted two subsequent service extensions by the government in 2024 and 2025 under public interest clauses.

Central rules permit the government to extend the services of high-profile chiefs—including those of the IB, RAW, cabinet secretary, and home secretary, beyond the standard superannuation age of 60.

Known across power corridors as an exceptional crisis manager, Deka served as the head of the IB's operations wing for over two decades before becoming its director. An expert in operations, Deka led the successful crackdown against the Indian Mujahideen network in the 2000s.

Srinagar Logs Season's

From July 6 to July 8, the weather is expected to remain generally hot and humid, although scattered to many places are likely to receive brief spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers, it said.

Officials said monsoon winds are expected to enter Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, increasing the likelihood of early morning and evening showers over the Jammu division and parts of the Kashmir Valley.

They said the combined influence of the western disturbance and advancing monsoon is expected to provide significant relief from the prevailing heatwave, particularly from Thursday and Saturday, when rainfall activity is likely to be at its peak.

The department said the impact of the weather system is expected to be more pronounced over the Jammu division and south Kashmir, while central and north Kashmir may receive comparatively lesser rainfall.

It warned that heavy rainfall during July 2-4 could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable places, particularly in parts of the Jammu division and adjoining areas of south Kashmir. Temporary waterlogging is also likely in low-lying areas on July 2 and 3, it said.

The weather office advised people to stay away from nallahs, streams and landslide-prone areas during periods of intense rainfall, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during thunderstorms, and take precautions against lightning and strong winds.

It also said isolated hailstorm activity and intense showers cannot be ruled out during the most active phase of the weather system, though widespread continuous rainfall is not expected—(KNO)

General Dhiraj Seth

ceremonial responsibilities. On elevation to the rank of Army Com-

mander, the officer commanded South Western Command and Southern Command, earning the rare distinction of commanding two operational Army Commands and providing strategic oversight across critical theatres for over a period of two and half years. He has held several key staff and strategic appointments that have significantly influenced operational planning, force management and capability development.

Widely recognised for his contributions to force modernisation, the General Officer has tenanted pivotal appointments in the Strategic Planning and Capability Development verticals of the Army Headquarters, shaping its modernisation trajectory, capability roadmap and long-term force structuring initiatives. His contributions have been instrumental in aligning operational requirements with emerging technologies and future battlefield imperatives.

An accomplished military professional, General Dhiraj Seth has consistently excelled in professional military education, securing top positions in courses of instruction. He is a graduate of the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College and has also attended the prestigious Command & Staff Course in Paris, reflecting his broad strategic outlook and understanding of contemporary military affairs.

Vistadome Train To

security arrangements and inter-agency coordination. Around 150 escorted vehicles participated in the exercise. One convoy moved from the Pahalgam base camp to Banihal before returning to Pahalgam, while another travelled from the Baltal base camp to Banihal, where it concluded its journey.

The exercise was aimed at testing convoy movement, coordination among security agencies and preparedness to ensure the smooth and safe passage of pilgrims during the annual Yatra—(KNO)

Gol Team To Meet

to the primacy of elected representatives over the bureaucracy -agreed upon in the May 22 meeting- were omitted.

Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra, however, clarified that the draft record was only intended to facilitate discussion. He said that if anything had been left out, the groups could raise it with him and it would be conveyed to the government.

After the May 22 meeting, LAB and KDA leaders claimed that they had reached an in-principle understanding with the Government of India on restoring democracy in Ladakh and providing constitutional safeguards on the lines of Article 371 A, F, and G.

They had claimed that legislative, executive, and financial powers would rest with elected representatives through a Union Territory-level legislative body. "All bureaucrats of the UT, including the Chief Secretary, will come under the executive head of the UT-level elected body (proposed to be the Chief Minister)," read the joint statement—(KNO)



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VC SKUAST-K reviews KVK Srinagar, Budgam progress at SAC Meetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Vice Chancellor Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) Srinagar and Budgam, to review progress, achievements, and future strategies aimed at strengthening agricultural extension, innovation, and sustainable farming across Kashmir.

The meetings were attended by Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth; Registrar Prof. Azmat Alam Khan; Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam Vivek Agarwal; Chief Planning Officer Budgam Javid Ahmad; heads of KVKs; statutory members; scientists from the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CIHT) and Dryland Agricultural Research Station (DARS) Budgam; officers from agriculture and allied departments; progressive farmers; agri-entrepreneurs; representatives of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and civil society organisations; and other distinguished stakeholders.

