

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is the great Lord Shiva. Guru is the manifest supreme Brahman; salutations to that revered Guru. On the sacred occasion of Guru Purnima, respectful obeisance to all the venerable Gurus. Heartfelt wishes for Guru Purnima to all of you!

Srinagar • Thursday 30, July 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 181 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Amarnath Yatra

4.41 Lakh Pilgrims Pay Obeisance At Holy Cave Shrine



UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: As many as 4,41,577 pilgrims have performed darshan at the holy Amarnath cave shrine since the commencement of the annual pilgrimage on July 3, with 6,165 devotees paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Wednesday.

According to details available, pilgrims who paid obeisance on Wednesday included 4,098 men, 1,620 women, 143 children, 67 sadhus, seven sadhvis and 230 security personnel.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 2,051 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu early Wednesday for the Baltal base camp under tight security arrangements.

Officials said the 22nd batch departed at 2:45 a.m. in a convoy of 82 vehicles comprising 48 buses, eight medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 25 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and one two-wheeler.

The batch included 1,570 male pilgrims, 369 women, two children, 58 sadhus, 21 sadhvis, one sadhu child and 30 foreign nationals, including 14 men and 16 women. No convoy was scheduled for the Pahalgam route as the pilgrims are travelling only through the Baltal axis.

With the latest batch, a total of 1,32,406 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the holy cave shrine during this year's Yatra, officials added.

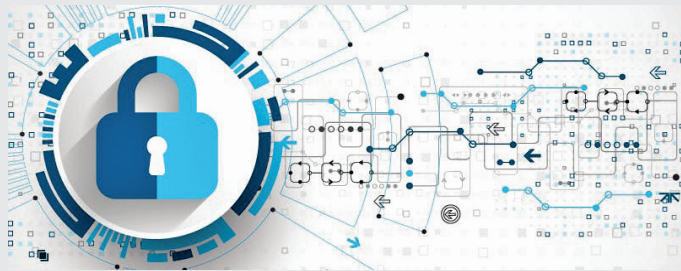
The 57-day ●P-06

37.90 Lakh Digilocker Users In J&K, 39,029 In Ladakh: Centre In LS

Highlights Expansion Of Bharatnet, CSCs, UPI, Digital Literacy Initiatives

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Wednesday said Digital India initiatives have significantly expanded digital access and public service delivery in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with over 37.90 lakh DigiLocker users in J&K and 39,029 users in Ladakh, while 37 departments/institutions in J&K and 10 in Ladakh have been integrated



with the platform. The information was provided by Minister of State for Electronics and Information

Technology Jitin Prasada in a written reply to the Lok Sabha raised by Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu on the impact of Digital India initiatives.

The government said the Digital India programme has strengthened Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) across the country through platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, UMANG and Common Services Centres (CSCs), ●P-06

87.5% Villages In J&K, Ladakh Have 4G Connectivity: GoI

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that a majority of villages in the hilly Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have been covered with mobile and 4G connectivity, while the BharatNet programme continues to expand

high-speed broadband infrastructure in remote and difficult terrains.

The information was provided by Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Dr Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, in a written reply to Lok Sabha raised by Shri Manoj Tagore B regarding internet services in hilly and high-altitude areas. ●P-06

Chhari Mubarak Begins Final Pilgrimage To Amarnath Cave Shrine

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The traditional Chhari Mubarak, the holy mace of Lord Shiva and the most revered symbol of the annual Amarnath Yatra, on Wednesday commenced its ceremonial pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine with the sacred mace being taken from the historic Dashnami Akhada at Maisuma here to Pahalgam for the first leg of the age-old rituals.

The procession, as per the details available, was led by the custodian of the Chhari



Mubarak, Mahant Deependra Giri. Sadhus and devotees accompanied the ●P-06

Rain Keeps Temperatures Below Normal Across J&K

MeT Warns Of Heavy Showers, Flash Floods Till Aug 5

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Day temperatures remained several degrees below normal across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday following widespread rainfall, while the Meteorological Department (MeT) forecast continued wet weather with the possibility of heavy to torrential showers, flash floods and landslides in vulnerable areas over the next several days.

According to the India Meteorological ●P-06

J&K's First Int'l Film Festival Attracts Entries From 50 Countries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The 1st International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026 has evoked an enthusiastic response from filmmakers across the globe, with 875 film submissions received from around 50 countries so far, reflecting the growing international interest in the J&K Government's flagship cinematic initiative.

The film submission window for the festival will remain open till tomorrow i.e; July 30, 2026, ●P-06

J&K Bank Serving To Empower YOUR BANK SINCE 1938 THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK LIMITED CIN : L65110JK1938SGC000048	Celebrating ₹3 TRUST TRADITION TRANSFORMATION THREE PILLARS ONE UNSTOPPABLE JOURNEY TRILLION BUSINESS ₹ 3,000,000,000,000 One Bank 21 Million+ Accounts, 5000+ Touchpoints in 18 States & 4 UTs across the Country Digital Banking NRI Services Retail Banking SME Loans Corporate Banking
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MLA Devsar, DC Kulgam visits flash flood-affected areas

Assess damages, provide immediate relief to affected families



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahamad and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Wednesday visited the flash flood-affected areas of Dardgund, Bangdaar and adjoining localities of Tehsil Devsar to take stock of the situation arising out of the sudden cloudburst that hit the area yesterday.

During the visit, the duo interacted with the affect-

ed families and undertook an on-the-spot assessment of the damage caused to residential structures, agricultural land, orchards and public infrastructure due to the flash floods triggered by the cloudburst.

They were accompanied by Tehsildar Devsar, Block Development Officer (BDO) and officers of various line departments, who briefed them on the extent of damage and the immediate relief and restoration measures being undertaken in the affected areas.

As part of immedi-

ate relief measures, cash compensation and food kits were distributed among the affected families on the spot. The DC also directed the concerned line departments to carry out immediate restoration of damaged infrastructure, including roads, water and power supply, and to remain on alert in view of the prevailing weather conditions.

The MLA assured the affected people of all possible support from the administration and appealed to the residents of vulnerable areas to remain cautious.

DC Budgam reviews progress under RDSS, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed progress on consumer registrations, rooftop solar installations, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) disbursement, solarisation of government buildings, smart meter installation, sanctioned cases and pending works.

Emphasising timely execution, the DC said the two schemes are significantly strengthening the district's power infrastructure and improving electricity supply to consumers. He

directed all concerned to expedite implementation and clear pending cases.

The DC was informed that the district has recorded encouraging progress under both schemes, with strong public response, substantial clean energy generation, direct CFA benefits to eligible consumers and several government buildings already solarised.

He also reviewed RDSS infrastructure works, including the installation of poles, feeders, conductors, LT lines and other distribution assets, and directed officers to speed up execution and complete all pending works within the stipulated timeline.

Reviewing the banking component of PM Surya Ghar, the DC instructed the concerned authorities to ensure prompt disposal

of pending applications and resolve rejected cases in coordination with banks to facilitate hassle-free consumer onboarding. He also directed early installation of smart meters at all solarised government buildings and asked empanelled vendors to clear the backlog of roof-top solar installations.

Stressing close coordination among KPDCL, JAKEDA, banks and empanelled vendors, the Deputy Commissioner called for removing bottlenecks and achieving the targets under both schemes within the current financial year.

Among others, Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, CPO Javed Ahmad, officers of KPDCL and concerned departments also attended the meeting.

MS Reviews Renovation of X-Ray Room at DH Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Pulwama, Dr. Abdul Gani Dar, on Tuesday inspected the ongoing renovation and panelling work of the hospital's X-ray room as part of efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure and patient services.

The X-ray room, which had long been in a deteriorated condition, is currently undergoing a major facelift to provide a cleaner, safer and more patient-friendly environment. The renovation is expected to enhance both the working conditions for medical staff and the overall experience for



patients visiting the hospital.

Hospital officials said the infrastructure upgrade forms part of a broader initiative to modernise facilities and strengthen healthcare delivery at the district hospital.

Residents and visitors have welcomed the renovation work, describing it

as a positive step towards improving the quality of public healthcare. Many expressed hope that such developmental initiatives would continue in the coming months.

Since assuming charge as Medical Superintendent, Dr. Abdul Gani Dar has overseen several initiatives aimed at upgrading medical services and improving hospital infrastructure. Alongside the expansion of healthcare facilities, multiple renovation and development works have been taken up across the hospital premises, reflecting a continued focus on enhancing patient care and creating a better healthcare environment.

DLSA G'bal commences Two-Day Training Programme for Legal Aid Functionaries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In pursuance of the directions of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority and under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, a Two-Day Training-cum-Orientation Programme for Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs),

Panel Lawyers, Supporting Staff, Mediators and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) commenced Wednesday at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

Addressing the participants, Chairman DLSA Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir emphasized the importance of continuous capacity building of legal aid functionaries to ensure effective delivery of legal services

and enhanced access to justice.