Detailed presentations were delivered by Dr. Shamim Ahmad Simnani, Head, KVK Srinagar, at the



22nd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting and by Prof. Bilal Ahmad Lone, Head, KVK Budgam, at the 13th SAC. They reviewed the action-taken reports and key achievements of 2025-26 while outlining priorities and action plans for 2026-27.

The deliberations focused on technology assessment and refinement, frontline demonstrations, capacity building, entrepreneurship development, and the wider dissemination of climate-resilient agricultural technologies. Discussions also highlighted district-specific opportunities such as urban agriculture, Dal vegetable cultivation, niche crop promotion, and natural farming to improve productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance farmers' incomes.

Addressing the meetings, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai stressed the need to promote innovation-driven agriculture, strengthen

entrepreneurship, and encourage value addition, processing, and market-oriented farming practices to improve rural livelihoods. He appreciated the efforts of both KVK Srinagar and KVK Budgam in expanding doorstep extension services, promoting improved agricultural technologies, and creating meaningful impact through skill development and farmer-centric capacity-building initiatives.

Prof. Ganai also emphasized the critical role of KVKs in making the university's flagship Students Rural Exposure Programme a success, stating that the programme offers students invaluable field-level understanding of rural agricultural realities. He expressed confidence in continued support and cooperation from the KVKs in further strengthening this important initiative.

The Director Extension lauded the significant contribution of both KVKs in technology dissemination

and strengthening sustainable agricultural practices. She emphasized the need to transform traditional farming into a commercially viable enterprise through targeted skill development, champion farmer models, low-cost organic solutions, and focused capacity-building programmes.

Earlier, several facilities at KVK Budgam including a high-density cherry orchard, custom hiring centre, two hi-tech polyhouses, insulated mushroom unit, and bio-resource centre for natural farming were inaugurated. On the occasion, publications from both KVKs were also released.

The meetings concluded with interactive sessions in which stakeholders discussed key challenges, emerging opportunities, and collaborative strategies to accelerate agricultural transformation and improve farm livelihoods across Kashmir

DC, SSP Anantnag review arrangements for SANJY-2026

Stress seamless services, smooth civil administration-police coordination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Ahead of the ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat and Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure, Tuesday held a joint meeting at the Meeting Hall, Pahalgam Club.

The crucial meeting focused to strengthen the liaisoning and coordination among civil administration, police and security forces and to review and finalise the arrangements made by the concerned departments for the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

CEO PDA, Additional Deputy Commissioner, SDMs, ACD, SEs Jal Shakti and KPDCS, CMO, CAHO, ALC, AD FCS&CA, ARTO, DSWO, Exens, officials from Traffic Police, SDRF, F&ES, ULBs besides representatives from telecom service providers and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding various arrangements for the upcoming Yatra, including security arrangements, track inspection and action on vulnerable spots, healthcare facilities,



water supply, sanitation, toilet facilities, electricity supply, telecom connectivity, transport arrangements, RFID registration, pony and pithu services, labour availability, tentage arrangements, Fire & Emergency Services, SDRF deployment, disaster response mechanism and other essential facilities.

Briefing about the security measures, the SSP urged the officials to work in close coordination with deployed units of JK Police and other agencies on routes, at camps and other critical locations along Pahalgam Axis. He also underscored the importance of synergy between concerned agencies to mount effective disaster response, ensuring safety and protection of the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all concerned departments to ensure close coordination and timely completion of all necessary arrangements for providing a safe,

smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage experience to the devotees. He directed the officers to remain proactive and ensure effective monitoring of all arrangements at the Yatra locations.

While reviewing the tentage arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner directed that tents should be placed at appropriate and safe locations after proper assessment of the area, keeping in view the risks of flash floods, fire incidents and other natural hazards. He emphasized the need for adequate safety measures, proper drainage, emergency access and regular inspection of all camping areas.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed upon strengthening the disaster management preparedness and directed the concerned agencies to ensure availability of required manpower, equipment and response teams for handling any emergency situation during the Yatra

period. Instructions were issued for effective crowd and traffic management as well as optimum utilisation of parking spaces. Key directives were issued to ensure proper sanitation, collection and segregation of waste including the medical waste and monitoring of the sanitation teams. Health department was asked to keep adequate number of ambulances and oxygen cylinders available for prompt relief in high altitude besides fully equipping the deployed teams so they are in a ready state of response.

Further, the BRO was directed to install barricades and reflectors in accident prone areas especially on Khanabal to Pahalgam road.