Earlier, The welcome address was delivered by Secretary, DLSA, Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain. During the first day of the programme, three technical sessions were conducted. The first session on "Role of Mediation, Mediation Process, Negotiation Skills and Conflict Resolution" was delivered by Adv. Sajad Hyder Salathi, Trained Mediator.

DC Srinagar reviews progress, implementation of Mission YUVA scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of Officers of line Departments and Bankers at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress and implementation of the Mission YUVA scheme in the District.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, General Manager DIC, Abid Hussain, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Deputy Director Employment, Shubi Tabasum, Zonal Head Jammu and Kashmir Bank, senior Officers from concerned departments, representatives of various banks, SBDUs and other stakeholders associated with the implementa-



tion of the scheme.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of applications received, cases approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC), and the progress made in sanctioning and disbursing financial assistance to eligible beneficiaries under Mission YUVA.

The DC directed the concerned Bank Officials and SBDUs to expedite the processing of DLIC-approved cases and ensure timely financial support to aspir-

ing entrepreneurs. He emphasized the need for close coordination among all stakeholders to remove procedural delays and facilitate smooth implementation of the scheme on the ground.

Highlighting the importance of Mission YUVA in promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities, the DC stressed that all eligible beneficiaries should be provided necessary support within stipulated timelines. He called for proactive engagement with

applicants and regular monitoring and clearance of pending cases to achieve the set targets under the scheme.

The DC further directed the concerned Officers to intensify awareness and outreach activities to encourage more youth to avail the benefits of Mission YUVA and establish sustainable livelihood and self-employment ventures. He emphasized the need to ensure that maximum eligible young entrepreneurs across the district are covered under the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of entrepreneurship mentoring initiatives, registration of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), coverage of college students under the Udyam Jagriti programme, and other key components of Mission YUVA. He urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination for the effective implementation of the scheme and timely achievement of its objectives across Srinagar district.

DC Shopian chairs District Level NCORD Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Wednesday chaired the monthly District Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) meeting here at the Mini-Secretariat to review the district's efforts against drug abuse and narcotics trafficking.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary; ADC, Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, Sha-koor Ahmad; SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; CMO, CEO, DIO, CAO, Tehsildars, representatives of enforcement agencies and other members of the District Level NCORD Committee.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the decisions taken in the previous NCORD meeting and assessed the progress made by various departments in implementing anti-drug initiatives.

Emphasizing a coordinated and multi-pronged approach to combat the drug menace, the DC direct-

ed all stakeholder departments to strengthen awareness campaigns, intensify enforcement measures, monitor vulnerable areas and ensure effective rehabilitation and counselling of affected individuals.

He stressed the importance of close coordination among enforcement agencies, educational institutions, health authorities and civil administration to eradicate drug abuse from the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the functioning of the District Drug De-addiction Centre. He directed the concerned officers to facilitate unemployed drug victims access to sustainable livelihood and income-generating opportunities under various Government employment schemes.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to further intensify preventive, enforcement and awareness activities across the district, ensuring strict implementation of NCORD guidelines and sustained efforts towards making Shopian a drug-free district.

DC Pulwama chairs meeting of DAC on My Bharat Initiative



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Advisory Committee on My Bharat at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to review the implementation and progress of the MY Bharat initiative in the district.

At the outset, the District Youth Officer, Pulwama, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the objectives of MY Bharat and the progress achieved in the district. The presentation covered youth registrations, formation of Youth Clubs, registration of NGOs, experiential learning opportunities, district performance on the MY Bharat portal, events conducted, and the roadmap for strengthening youth participation in the coming months.

Addressing the meeting, the DC highlighted the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for youth engagement through skill development, community service, and nation-building activities under the MY Bharat plat-

form.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the district's performance under various indicators and took stock of the status of youth registrations and institutional participation. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments to enhance outreach and ensure greater enrolment of youth on the MY Bharat platform.

Dr. Qayoom directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns in educational institutions and at the grassroots level through Youth Clubs, NSS, NCC, and other community-based organisations. He also emphasized the importance of organising regular youth-centric activities to encourage leadership and community participation under the MY Bharat initiative.

Dr. Qayoom emphasized that educational institutions, Youth Clubs, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, and field functionaries should be actively involved in mobilising youth and ensuring maximum registrations.

DC Budgam directs early completion of remaining NGT works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed under the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the department-wise status of ongoing NGT-related works and directed all executing agencies to expedite the remaining projects and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines.

He laid emphasis on the early completion of Grey Water Treatment works through the construction of grit chambers, sedimentation tanks, community soakage pits and leach pits at various locations along Doodhganga and Mamath Khul.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the development of a public park and Budgam View Point at the old dumping site near Mamath Bridge being executed by the Municipal Council Budgam. He instructed the concerned authorities to accel-

erate the pace of work and complete the project at the earliest.

Reviewing the issue of pesticide and chemical fertilizer contamination in Mamath Khul, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to intensify awareness among farmers on the judicious use of agrochemicals and take necessary measures to prevent contamination of water bodies.

He stressed that all departments must work in close coordination to ensure effective implementation of NGT directions, safeguard the environment and improve sanitation and ecological health in the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineers of R&B and REW, Chief Agricultural Officer, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Budgam, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Chadoora and other concerned officers.

Handwara Admin retrieves 10 Kanals of Kahcharai Land in major eviction drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In a major operation aimed at retrieving encroached government land, the Revenue Team of Tehsil Handwara Wednesday successfully conducted an eviction drive at Bagathpora, Handwara.

The drive was carried out under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and under the close supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara.

During the operation, 10 kanals of prime Kahcharai (grazing) land were retrieved from illegal encroachment, thereby resolving a long-standing possession dispute involving several families.

The eviction drive was conducted peacefully, with the Revenue Team receiving full support and assistance from the Municipal Committee Handwara and Police Handwara. The coordinated efforts of all agencies involved ensured the smooth and successful execution of the operation.

"SAFAI APNAO, BIMAARI BHAGAO" MC Shopian launches major cleanliness drive at Sanglo Nallah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: As part of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) nationwide "Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao" campaign under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, the Municipal Council (MC) Shopian Wednesday conducted a comprehensive cleanliness drive at Sanglo Nallah to promote sanitation, protect local water resources and prevent water-borne diseases during the monsoon season.

The drive witnessed active participation from Municipal Council officials, Swachhata Executives, Community Mobilizers, sanitation workers and local residents, who jointly removed solid waste, plastic debris, silt and other obstructions from the water body and its adjoining banks, restoring the natural flow of water.

Alongside the cleanup, awareness sessions were conducted to educate residents and commercial establishments about the harmful effects of dumping waste into water bodies. Participants were urged to adopt source segregation, responsible waste disposal and community-led sanitation practices.

ایڈوکیٹ جی این شاہین کو صدمہ

زندگانی تھی تیری مہتاب سے تابندہ تر
خوب تر تھا صبح کے تارے سے بھی تیرا سفر
آسمان تیری لحد پر شبنم افشانی کرے
سبزہ نورستہ اس گھر کی نگہبانی کرے

یہ عبر جاناکہ صفحہ قرطاس پر لاتے ہوئے انتہائی درد و کرب ہو رہا ہے کہ عوامی اتحاد پارٹی کے نائب صدر ایڈوکیٹ جی این شاہین کی ہمیشہ محترمہ گلشن اختر زوجہ عبدالاحد لون ساکنہ رگمولہ پلوامہ ایک ماہ کی طویل علالت کے بعد 28 جولائی بروز منگلوار کو جان، جان آفریں کے حوالے کر گئیں۔ مرحومہ کی شخصیت کو رب ذوالجلال نے انتہائی نیک اوصاف سے مزین کیا تھا جس کے نتیجے میں علاقہ بھر کے اندر لوگ انہیں عقیدت و احترام کے ساتھ اپنی محبتوں سے نوازتے تھے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ مرحومہ کے حنات کو شرف قبولیت بخشے ہوئے انہیں کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب کرے۔ (آمین)

مرحومہ کا چہرام 31 جولائی بروز جمعہ المبارک آن کے آبائی گاؤں میں انجام دیا جائے گا۔

مثل ایوان سحر مرقد فروزاں ہو تیرا
نور سے محمود یہ خانی شہستان ہو تیرا

NEWS

Legislators call on CM Omar, raise developmental issues of their constituencies

CM assures priority redressal, reiterates commitment to equitable development



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Several legislators from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of various developmental issues and public concerns pertaining to their respective constituencies.

Among those who met the Chief Minister were Member of Legislative Assembly Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, MLA Kalakote-Sunderbani Randhir Singh, MLA Kishtwar Shagun Pari-

har, MLA Uri Dr Sajad Shafi, MLA Lolab Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, MLA Tangdhar Javaid Mirchal and former MLC Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta.