PDD was asked to immediately undertake risk analysis of all critical amenities and installations to avoid any hazard.

At conclusion the DC directed all departments to have back up and contingency plans, ensuring swift mobilisation of manpower and resources. He reiterated that all departments must work in close synergy and ensure that all necessary facilities and services are provided to the pilgrims for smooth and successful conduct of SANJY-2026.

JKRLM Women SHGs gain global spotlight at JKTPO Buyer-Seller Meet

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) supported by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) showcased their products at the J&K International Buyer-Seller Meet organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Held under the "Know Your Artisan" initiative, the event connected SHGs directly with national and international buyers, helping eliminate intermediaries and create new market opportunities.

JKRLM SHGs displayed a diverse range of products, including Pampore saffron, RS Pura Basmati rice, Udhampur Kalari, Kupwara walnuts, Doda essential oils, Rajouri's chir pine needle woodcraft, handloom products, handicrafts and other value-added rural products.

Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, said the participation reflects the growing strength of rural women entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our Self Help Groups are transforming traditional skills into quality, market-ready products with strong national and global potential. Such platforms enable women entrepreneurs to connect directly with buyers, expand their businesses and secure better incomes," she said.

She added that JKRLM remains committed to strengthening women-led enterprises through capacity building, branding, market linkages and enterprise promotion to ensure sustainable livelihoods for rural women.

The Buyer-Seller Meet offered SHG members an opportunity to explore business partnerships, understand market trends and position Jammu and Kashmir's unique products in wider domestic and international markets.

Bandipora hosts First-Ever District Convention of Bulk Waste Generators

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a first-of-its-kind initiative to strengthen scientific solid waste management, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday chaired the District-Level Convention of Bulk Waste Generators at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The convention brought together representatives from government departments, Security Forces, Police, educational and healthcare institutions, hotels, restaurants, commercial and tourism establishments, religious institutions, public sector undertakings, Municipal Council Bandipora, Municipal Committees Hajin and Sumbal, and other identified bulk waste generators to deliberate on scientific waste management.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said scientific management of bulk solid waste is essential for protecting public health, preserving the environment and ensuring sustainable development. She stressed the need for collective responsibility and coordinated action among government departments,

Urban Local Bodies, institutions, commercial establishments and all bulk waste generators.

She urged stakeholders to ensure source segregation, adopt sustainable practices and comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules, stating that active participation by bulk waste generators would strengthen the district's waste management system and help make Bandipora cleaner and greener.

The convention featured expert presentations by Dr. Sameer Sharma, Founder, SWAHA Resource Management Company, on the responsibilities of bulk waste generators; Raja Muzaffar, RTI activist and environmental advocate, on environmental responsibility; Dr. Mudasir Ahmad Shah, IITian and international expert on waste conversion technologies, on the rural waste management ecosystem in Bandipora; Dr. Sabeena Sultan, Scientist-C, Pollution Control Committee, on scientific and sustainable municipal solid waste management; Zavar Kazim, Solid Waste Management Expert, Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, on scientific waste management practices; and Shri Prabjot Sodhi,

Senior Programme Director (Circular Economy), Centre for Environment Education (CEE), on sustainable circularity in plastics.

During his presentation, Prabjot Sodhi emphasised circular economy principles, sustainable resource management, behavioural change and institutional collaboration to tackle plastic waste. He also commended the Deputy Commissioner for transforming the Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex into a green and sustainable workplace, describing it as a model of responsible governance and environmental stewardship.

Participants were sensitised on source segregation, recycling, composting, resource recovery, scientific processing and disposal of waste, while interactive sessions focused on institutional mechanisms, compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules and promotion of sustainable practices.

The Deputy Commissioner thanked all experts, stakeholders and citizens for their participation and contributions, saying such collective efforts would help build a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Bandipora.

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Giving final shape to the necessary arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), along with SSP Anantnag, Amod Ashok Nagpure, conducted a joint inspection of the Frisking Point and Base Camp Nunwan, Pahalgam Tuesday. The inspection aimed to review the security measures and other facilities being put in place for smooth conduct of the Yatra.

During the inspection, the officers took a detailed assessment of the arrangements at both locations, including security measures, frisking and checking arrangements, deployment of security personnel, regulation of pilgrim movement, traffic management, entry and exit points, accommo-



modation facilities, sanitation, healthcare services, drinking water supply, electricity supply, communication facilities and other essential amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner and SSP asked the concerned officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements and maintain close coordination among all stakeholders for the safe and hassle-free movement of pilgrims. They emphasized effective crowd management, proper monitoring of vul-

nerable points and prompt response mechanisms at all important locations.