During the meetings, the legislators highlighted a range of developmental priorities, infrastructure requirements and public grievances concerning their constituencies. They sought the Chief Minister's intervention for timely redressal of the issues and expedited implementation of various developmental initiatives.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the visiting legislators and assured them that all genuine issues and demands projected by them would be examined and addressed on priority.

Reiterating his government's commitment to inclusive and balanced development, the Chief Minister said that every region of Jammu and Kashmir would receive equal attention and that sustained efforts are being made to ensure equitable development and improved public service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo reviews progress of SASCI, CAPEX, other flagship schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the physical and financial progress achieved under the Strengthening and Augmentation of State Capabilities for Citizen-Centric Infrastructure (SASCI), CAPEX Budget and other flagship developmental schemes being implemented by the Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education departments besides implementation of key budget announcements in these departments.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez; Commissioner Secretary Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Mission Director ICDS, Mission Director RUSA, Mission Director Samagra Shiksha, Director School Education Jammu/Kashmir, Director Health Jammu/Kashmir, Special Secretaries of concerned departments, Director Planning/Finance of concerned departments, and other senior officers.

The Minister conducted a detailed department-wise review of the status of ongoing infrastructure projects, expenditure under CAPEX allocations, implementation of SASCI initiatives and other flagship programmes aimed at strengthening the public service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo directed the officers to ensure timely completion of all sanctioned projects without compromis-



ing on quality standards. She stressed that every developmental initiative must translate into tangible benefits for the people and contribute towards strengthening essential public infrastructure here.

The Minister underscored the importance of effective planning, inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring to achieve the desired outcomes. She instructed the officers to remove bottlenecks delaying execution of projects and adopt a result-oriented approach for ensuring optimal utilisation of funds.

Sakeena Itoo reiterated the government's commitment towards transparent, accountable and people-centric governance, asserting that development projects must be executed efficiently to maximise public benefit.

"Maintain strict financial discipline, adhere to prescribed timelines and ensure regular monitoring of the progress of all projects to avoid cost and time overruns", she said.

The Minister directed the departments to strengthen the field-level supervision, improve coordination

among executing agencies and ensure periodic reviews so that all flagship schemes are implemented effectively and their intended objectives are achieved within the prescribed timeframe.

Taking stock of the School and Higher Education Departments, the Minister highlighted the importance of upgrading educational infrastructure and creating a conducive learning environment for students. She directed the officers to expedite construction and upgradation works, ensuring that educational institutions are equipped with the necessary facilities to support quality education.

Regarding the education department, the Minister was informed that 24228 schools, both public and private are operational in Jammu and Kashmir, including 37 KVVs, 20 JNVs and six schools of Tribal affairs department, with total enrolment of about 2657883 students. It was also given out that among 1421 works proposed under UT CAPEX 2026-27, 786 works are targeted for completion with 90 works already stand completed.

It was also informed that under SASCI, a total outlay of Rs 2648.89 lakh has been proposed for various kinds of works across UT. Under Samagra Shiksha, it was revealed that 3019 Civil works have been completed in last one and half years. It was also informed that skill education has been introduced in 1350 high and higher secondary schools, besides 3008 digital Labs have been established while as 2388 ICT Labs and 4597 smart classrooms are in the process of establishment. The meeting was also informed that 396 schools have been approved for upgradation under PM-SHRI scheme while 45 Atal Tinkering Labs and 159 STEM Labs have already been established in approved schools under this scheme.

Regarding higher education department, the Minister was informed that for the year 2026-27, Rs. 468 crore have been approved for allocation, with Rs. 227.71 crore available for spending. It was given out that under PM-USHA RUSA for the year 2026-27, Rs. 75.35 crores have been outlayed for various works. The meeting was also informed that some major projects have been targeted for completion during 2026-27 under Capex like Construction of five College Buildings, 14 New Additional Blocks/Administrative Blocka, 4 Science Blocks, 12 Additional Classroom Blocks, 11 Automation of libraries, 8 Multipurpose Halls, two Library Blocks, three Girls/Boys Hostels and 12 Smart Classrooms. Under SASCI, it was informed that 21 works with an outlay of Rs. 71.77 crores will be carried out during 2026-27.

Selection committee meeting for induction of J&K police officers into IPS on cards

MHA determines 5 more vacancies for 2025

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Selection Committee meeting for induction of officers from the Jammu & Kashmir Police into the prestigious Indian Police Service (IPS) is expected to be held in the first week of August, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the meeting will consider induction against eight vacancies already determined for 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

As per procedure, the Union Public Service Commission convenes a Selection Committee meeting with all stakeholders, where officers' service records and Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) are scrutinized in accordance with Regulation 5(4) of the Promotion Regulations. Based on the Committee's recommendations, the officers included in the Select List are appointed to the Indian Police Service by the Union Government.

According to official figures, the authorised strength of the AGMUT Cadre (J&K segment) as on January 1, 2026, is 47 posts, of which 34 are presently filled, leaving 13 clear vacancies. Of these, eight have already been earmarked for the Select Lists of 2021-2024, while the remaining five vacancies arose in 2025 and are to be determined for the Select List of that year.

Govt approves ₹6.38 crore project for development of Khoo Sahib spring

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards the preservation and development of Jammu and Kashmir's religious and heritage sites, the Government has approved a ₹6.38 crore project for the development of the revered holy spring of Khoo Sahib at Yarwan, Shadimarg in Pulwama district.

The project aims to upgrade essential infrastructure and improve facilities for devotees and visitors while ensuring the preservation of the site's religious, cultural and historical significance. The initiative is expected to enhance the overall pilgrim experience and promote the conservation of one of South Kashmir's prominent spiritual land-



marks.

The approval reflects the Government's continued commitment to safeguarding Jammu and Kashmir's rich religious and cultural heritage through focused investments in the restoration and development of important places of worship and pilgrimage.

Notably, the approval follows the Government's recent sanction of two major heritage conservation projects worth ₹16.36 crore for the revival and restoration of the historic Jamia Masjid Sharief in Shopian and the revered Sarvadhara Chaumanda Mata Mandir in Ramban.

Almond harvest begins 20 days early in Kashmir, farmers blame climate change

Growers seek long-term measures to safeguard Valley's almond industry

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: Despite a healthy almond crop this season, farmers in Kashmir are increasingly worried about the long-term impact of climate change after the harvest commenced nearly 20 days earlier than usual.

Pulwama and Budgam, particularly its famous Karewa belts, are one of Kashmir's major almond-producing regions, where thousands of kanals are under cultivation. The sector supports the livelihoods of thousands of farmers, labourers and traders, making it an important contributor to the local economy.

Growers, said the unusually high temperatures accelerated the ripening process, forcing them to begin harvesting almost three weeks ahead of the traditional schedule.

Farmers believe the changing weather pattern is a clear indication of the growing impact of climate change on horticulture in the Valley.

Traditionally, almond trees bloom in March, while the nuts mature by August before harvesting begins. However, this year,



the crop ripened much earlier, prompting orchardists to complete harvesting well before the normal season.

Abdul Rashid Bhat, a grower from Parigam area of Pulwama, said the fluctuating weather conditions, including prolonged dry spells, rising temperatures and untimely rainfall, have adversely affected almond orchards. Many reported premature leaf fall in several plantations, raising concerns about the health of the trees and the sustainability of future production.

According to farmers, although the weather conditions were far from ideal, the almond yield this year has been encouraging compared to previous seasons. However, if such climatic trends continue, they could pose a serious challenge to the industry's future, they said.

Horticulture Department officials acknowledged the changing weather patterns but maintained that the current

season has witnessed a satisfactory harvest.

Fayaz Ahmad, an official of the department, said that almond production has remained good this year and there is no immediate cause for concern. "The department is promoting improved and climate-resilient almond varieties, which are expected to enhance productivity and help growers adapt to changing environmental conditions," he said.

Experts believe that while this year's output has offered relief to farmers. However, the early maturity of the crop underscores the growing influence of climate change on Kashmir's horticulture sector.

They stressed the need for scientific orchard management, climate-resilient farming practices, improved irrigation facilities and the introduction of advanced almond varieties to protect the industry from future climatic uncertainties. —(KNO)

Committee on Estimates reviews functioning of Health & Medical Edu Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Estimates of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Wednesday convened a meeting under the Chairmanship of Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) to review the overall functioning of the Health and Medical Education Department, with emphasis on strengthening healthcare delivery and assessing the availability of medical manpower across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by members of the Committee including Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Ali Mohammad Dar, Javid Hassan Beigh, Irshad Rasool Kar, Sajad Shaheen, Sunil Bhadraraj and Pyare Lal Sharma. Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education, M. Raju, Director SKIMS, Managing Director, National Health Mission, Principals of various Government Medical Colleges, Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, besides other senior officers of the Health and Medical



Education and Legislative Assembly were also present.

During the deliberations, the Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the department's functioning, focusing on healthcare infrastructure, availability of human resources, quality of service delivery and the effectiveness of administrative mechanisms across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee sought detailed information regarding the sanctioned strength of doctors in all District Hospitals, Sub-District Hospitals and Medical Blocks across the Union Territory. It directed the department to furnish district and block-wise data on the sanctioned posts of doctors to facilitate a detailed assessment of healthcare staffing.

To evaluate the existing human resource scenario

in the health sector, the Committee further called for block-wise details of filled and vacant posts in these health institutions for the last five years. The information will enable the Committee to examine trends in manpower deployment, identify critical gaps and recommend appropriate measures for improving healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking during the meeting, Chairman Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi reiterated the need for timely availability of accurate data to support evidence-based planning and policy interventions aimed at enhancing the efficiency, accessibility and quality of public healthcare services across J&K. He directed the Health department for immediate posting of doctors in rural and underserved areas.

Reviews CAG Audit Paras of JKPDCL, JAKEDA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Public Undertakings (PUC) of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Wednesday held a meeting at the Legislative Assembly Complex here to examine the Audit Paras relating to the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDCL) and the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), as contained in the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Audit Reports for the years 2018-19 and 2020-21.

The meeting was chaired by Pawan Kumar Gupta and attended by Mian Mehar Ali, Reyaz Ahmad Khan and Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Members of the Committee.

Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development

Department; Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCCL); Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDCL); Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation Limited (JKPTCL); Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL); senior officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) and other concerned officers, besides Secretary JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the audit observations concerning the functioning of JKPDCL and JAKEDA. Detailed deliberations were held

on the issues highlighted in the Audit Reports, with emphasis on the status of compliance, corrective measures undertaken by the concerned agencies and the progress achieved in addressing the audit observations.

The Committee impressed upon the officers to ensure timely and effective compliance with the recommendations of the CAG and stressed the need for strengthening internal financial controls, improving operational efficiency and institutional accountability. It also underscored the importance of adopting a proactive approach towards addressing audit observations to promote transparency, prudent financial management and effective utilisation of public resources.

Div Com reviews progress on Compassionate Appointment Cases, SVAMITA Cards

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Wednesday chaired a meeting with Deputy Commissioners to review the progress of key matters, including the clearance of com-



passionate appointment cases, disposal of public & migrant grievances, revenue appeals, issuance of SVAMITA cards, and land transfer issues.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to expedite the processing of pending compassionate appointment cases in coordination with the concerned authorities and ensure the preparation of the final list of eligible beneficiaries at the earliest.

He also instructed the Deputy Commissioners to dispose of pending

migrant and other public grievances in a time-bound manner, stressing the need for prompt and effective grievance redressal.

Emphasising efficient revenue administration, the Divisional Commissioner called for streamlining the hearing and dispos-

al of revenue appeals by Second Class Magistrates.

Reviewing the implementation of the SVAMITA scheme, he urged the district administrations to accelerate the generation and distribution of SVAMITA cards to eligible beneficiaries.

The meeting also reviewed the status of land transfer proposals concerning various departments and organisations, including the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bharat Scouts and Guides, NCC Training Camp, and other government agencies.

Vacancies in Transport Deptt referred for recruitment: Secy Avny Lavasa

'Technical issues in Vahan, Sarathi portals being addressed'

WARIS FAYAZ

SOPORE: Jammu and Kashmir Transport Secretary Avny Lavasa on Wednesday said that all vacant positions in the Transport Department have been referred for recruitment and the process is expected to be completed at the earliest.

Secretary Lavasa, speaking to reporters during surprise visit to ARTO HQ Sopore, said the department is continuously reviewing pending applications and identifying bottlenecks at the field level to ensure faster disposal of cases.

She said technical

issues affecting the Vahan and Sarathi portals are being addressed and necessary directions have been issued to concerned officials to minimise pendency and improve efficiency.

Lavasa urged people to make maximum use of online transport services and avoid unnecessary visits to transport offices. She said the department is working towards providing seamless, faceless and hassle-free services to citizens.

On staff shortages in the department, Lavasa said vacant posts have already been referred for recruitment and the process will be carried out in a transparent manner. —(KNO)

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Beyond Meetings,
People Expect Results

Regular sit-downs between a Chief Minister and local MLAs are a fundamental part of democratic governance. They give legislators a direct line to top leadership, ensuring that local grievances, the ones that rarely make headline news, actually reach the government’s desk. Seen from that angle, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s recent series of meetings with MLAs across Jammu and Kashmir is a welcome move. The issues raised by lawmakers, crumbling roads, erratic power supply, struggling primary healthcare centers, and lagging local project, aren't abstract administrative points. They reflect the daily grind of people across the region. Basic infrastructure directly shapes livelihoods, education, and local economies. When those services fail, life simply gets harder for the average household. The Chief Minister’s pledge to prioritize these demands is a good starting point. So too is the emphasis on balanced growth across both Jammu and Kashmir. Every constituency, whether a bustling town center or a far-flung border village, has an equal claim on public resources. Equity isn't just a talking point; it's essential for regional stability and trust. But people in J&K have seen plenty of high-level meetings come and go. Experience has taught them to take assurances with a grain of salt. Governance isn’t measured by the number of chairs filled in a Secretariat conference room, it’s measured by how many problems actually get solved outside it. If these interactions are going to mean anything, they can’t just be a periodic photo-op or a ritual listening tour. They need to turn into an ongoing, accountable process. Every project discussed needs clear deadlines, assigned responsibility, and public tracking until the work is actually finished. People across Jammu and Kashmir have high expectations, and their demands are pretty basic: reliable utilities, decent roads, functioning hospitals, better schools, and real job opportunities. Listening to those demands is a good first step, but intent only goes so far. At the end of the day, public trust isn't built on promises made around a table, it's earned by visible results on the ground.

Beyond Law Enforcement

The Multifaceted Challenge Of Global Substance Abuse

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

The world today stands at a critical juncture in its efforts to combat the growing menace of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Despite decades of policy interventions, international cooperation, and law enforcement measures, the drug problem continues to evolve in scale, complexity, and impact. What was once viewed primarily as a criminal justice issue has now emerged as a multifaceted challenge affecting public health, social cohesion, economic development, and human security across nations. The observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 26 serves as an important reminder that the global community must remain vigilant and responsive to emerging trends. This year's theme, "World Drug Problem: Persisting Issues, New Challenges, Innovative Responses," reflects both the enduring nature of the problem and the urgent need for fresh approaches in addressing it. Over the years, illicit drug markets have demonstrated a remarkable capacity to adapt to changing circumstances. Advances in technology, globalization, and evolving consumer behavior have transformed the way illicit substances are produced, marketed, transported, and consumed. Criminal networks have become increasingly sophisticated, exploiting loopholes in regulatory systems and utilizing modern communication tools to expand their reach. The result is a dynamic and resilient underground economy that continues to challenge governments and institutions worldwide. One of the defining features of the contemporary drug problem is the diversification of illicit substances available in the market. The emergence of laboratory-produced substances, coupled with the increasing accessibility of various psychoactive compounds, has complicated efforts aimed at prevention, detection, and regulation. These developments have created new risks for users while presenting significant challenges for public health systems and law enforcement agencies. The digital revolution has added another dimension to this evolving crisis. The rapid growth of online platforms, encrypted communication channels, and anonymous financial transactions has enabled traffickers to operate with greater speed and discretion. Illicit substances can now be marketed and distributed through digital networks that transcend geographical boundaries, making traditional enforcement strategies less effective. The internet has not only altered the mechanics of trafficking but has also expanded the reach of criminal organizations into previously inaccessible spaces. This changing landscape has heightened concerns regarding the vulnerability of young people. Adolescents and young adults increasingly navigate a digital environment where exposure to harmful influences can occur with unprecedented ease. Curiosity, peer pressure, misinformation, and emotional vulnerability often intersect in



ways that increase the risk of substance use. The consequences can be profound, affecting educational attainment, mental well-being, personal relationships, and future opportunities. Beyond the challenges posed by trafficking and distribution networks lies the human dimension of the drug problem. Substance dependence continues to exact a heavy toll on individuals, families, and communities. It disrupts lives, weakens social bonds, and contributes to a range of health, psychological, and socio-economic difficulties. Families often bear the burden of emotional distress and financial hardship, while communities face increased pressures on healthcare, welfare, and social support systems. The relationship between substance abuse and mental health has become increasingly evident in recent years. Psychological stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness, and other emotional challenges often contribute to substance use, while addiction itself can further aggravate mental health conditions. This complex interaction underscores the importance of adopting integrated approaches that address both prevention and treatment within a broader framework of psychological well-being. The social consequences of substance abuse are equally significant. Educational disruptions, declining productivity, family conflicts, social isolation, and increased vulnerability to crime are among the many challenges associated with addiction. The cumulative impact extends beyond individuals, affecting communities and hindering broader development goals. Consequently, the drug problem must be viewed not only through the lens of public health or law enforcement but also as a developmental and societal concern. India, like many other countries, continues to grapple with the far-reaching implications of substance abuse. Rapid social transformation, demographic shifts, unemployment, and increasing exposure to digital influences have contributed to growing concerns regarding the vulnerability of youth. The issue demands sustained attention and coordinated