While reviewing the facilities at Base Camp Nunwan, the DC stressed upon maintaining cleanliness, ensuring availability of essential services and providing necessary assistance to the pilgrims. He instructed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure a safe, secure and comfortable pilgrimage experience for devotees during SANJY-2026. The departments were fur-

ther asked to remain prepared and ensure timely redressal of any issues during the Yatra period. The officers also reviewed disaster management preparedness and availability of emergency response teams and equipment to deal with any unforeseen situation.

The inspection was attended by senior officers from Civil Administration, Police Department, Pahalgam Development Authority and other concerned departments.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR
 Telefax:- 0194-2496089,

Gist of e-tender
 e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2026-27/29/e-tendering, Dated: 29.06.2026 (SHORT TERM)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1. Comprehensive Maintenance of (G+5) 13 Passenger and 13 passenger Lifts at SPS Library for the Year 2026-27.	2.40	200	365	27 DL of 2022 Dt:- 20.08.2022	M&HDS/TS/14 of 06/26	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department
2. Comprehensive Maintenance of the VRV System installed at SPS Library for the Year 2026-27.	10.00	500	365	27 DL of 2022 Dt:- 20.08.2022	M&HDS/TS/15 of 06/26	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department
3. Comprehensive Maintenance of the CCTV Surveillance System installed and Operation of Mechanical System at SPS Library for the Year 2026-27.	4.37	300	365	27 DL of 2022 Dt:- 20.08.2022	M&HDS/TS/16 of 06/26	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 29.06.2026(16.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 29.06.2026(18.00 hrs)
 - Uploading:- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 29.06.2026 (18.00 hrs) to 10.07.2026 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
 - Opening of Bids :- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 10.07.2026at 15.00(hrs)
- No: M&HDS/TS/1710-14
 Dated:-29.06.2026
- DIPK-2680-26
 DT: 30/06/2026
- Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 M&H, Srinagar

Wimbledon: Swiatek survives scare to oust Townsend, joins Anisimova, Pliskova in second round

IAN S

LONDON: Defending champion Iga Swiatek survived a huge scare before winning her opening match against the world No.79 Taylor Townsend in three sets at the 2026 Wimbledon at the All-England Club in London on Tuesday, joining last year's finalist Amanda Anisimova and Karolina Pliskova in the second round.

The Polish star won her last 20 games here last year to lift her sixth Grand Slam title, and the world No.3 continued in the same vein as she raced to the first set on her return to Centre Court in only 31 minutes.

But cheered on by her friends Naomi Osaka and Katerina Siniakova, the American left-hander Townsend fought back to level the match and force a deciding set.

However, Swiatek held her nerve to win 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 in two hours and two minutes.

There are still only two defending Wimbledon ladies' champions who have lost in the first round - Steffi Graf in 1994 and Marketa Vondrousova in 2024. Swiatek avoided that fate on Tuesday but will have to



be careful in her upcoming matches.

Earlier in the day, Anisimova and Pliskova made confident starts to their campaigns, producing straight-set victories to advance to the second round. While last year's runner-up Anisimova put the disappointment of her 2025 final behind her with an emphatic display, former finalist Pliskova rolled back the years with a composed victory over fellow Czech Tereza Valentova.

Anisimova, the sixth seed, needed just over an hour to defeat North Macedonia's Lina Gjorcheska 6-3, 6-2, while Pliskova claimed her first Wimbledon main-

draw victory since 2022 by overcoming Valentova 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 15 minutes.

For Anisimova, the opening-round encounter represented a fresh beginning after last year's heartbreaking championship-match defeat to Iga Swiatek. Returning to the grass courts where she came within one match of the title, the American looked completely at ease from the opening game.

Pliskova's victory was built on patience, precision, and experience rather than overwhelming dominance. The former world No. 1 continued her impressive

record against compatriots, improving her career mark against fellow Czech players to 46-26. Even more notably, she is now 20-7 against younger Czech opponents.

The contest itself was decided by the finest of margins. A single service break proved enough in each set, with Pliskova striking in the eighth game on both occasions.

The victory also marked Pliskova's 19th career Wimbledon main-draw win and her first at the Championships in four years, offering another encouraging sign as she looks to rebuild momentum on one of her most successful Grand Slam stages.