responses that prioritize prevention, awareness, and rehabilitation alongside enforcement measures. In Jammu and Kashmir, concerns surrounding substance abuse have become increasingly prominent in recent years. The challenge has emerged as a matter of serious social concern, affecting individuals from diverse backgrounds and communities. The growing involvement of young people has heightened public anxiety and underscored the need for timely intervention. Beyond its immediate health implications, substance abuse threatens the social fabric of society by undermining the aspirations, productivity, and potential of an entire generation. Recognizing the seriousness of the challenge, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has initiated a comprehensive "100-Day Anti-Drug Campaign" aimed at strengthening awareness, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and enforcement efforts across the Union Territory. The campaign represents a proactive and coordinated response that seeks to involve multiple stakeholders in addressing the issue. A notable aspect of the initiative is its emphasis on collective participation. Government departments, educational institutions, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and community groups have been encouraged to work together in creating awareness and promoting preventive measures. Such collaboration reflects the understanding that lasting solutions require the active involvement of society as a whole. Educational institutions have emerged as important partners in these efforts. Schools, colleges, and universities play a vital role in shaping attitudes and behaviors during formative years. By fostering awareness, encouraging informed decision-making, and promoting healthy lifestyles, these institutions can serve as powerful agents of prevention. Equally important is the role of parents and guardians, whose guidance and support remain fundamental in protecting young people from harmful influences. The campaign has also highlighted the importance of rehabilitation and recovery.

Addressing addiction requires compassion, professional support, and opportunities for reintegration into society. Individuals affected by substance dependence often face stigma and social exclusion, which can become barriers to recovery. Strengthening treatment facilities, counselling services, and rehabilitation programmes is therefore essential in ensuring that those seeking help receive the support they need. Community engagement remains one of the most effective tools in preventing substance abuse. Local leaders, educators, healthcare workers, social organizations, and youth groups possess the ability to influence attitudes and encourage positive behavioral choices. Strong communities create environments where awareness, support, and early intervention can flourish, reducing the likelihood of individuals falling into patterns of substance dependence. Long-term success also requires addressing the social and economic factors that contribute to vulnerability. Access to quality education, employment opportunities, mental health services, recreational facilities, and skill development programmes can significantly strengthen resilience among young people. Investments in these areas represent investments in prevention and social well-being. Across the world, innovative responses are increasingly shaping the future of drug control. Advances in technology, improved data analysis, enhanced international cooperation, and evidence-based public health interventions are providing new opportunities to address emerging challenges. At the same time, there is growing recognition that effective responses must be people-centered, emphasizing prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and social inclusion. The evolving nature of the world drug problem demands an equally adaptive response. Governments, institutions, communities, and families must work together to create environments that promote awareness, resilience, and healthy choices. The challenge is significant, but it is not insurmountable. The ongoing 100-Day Anti-Drug Campaign in Jammu and Kashmir demonstrates that meaningful progress is possible when awareness is combined with action and policy is complemented by community participation. It reflects a broader commitment to safeguarding the well-being of individuals, strengthening communities, and protecting future generations from the harmful consequences of substance abuse. Ultimately, the fight against drugs is a fight for healthier societies, stronger families, and brighter futures. It is a shared responsibility that requires sustained commitment, informed action, and collective resolve. Only through cooperation, innovation, and compassion can societies effectively confront this evolving challenge and move towards a safer, healthier, and more resilient future.

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BEYOND THE STATUS QUO

Redefining Success Beyond Society's Gaze

AFREEN MANZOOR

Look around and you will observe that the society we live in has already decided the perks of being successful and what success should look like. A good job, a high income, social recognition and material achievements are often treated as the only signs of a successful life. Those who choose a different path are sometimes seen as unsuccessful, even if they are content with their lives. Can we apply one definition of success to every other being? Every individual has different dreams, talents and priorities. For one person, success may lie in building a business, while for another it may simply mean living a peaceful and meaningful life. The problem begins when a society starts judging people only through a fixed standard, forgetting that every human being deserves equal dignity and respect. This concern is reflected through the writings of contemporary political philosophers. John Rawls reminds us that a just society is one that allows every individual the freedom to pursue their own idea of good life under fair conditions. Ronald Dworkin goes a step further by arguing that every person deserves equal concern and respect, irrespective of the choices they make or the social status they achieve. This article is an attempt to question the conventional meaning of success. It argues that justice is not about making everyone live the same life but creating a society where different choices are respected and where human dignity is valued more than social approval. John Rawls who is a transformative 20th Century American political

philosopher in his masterwork, "A Theory of Justice" presented "Justice as Fairness" arguing that a just society requires equal basic liberties and fair distribution of socio-economic opportunities designated in order to maximize the benefits of the disadvantaged spectrum of the society. He says that a good society is not the one where the rich and the talented succeed but a Just Society is one where even a weakest person is treated fairly and gets real opportunities in life. Life is a journey which becomes vivid because of the societal pressure or the peer vigilance in order to satisfy the societal norms, stereotypes and prejudices which certainly are not pre-requisite. Ronald Dworkin who was an influential American legal scholar and philosopher says that every human has an important objective. He believed that a just society should not create conditions where some people feel inferior or socially worthless. Moreover, the real measure of society is not how many successful people it produces, but whether it allows its people to live with dignity, freedom and self-respect. It is perfectly acceptable to fail, to begin again or even to choose a path that others do not understand. After all, a meaningful life is not about meeting society's expectations; it is about remaining true to one's own. Society creates a dominant narrative of success and individuals often begin to measure themselves through that narrative, forgetting that every person has a different understanding of a meaningful life. Justice, therefore, is not only about equality of resources but also about respecting diverse conceptions of the good life. Moreover, it would be unfair to assume that the individuals alone



are responsible for the choices they make. Our understanding of success is shaped by the social world in which we grow up. Family, education, culture, traditions and public expectations gradually influence what we consider valuable in life. In this arsenal, our choices are rarely made in complete isolation. This sight finds its expression in American political philosopher Michael Sandel's communitarian critique of Liberalism. He questions the idea of the "unencumbered self", which is the assumption that individuals exist independent of their social relationships and can define themselves without reference to their communities. He argues that people are embedded selves, whose identities are formed through the norms, values, traditions and moral commitments of the communities to which they belong. What we aspire to become is often influenced by what society teaches us to admire. Yet, recognising the influence of society does not mean accepting every social norm without question. Some norms inspire human

flourishing, while others create unnecessary pressure to conform. A society that equates success only with wealth, status or professional achievement risks overlooking lives that are equally meaningful but follow different paths. It is here that Rawls and Dworkin become equally relevant. While Sandel reminds us that our lives are socially situated, Rawls argues that a just society must provide fair conditions in which individuals can pursue their own conception of the good life. Dworkin further insists that every person deserves equal respect and concern, irrespective of whether their choices correspond to dominant social expectations. Together, these perspectives support the notion that justice is not achieved by enforcing one model of a successful life but by creating conditions in which different life choices can coexist with equal dignity. Perhaps the question is not "Who is Successful?" but "Who decides what success means?" As long as society continues to recognise only one path to achievement,

many meaningful lives will remain invisible. Success cannot be reduced to a salary, a profession or social recognition. For some, it lies in public accomplishment; for others, it may lie in quiet fulfilment, meaningful relationships or the freedom to live according to one's convictions. As Michel Foucault (A French Historian and Philosopher of Ideas) says, society shapes individuals' understanding of success through institutions and systems of power. Success is not a natural or universal concept but is socially constructed and maintained through discipline, surveillance and accepted norms. People often internalise these norms and certainly regulate their own behaviour in order to fit society's expectations. Therefore, a just society does not ask everyone to dream the same dream, but it creates the space for different aspirations to exist without judgement. It respects the individual while acknowledging the influence of the community. It values people not because they have fulfilled the society's expectations, but because they possess equal human dignity. Moreover, it is perfectly acceptable to fail an examination, to change one's profession, or to choose a life that does not fill the conventional expectations. These decisions do not diminish a person's worth. What ultimately matters is whether individuals are able to live a life with dignity, self-respect and the freedom to define a meaningful life for themselves. A society that recognises this diversity is not only more just; rather, it is more humane.

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Good Morning

Kashmir

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R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

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Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

The Mathematics Behind The AI Revolution



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Artificial intelligence has become the defining technology of our age. It writes essays, translates languages, detects patterns in medical images, recommends loans, screens job applicants, predicts consumer behaviour, and even generates music and art. Yet while millions use AI every day, few understand what happens beneath the surface.

AI may appear magical, but its foundations are mathematics. Behind every chatbot, recommendation engine, facial-recognition system, and large language model lies a structure built from linear algebra, calculus, probability, statistics, optimisation, and geometry. Understanding these foundations helps us recognise why AI is powerful, why it sometimes invents information, and how it can reproduce social injustice while appearing objective.

The so-called “black box” of neural networks is therefore not completely black. It is a highly complex mathematical machine. How Does ChatGPT “Learn”?

A large language model such as ChatGPT does not learn as a human child does. It has no consciousness, personal experience, or human understanding. Instead, it is trained to detect statistical patterns in enormous collections of text and predict which word or token is most likely to come next.

The first major mathematical ingredient is linear algebra. Computers cannot directly understand words such as “justice,” “doctor,” “poverty,” or “democracy.” These words must be converted into numerical representations called vectors. A vector is an ordered list of numbers. In modern AI

systems, each word or token may be represented by hundreds or thousands of numerical coordinates.

Once language is converted into vectors, the model performs vast numbers of matrix operations. Matrices are rectangular arrangements of numbers, and matrix multiplication allows the model to transform, compare, combine, and transmit information from one layer of the neural network to another.

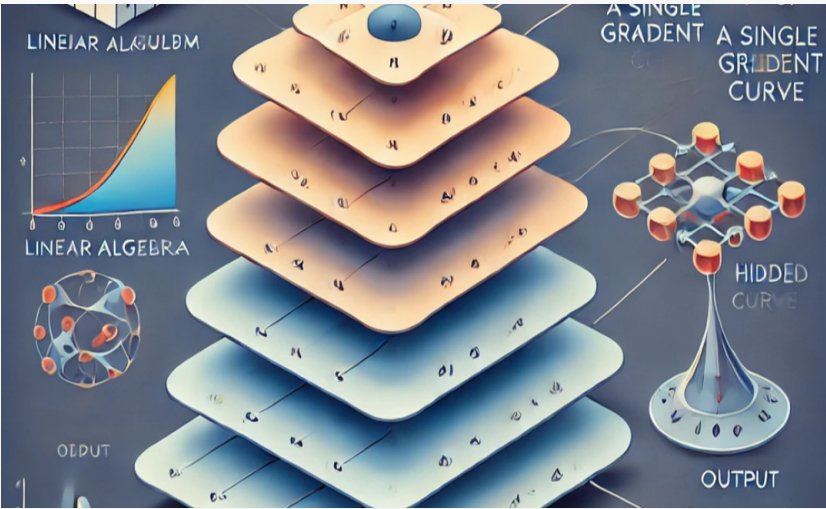
A modern neural network may contain billions of adjustable numerical parameters organised into enormous matrices. During training, the model repeatedly modifies them so that its predictions become more accurate.

This is where calculus enters. Suppose the model is given the sentence, “The sun rises in the...” and predicts “west” instead of “east.” The system calculates an error, often called a loss. Training aims to reduce this loss across billions of examples. To do so, the model uses backpropagation. This process applies the chain rule of calculus to determine how much each parameter contributed to the error. The model then uses gradient descent, an optimisation method, to adjust the parameters in a direction that reduces the loss.

Imagine a traveller on a mountain in thick fog, trying to reach the valley. The traveller cannot see the whole landscape but can feel the local slope. By repeatedly stepping downhill, the traveller reaches a lower region. Gradient descent works similarly, except that its mathematical “landscape” may have billions of dimensions.

Probability is the third essential pillar. AI does not normally produce one absolutely certain answer. It assigns probabilities to many possible next words. After the phrase, “The patient was taken to the...,” words such as “hospital” or “clinic” may receive high probabilities, while unrelated words receive very low probabilities. The model selects from these possibilities according to its design and settings. The fluency of AI therefore emerges from repeated probabilistic prediction guided by mathematical optimisation.

Why Does AI Hallucinate? One



major weakness of modern AI is hallucination: the production of false, fabricated, or unsupported information presented confidently. To understand this, we must examine the geometry of high-dimensional space. Words and concepts are represented through embeddings. An embedding place each word, sentence, or idea at a point in a high-dimensional mathematical space. Concepts used in similar contexts are placed relatively close together. For example, “doctor,” “hospital,” “patient,” and “medicine” may occupy neighbouring regions, while “planet,” “galaxy,” and “telescope” form another cluster.

These relationships are not stored as dictionary definitions. They are encoded as distances, directions, angles, and patterns among vectors. This geometry allows AI to detect analogies and semantic similarities. However, it can also create confusion. In a space with hundreds or thousands of dimensions, two ideas may appear statistically close because they occur in similar contexts, even though they are not factually interchangeable.

When answering a question, the model navigates this mathematical space and generates likely continuations. It does not automatically verify every claim against reality. If the training data contains gaps, contradictions,

weak associations, or misleading patterns, the model may construct a plausible but false answer.

Hallucination is therefore not “lying.” Lying requires intention; AI has none. It produces a mathematically probable sequence that may sound correct without being factually grounded. This is why AI-generated information must be checked, especially in medicine, law, finance, education, journalism, and public policy. Algorithmic Bias: When Mathematics Reproduces Inequality. Mathematics is often seen as neutral, but models are designed by people, trained on human data, and deployed within unequal societies. If historical data contains discrimination, an AI system may learn that discrimination as though it were a valid pattern.

Consider a hiring algorithm trained on past recruitment records. If a company historically hired more men than women for technical positions, the model may infer that male candidates are more suitable, even when gender is excluded. Variables such as career gaps, college attended, residential area, or language style may act as indirect proxies. A similar problem occurs in loan approval. A model may use income, postal code, employment history, and repayment records to estimate risk. But if certain communities

have faced generations of economic exclusion, the model may reproduce that disadvantage under the label of “statistical prediction.”

In policing, predictive systems may direct more surveillance toward neighbourhoods already over-policed. More surveillance produces more recorded incidents, which then appear to justify even more surveillance. Mathematics can thereby create a feedback loop of inequality. The equations are not malicious. The problem is that the data, objectives, categories, and assumptions may reflect human prejudice.

Fairness itself is mathematically difficult. Should a model have equal accuracy for all groups? Equal approval rates? Equal false-positive rates? Equal opportunity? These goals can conflict. No single formula automatically produces justice. This is where statistics meets ethics and social justice. The Human Responsibility Behind the Machine. The AI revolution is not only technological. It is mathematical and moral.

Linear algebra gives AI its structure. Calculus teaches it how to improve. Probability allows it to predict. High-dimensional geometry helps it organise meaning. Statistics enables it to learn from data. But none of these tools can decide what society should value. That decision remains human. We must educate the public not only to use AI, but also to question it. Schools and universities should teach the mathematics of AI alongside its ethical consequences. Policymakers should demand transparency, testing, and accountability. Companies should audit models for bias and error. Users should not treat fluent answers as unquestionable truth.

The future will not belong merely to those who can operate AI tools. It will belong to those who understand their logic, recognise their limitations, and use them responsibly. The machine may calculate, predict, and generate. But responsibility for truth, fairness, and human dignity still belongs to us.

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Chinar Book Fest

A Platform For Knowledge, Culture, And Inspiration

MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

Books have always been an important part of human life. They give us knowledge, improve our thinking and help us understand the world in a better way. A good book can teach us lessons that remain with us for a lifetime. However, in today’s time, the habit of reading books is slowly decreasing. Many young people spend several hours on mobile phones, social media and short videos, but they do not give enough time to reading. Technology has made information available easily, but the value of books is still different because books help us think deeply and understand things better. In such a situation, the Chinar Book Festival is a positive step towards bringing people back to books. It is not just about displaying and selling books. It is also a platform that brings together writers, readers, students, teachers and book lovers for an exchange of ideas, learning new things and developing an interest in reading. Over the years, the festival has become an important literary event in Jammu and Kashmir.

The third edition of the Chinar Book Festival is being organised from 18 to 26 July 2026 at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar. The festival is organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India, under the Ministry of Education. For many years the National Book Trust has been working for the cause of promoting reading habits and making good books available to the people of the entire country. The beautiful location of SKICC on the banks of Dal Lake adds a unique charm to the festival and makes for a memorable experience for the visitors.

This year, the festival has brought together around 200 publishers and more than 250 book stalls. Thousands of books on different subjects are available for readers. Visitors can find books related to literature, history, science, medicine, technology, education, philosophy, religion, environment, children’s literature and competitive examinations. They also have books in other languages, such as English, Urdu, Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri and Punjabi. Many publishers offer discounts, which makes books



affordable for students, teachers and families.

The Chinar Book Festival is not limited to book stalls only. It also includes many activities such as author interactions, discussions, book launches, poetry sessions, storytelling programmes, workshops and cultural events. These activities give people an opportunity to meet writers, journalists, translators and scholars. For students and young readers, meeting such personalities can be a source of inspiration. It encourages them to read more, write better and develop their own ideas.