Women's T20 WC: Mooney's unbeaten 61 and Gardner's all-round show guide Australia to eighth final

IAN S

LONDON: Beth Mooney produced another masterclass in an ICC knockout match while Ashleigh Gardner capped an outstanding all-round performance as six-time champions Australia crushed West Indies by eight wickets with 42 balls to spare in the first semifinal of the Women's T20 World Cup at The Oval on Tuesday, booking their place in the tournament final for the eighth time.

Australia's chase of 126 runs finished with seven overs to spare, marking the biggest victory by balls remaining in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup knockout history for targets over 100. The previous record was 29 balls remaining, set by Australia against England in the 2014 and 2018 finals.

Mooney stayed unbeaten at 61 off 36 balls, achieving the fourth-highest individual score by an Australian in a Women's T20 World Cup knockout match. Only her own 78 against India in the 2020 final, Alyssa Healy's 75 against India in the 2020 final, and her 74 against South Africa in the 2023 final rank higher.

Earlier, Australia won the toss and chose to field in the important semi-final. Even before the



match began, West Indies faced a setback when star all-rounder Deandra Dottin was taken to the medical room shortly after the national anthems. The West Indies head coach confirmed during the innings break that Dottin experienced a minor medical issue.

West Indies started steadily, with captain Hayley Matthews leading the effort. She looked in good form and hit some impressive boundaries, while Qiana Joseph had trouble rotating the strike at the other end. As dot balls piled up, Australia found the breakthrough they needed when Georgia Wareham took a wicket with her first delivery, getting Matthews out for 30 off 28 balls and ending the 47-run opening partnership. Joseph's tough innings ended when she

scored 16 off 22 balls.

The innings quickly fell apart as West Indies went from 47/1 to 83/6, with Australia's disciplined bowling taking charge. Shemaine Campbelle tried to rebuild with 22 off 25 balls, but wickets kept falling around her.

A vital 42-run partnership for the seventh wicket between Jannillea Glasgow, who scored 15, and the returning Dottin, who finished not out on 26 off just 16 balls, lifted West Indies to 125/7 after 20 overs. However, this total seemed low against Australia's strong batting lineup.

Australia began their chase aggressively. Georgia Voll scored regularly until Chinelle Henry dismissed her for 16 off 11 balls, while Phoebe Litchfield managed just 4 before getting out cheaply.

From that point on,

Mooney took control. The left-hander kept the scoreboard moving with sharp shot selection, reaching a fantastic half-century off just 29 deliveries, ensuring Australia remained in command throughout the chase.

There was a minor injury concern in the seventh over when Ellyse Perry left the field with a quad issue for assessment. Australia hopes the experienced all-rounder recovers in time for Sunday's final.

Any worries with the batting soon faded as Mooney and Gardner formed a strong partnership. Gardner, who had earlier excelled with the ball, contributed an unbeaten 35, while Mooney remained not out on 61. The pair added an unbroken 84-run partnership for the third wicket, leading Australia to a confident eight-wicket victory and another appearance in the Women's T20 World Cup final.

Earlier, Gardner also shone with the ball, finishing with figures of 2/13. Captain Sophie Molineux took 2/30, Georgia Wareham had 2/17, and Annabel Sutherland contributed with 1/26, as Australia delivered another strong all-around performance that highlighted why they are a top team in women's cricket.

Telangana BJP leader Madhavi Latha wins gold medal in shooting

IAN S

HYDERABAD: Showcasing her sporting prowess, Telangana BJP leader and social activist Madhavi Latha has secured a gold medal at the 12th Telangana State Shooting Championship.

Demonstrating sharp focus and precision, the firebrand leader excelled in the 25m Pistol (Masters Women) event held at the SATS Shooting Range in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. She emerged victorious with a commanding score of 245/300.

Sharing the inspiration behind her foray into competitive shooting, Latha recalled her early experiences as an NCC cadet.

"During the Republic Day training sessions in my childhood, we were introduced to rifle practice. That was when I discovered my affinity for the sport," said Latha, who unsuccessfully contested as a BJP candidate from Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency in 2024.

She emphasised that her return to the shooting range was driven by a belief that public representatives should lead by example.

"A politician must be adventurous and sporty, serving as an inspiration



for the people. I questioned why age should be a barrier. Once you are mentally prepared, you can accomplish anything," Latha remarked, while also attributing her success to the guidance of her coach, Prasanna.

Despite battling a ligament tear in her right shoulder, Latha is already intensifying her training regimen for upcoming challenges. She is currently focused on preparing for the pre-national championships scheduled in two months.

"I am currently at the gym preparing for the pre-nationals despite my shoulder injury. I want to demonstrate that determination can overcome any obstacle," she added.

She said that the gold medal was not just her achievement. "It belongs to everyone who believed in

me, encouraged me, prayed for me, and celebrated every step of my journey. To every woman chasing a dream, never let anyone define your limits. Believe in yourself, work hard, and keep aiming higher," she said in a social media post.

Latha also shared visuals of her visit to Upras Vyayam Shala. She said generations were nurtured here with discipline, strength and dedication since 1975. "My sincere appreciation to the founders, gurus, trainers and every young athlete who are preserving our rich Akhada tradition with commitment and pride. Such institutions build not just physical strength, but character, values and patriotism. The strength of our youth is the strength of Bharat," she said.

Jofra Archer sits out as England announce playing XI for T20I opener against India

IAN S

DURHAM: England captain Harry Brook reaffirmed his commitment to international cricket after the hosts announced their playing XI for the opening T20I against India at Chester-Le-Street in Durham on Wednesday.

England have made two changes to the team that lost to India in the semi-finals of the 2026 T20 World Cup. Fast bowler Saqib Mahmood replaces Jamie Overton, and Luke Wood comes in for Jofra Archer. Archer and fellow pacer Josh Tongue are both rested after playing in England's recent Test series against New Zealand.

Brook will lead England in what could be one of his biggest challenges yet. After guiding the team to the World Cup semi-finals, the 26-year-old is also a strong candidate to be England's next Test captain.

Before the series opener, Brook emphasised that representing England is his only priority. This is why he has opted out of most franchise leagues.

"I've committed completely to England cricket. I've said that I don't want to play any franchise cricket except for the Hundred," Brook stated. "Everything I do is to play cricket for England. Whatever I do on and off the field is to perform as well as I can for England.



That's why I don't play in the IPL, PSL, or any other franchise competitions."

Brook believes that skipping franchise tourna-

ments allows him valuable time to prepare physically for the demands of playing all three formats. "The fact that I don't play franchise

cricket means there are times in my calendar when I'm not playing. I'd focus on my fitness and get ready to play all three formats, which has been my dream since I was a child."

The right-hander also downplayed any speculation around England's future Test captaincy. "If I am or am not the captain for England in Test cricket, I'd be happy just to still be playing for England."

England XI for first T20I against India:

Phil Salt, Jos Buttler, Harry Brook (captain), Jacob Bethell, Tom Banton, Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Liam Dawson, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid, Luke Wood.

FIFA WC 2026: 'We never lost belief,' says Mazraoui after dramatic win over Netherlands

IAN S

MONTERREY: Defender Noussair Mazraoui said Morocco's unwavering belief and composure helped them pull off a dramatic comeback against the Netherlands as the Atlas Lions advanced to the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 following a penalty shootout victory.

Trailing to Cody Gakpo's 72nd-minute strike, Morocco refused to panic and found a stoppage-time equaliser through Issa Diop before prevailing in the shootout, with Ismael Saibari converting the winning penalty after goalkeeper Yassine Bounou's crucial save.

"We never lost our composure throughout the match, even in the final moments. We didn't panic, even when they began to

sit back and defend. In the end, there was a brilliant ball from Chemsdine Talbi, and Issa Diop equalised with an incredible header," Mazraoui told FIFA after the match.

Mazraoui said the victory was even more satisfying considering the quality of the opposition.

"It was a very difficult match against a very strong opponent. They are one of the best teams you can face, without doubt. They are among the top ten teams in the world and contenders to win the World Cup. So the way we managed to win today says a lot about the work we have put in as a national team," he said.

Morocco dominated possession after the break, although Mazraoui felt that was partly due to the Dutch tactical approach. "We controlled the ball

more in the second half, and I think that was also part of the Netherlands' strategy. They wanted to play on the counter-attack and allowed us to have possession," he said.

"Their plan worked to some extent because they scored the first goal from a counter-attack - a simple long ball, then a header, then the goal. But we managed to finish the match at 1-1 and take it to penalties," He added.

After their historic fourth-place finish at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Morocco have continued their impressive rise, remaining unbeaten through four matches in the 2026 tournament.

Mazraoui, however, insisted the team is focused on creating a new chapter rather than living off past achievements.

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MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA
(HINDI) (U/A16+)
11:35 AM, 02:55 PM, 06:15 PM

COCKTAIL 2
(HINDI) (A)
11:00 AM, 04:30 PM

SUPERGIRL
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 16+)
02:00 PM

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
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