One of the most important features of this festival is that it highlights Kashmir’s rich literary legacy. Kashmir has always been associated with a rich legacy of Literature. The Valley has produced numerous poets, writers, scholars and historians who have made valuable contributions to literature and knowledge. This festival plays its part in protecting & promoting the treasure trove of works written in the Kashmiri, Urdu, Dogri & other Regional Languages.

The festival provides an excellent platform for aspiring young writers from Jammu and Kashmir to showcase their talent. Many talented writers in the region often lack opportunities to present their work. Such platforms allow them to interact with experienced authors, publishers and literary personalities, helping them grow in their literary journey.

Students are among the biggest beneficiaries of this festival. A book festival allows students to explore knowledge beyond their textbooks. They can discover books related to science, literature, history, medicine, technology and many other subjects. Students preparing for competitive examinations can also find useful material. Such events encourage students to ask questions, think independently and develop a habit of learning throughout life.

Educational institutions, teachers, and librarians all have a significant part to play in encouraging reading habits. Schools and colleges should motivate students to visit the libraries and read books other than their

syllabus. Libraries should not remain only places for keeping books; they should become active centres of learning. Parents can also help children by developing a reading habit at home. A child who reads regularly often develops better communication skills, imagination and confidence.

Another thing special about Chinar Book Festival is that it is open to people of all ages. Children enjoy story-telling sessions and creative activities. Teenagers find books which help them in education and career choices. College students and researchers read scholarly books and engage in discussions. Older people also get an opportunity to reconnect with classic literature. In this way, the festival connects different generations through books.

The festival also contributes to Kashmir’s economy and tourism. Thousands of visitors come to Srinagar to attend the event. Their presence supports hotels, restaurants, transport services and local businesses. More importantly, the festival presents Kashmir as a place of

education, culture and creativity. It reminds people that Kashmir is not only famous for its natural beauty but also for its intellectual and literary traditions.

In my opinion, the festival should not be restricted to Srinagar alone and similar book festivals should be organised in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure maximum participation by students, particularly those in rural and remote areas. Initiatives such as mobile libraries, setting up of reading clubs and promoting community reading programmes would go a long way towards fostering a culture of reading among youth.

Schools and colleges should host events for discussing books throughout the year. There could be contests on writing while holding discussions with prominent writers at different levels of education.

The role played by AI and digital tech has now taken over human life significantly, and although artificial intelligence and digital technology have become an important part of our lives, they cannot replace the depth and experience that comes from reading books. Reading teaches one the art of patience, which enhances your ability to understand anything. This, in turn, helps you develop better thinking skills and ultimately leads to the development of creative minds within the society.

The Chinar Book Festival is therefore much more than a book fair. It is a celebration of knowledge, culture and learning. It supports writers, encourages students, promotes regional languages and strengthens Kashmir’s literary identity. The real success of the festival will not be measured only by the number of books sold or visitors who attend, but by the number of people it inspires to read, think and learn.

A strong reading culture is the foundation of a strong society. If such initiatives continue with the support of government institutions, educational organisations and the public, the Chinar Book Festival can become an even bigger platform for literature and knowledge in Jammu and Kashmir. It can help create a generation of readers, writers and thinkers who will contribute positively to the future of society.

The author can be mailed at waniarfat681@gmail.com

EAK Holds 8th Annual General Meeting; Signs Landmark MoU for Digital Transformation

ZUBAIR QURESHI

SRINAGAR: The Eco-tourism Association of Kashmir (EAK) successfully held its 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM), bringing together members, government officials, tourism stakeholders, academicians and veterans of the travel and tourism industry to deliberate on the future of tourism in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Gulmarg, while Mr. Waseem Raja, JKAS, Joint Director Tourism, Kashmir, attended as the Guest of Honour. The event was also graced by renowned conservation architect Mr. M. Saleem Beg, Prof. Shahnawaz Shah from the University of Kashmir, representatives of various travel and tourism associations, and several distinguished personalities from the tourism fraternity.

One of the major highlights of the AGM was the presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards to distinguished veterans of Kashmir's tourism industry in recognition of their exceptional contribution to the growth and development of tourism in the region. The awards were conferred upon Haji Khazir Mohammad Dar, Haji Ghulam Rasool Gooru, Haji Ghulam Rasool Siah, and Mr. G. M. Dug, honouring their decades of dedicated service, leadership and invaluable contribution to the tourism sector of Jammu & Kashmir.

A significant milestone of the AGM was the signing of an official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ecotourism Association of Kashmir and "Sojourn" under Technocrats Communication Private Limited. The partnership aims to digitally transform the Association through modern technology-driven solutions, strengthen institutional efficiency, enhance member services, and create new business opportunities by ensuring greater digital connectivity and business benefits for its members.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Sameer Ahmad Bakto, President, Ecotourism Association of Kashmir, reaffirmed the Association's commitment to promoting Jammu & Kashmir as a leading destination for responsible and sustainable tourism.

"Our Association represents a broad spectrum of the tourism industry, including travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers, houseboat owners, transport operators, adventure tourism professionals, tourist guides and other allied stakeholders. Our foremost priority is to work collectively for the revival, promotion and sustainable growth of tourism in Jammu & Kashmir while ensuring that the direct benefits of tourism reach our members and the industry as a whole," he said.

Mr. Bakto emphasised that responsible tourism and ecotourism will remain the guiding principles of the Association's vision, with equal emphasis on environmental conservation, community participation and sustainable destination development.

He further urged the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to formulate a comprehensive and practical Ecotourism Policy through a consultative process involving all stakeholders, including tourism associations, local communities, environmental experts and industry representatives. He said such a policy would ensure balanced and sustainable tourism development while preserving the ecological and cultural heritage of the region.

DC Kulgam chairs Block Diwas at DH Pora; focus on responsive governance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Wednesday presided over the Block Diwas at DH Pora, where an extensive public outreach programme was conducted to hear and address the grievances and developmental concerns of local residents.

During the programme, people and representatives from different areas of the sub-division including DH Pora, Ahmadabad, Nandimarg, Laisoo, Yarikah, Kounsarbal, Sadiwari, Aharbal, Khull, and several other villages projected various developmental demands before the DC relating to road connectivity & macadamisation, flood protection works, improvement in provision of drinking water, power tariff bills, staff for local health institutions and ambulatory services, irrigation canal upgradations, augmentation of power infrastructure, removal of encroachments and establishment of dumping sites and provision of door to door waste collection and disposal, Playground construction and upgradation, rural development works, PMAY issues, and other public importance issues.

The DC gave a patient hearing to every issue and assured the public about the commitment of the district administration towards their welfare. All issues and demands have been noted and shall be taken at appropriate forums for resolution, while as local level issues and demands shall be taken up promptly by the district administration, assured the DC while replying to the demands of the public.

The DC sought the cooperation of the residents in effective execution of rural development schemes while presenting the details of many ongoing works in the area. He said, department wise monitoring of public demands shall be undertaken with continuous follow up to ensure their timely fruition.

The DC exhorted against the open littering in water bodies and road sides and desisted public on polluting the natural resources and encroachments of canals and public lands. He sought cooperation of all stakeholders towards the socio-economic and inclusive development of the district.

He further called upon the public to actively participate in the upcoming Gram Sabhas across all panchayats and verify the Priority Lists of PMAY-G beneficiaries to ensure transparency, fairness and authenticity. The DC also encouraged eligible households to avail the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar initiative.

Earlier, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, addressed the gathering and elaborated on sanitation-related concerns and the measures being taken to strengthen waste collection and disposal mechanisms. He also highlighted various labour welfare schemes, including educational assistance, marriage assistance, medical aid and insurance-based benefits, and urged eligible beneficiaries to apply for these Labour Department schemes.

The ADC informed the gathering that livestock healthcare services, including vaccination drives, and audit assessment of ongoing works under the Roads and Buildings (R&B) sector would also be taken up.

The programme was also attended by CPO, Exen R&B, DIO, district and sectoral officers, sub divisional and tehsil administration and a large number of residents from the area.

Collective Farming gains momentum in Budgam

Over 200 Farmers attend SKUAST-K outreach Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: More than 200 farmers participated in a major Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) mobilisation drive in Budgam as SKUAST-K intensified efforts to strengthen farmer collectives under the IFAD-supported Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

The programme, organised by The Ashtar Valley Farmer Producer Organisation Cooperative Ltd., Arigam Khansahib, focused on expanding farmer membership and promoting collective farming enterprises as a pathway to higher incomes, improved market access and sustainable agricultural growth.

The event brought together officials associated with the JKCIP collectivisation programme, FPO development officers from several districts, scientists, extension experts and members of the Ashtar Valley FPO.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-Kashmir, said that FPOs are emerging as powerful institutions for transforming agriculture by enabling farmers to access quality inputs, modern technologies, institutional credit, value addition facilities and organised markets through collective action.

She urged farmers to actively join producer organisations and leverage opportunities being created under the IFAD-backed JKCIP, adding that SKUAST-K remains committed to providing technical support, capacity building and extension services to strengthen farmer-led institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Bilal Ahmad Lone, Head, KVK Budgam, highlighted the importance of scientific farming, collective marketing and skill enhancement in improving farm profitability and rural livelihoods.

Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, Coordinator, Upscaling Collectivization Component, JKCIP, SKUAST-K, outlined the project's strategy for building strong and self-reliant farmer organisations. He said enhanced farmer participation and membership are critical for creating sustainable producer collectives capable of addressing production, aggregation and marketing challenges.

An interactive session held during the programme saw farmers seeking information on FPO membership, governance mechanisms, business planning and market opportunities. Experts responded to the queries and encouraged eligible farmers to join the growing collective of farmers.

The mobilisation drive forms part of ongoing efforts under JKCIP to expand and strengthen farmer-owned institutions, with a focus on improving competitiveness, market integration and income generation in the agriculture sector.

HADP, JKCIP reshaping agriculture landscape in Budgam: DC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday chaired a meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Sheep Husbandry Officer and officers from concerned departments.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed physical and financial progress under HADP and JKCIP, covering application status, approvals, establishment of beneficiary units, financial utilisation, PM-DAKSH skilling, Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), e-KYC, credit linkages and other project-wise achievements.

He emphasized on robust functioning of Common Service Centres and Kisan Khidmat Ghars to strengthen their role in farmer registration, digital services, awareness generation and e-KYC completion.

Reviewing the implementation of JKCIP, the DC stressed the need for expediting field-level execution of approved cases and ensuring timely delivery of benefits to genuine farmers.

"HADP and JKCIP are transforming the agriculture and allied sectors by promoting entrepreneurship, enhancing productivity and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for farmers and rural youth," the DC said.

Describing HADP and JKCIP as a major push of economic growth and livelihoods of farmers, he instructed Officers, "ensure speedy disposal of cases under both schemes for better economic prospects and progressive farming practices in the district."

The DC directed all line departments to work in close coordination to ensure timely establishment of approved units, saturation of beneficiary-oriented schemes, regular field verification and effective monitoring. He also directed for intensified awareness campaigns at the grassroots level to maximise farmer participation under various government schemes.

ADC Handwara reviews arrangements for I-Day Celebrations 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, chaired a comprehensive meeting of district and sectoral officers at the Environment Hall, Handwara, to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth, secure, and successful celebration of Independence Day 2026 across Sub-Division Handwara.

During the meeting, the ADC conducted a detailed review of the preparations, being made by various departments and directed all concerned officers to ensure foolproof arrangements well in advance. He stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the celebrations are conducted in a befitting, dignified, and well-organized manner.

It was informed that the main Independence Day function will be held at the District Police Lines (DPL), Handwara, where the National Flag will be unfurled, followed by an impressive ceremonial parade and colourful cultural programmes showcasing patriotism and the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The ceremonial parade will witness the participation of contingents from the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), India Reserve Police (IRP), Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES), Home Guards, NCC cadets, school children, and the Police Band.

Besides, the main function at DPL Handwara, Independence Day celebrations will also be organized at all Tehsil Headquarters, Block Headquarters, and educational institutions across Sub-Division Handwara to ensure wider public participation in the national festivities.

The ADC directed the concerned departments to make adequate arrangements for security, traffic regulation, sanitation, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, medical facilities, fire and emergency services, seating arrangements, public address system, barricading, parking facilities, venue decoration, illumination of important government buildings, and all other essential logistics. He further instructed all departments to ensure seamless coordination for rehearsals, timely deployment of staff, proper seating arrangements for dignitaries and the general public, and the completion of all assigned works well before the scheduled date.

Special emphasis was laid on maintaining cleanliness, ensuring emergency preparedness, and facilitating the smooth movement of participants and spectators.

Emphasising the significance of the national occasion, the ADC urged all officers to work with dedication, commitment, and close coordination to make the celebrations memorable, befitting, and reflective of the spirit of patriotism, national unity, and public participation.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Superintendent of Police, Handwara, district and sectoral officers, and representatives of all line departments.

CM congratulates KU on securing UGC Category-I status

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday congratulated the University of Kashmir on being accorded the prestigious Category-I status by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under the UGC (Categorisation of Universities for Grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018, describing the achievement as a landmark milestone for higher education in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating the Vice Chancellor, faculty, students and the entire University fraternity, the Chief Minister said the recognition is a testament to the University's sustained commitment to academic excellence, quality research and institutional development.

He said the achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of generations of educators, researchers, scholars and students who have contributed to building the University's reputation as one of the country's leading centres of higher learning.

The University of Kashmir has been granted the highest level of regulatory freedom under the UGC's graded autonomy framework. With Category-I status, the University will be empowered to independently manage academic programmes, introduce open and distance learning courses, establish collaborations, and recruit foreign faculty without requiring prior approval from the Commission.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285



EXTENSION NOTICE 3RD OF RE-TENDER NOTICE/ CORRIGENDUM.

Subject: Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme Chatterhama by way of construction of Additional Bore Well.

Reference: 1. This office Retender Corrigendum Notice vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp./ 2867-2881, Dated: 19-06-2026, Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307393_2.

2. This office Extension Notice 5th issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp/2363-76, dated: 11-05-2026.

3. This office e-NIT No. 03/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/ Camp/64-76, dated: 03-04-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307393_1.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 28-07-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	10-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	11-08-2026 11.00 AM

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos. No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./ 5823-36.
Dated: 28-07-2026.
DIPK-3863-26
DT: 29/07/2026

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE KASHMIR,

LALMANDI SRINAGAR

AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed Auction Notice is hereby called for auction of Walnut Tree Fruit at Lavender Farm Sirhama as per the details mentioned below. Interested parties are informed to quote the rates in respect of Walnut Fruit to be auctioned on following terms and conditions. The rates should reach to the office of the Lavender Farm Sirhama on 05.08.2026 (Wednesday) till 01.00 PM through sealed envelope in prescribed format.

The detail of the material to be auctioned is given as under:-

S. No.	Name of Farm	Type	No. of Walnut Tress	Minimum Reserve Price	CDR/FDR Amount
01	Lavender Farm Sirhama	Walnut Fruit	52	Rs. 91626.00	Rs. 5000.00

Terms & Conditions

- The rates offered by the bidders shall be accompanied by a CDR/FDR of ₹5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only), duly pledged in favour of the Accounts Officer, Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir. The CDR/FDR must be produced at the time of the auction, failing which the bid shall not be considered.
- No bidder shall be allowed to submit a bid below the minimum reserve price; otherwise, his/her cash deposit/CDR shall be forfeited.
- Interested parties may inspect the Walnut Tree Fruit at Lavender Farm Sirhama on any working day during office hours, up to 04.08.2026.
- The offered rates shall be opened on 05.08.2026 at 2:00 PM in the office chamber of Lavender Farm Sirhama in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.
- If the quoted rate is found to be below the minimum reserve bid, the bidder's earnest money deposit shall be forfeited.
- The Auction Committee shall be at liberty to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 100% of the bid amount immediately upon being declared the successful bidder.
- In case the successful bidder fails to make full payment within the stipulated time, his/her earnest money shall be forfeited, and the bid shall be awarded to the second-highest bidder at the rate offered by the first-highest bidder.
- In the event of any dispute arising between the parties, the matter shall be referred to the Director Agriculture, Kashmir, whose decision shall be final and binding on both parties.
- The CDRs of unsuccessful bidders shall be released after ten days upon submission of an application to the Member Secretary, Auction Committee (Accounts Officer).

Sd/-
(Ishtiyak Ahmad Khan)
Accounts Officer
(Member Secretary A.C.)
Directorate of Agriculture
Kashmir

DIPK-3851-26
DT: 29/07/2026

J&K Sports Council to hold Open Selection Trials for Junior Boys Football Team

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council has announced open selection trials for the formation of the Junior Boys Football Team that will represent the Union Territory in the upcoming Junior Boys National Football Championship for the Dr. B.C. Roy Trophy 2026-27, to be conducted under the aegis of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The Council has invited talented and eligible young footballers from across Jammu and Kashmir to participate in the trials. Division-level selection trials will be held on 31st July and 1st August 2026 at Mini Stadium Synthetic Turf, Parade Ground, Jammu for players from the Jammu Division, and at Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar for players from the Kashmir Division.

The final UT-level selection trials for shortlisted players from both divisions will take place on 3rd and 4th August 2026 at the TRC Football Sta-



dium, Srinagar. The notification states that players born between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2012 are eligible to participate. Applicants must be residents of Jammu & Kashmir and are required to produce their original birth certificate, Aadhaar card with a recent photograph, and two passport-size photographs along with photocopies of all documents for verification.

Participants have been instructed to report in complete playing kit, including jersey, shorts, stockings,

shin guards and football boots. No TA/DA will be provided for attending the trials. Players selected at the UT level will undergo a coaching camp in Srinagar before the final squad is announced.

Selected players may also be required to undergo Bone Age Verification Tests as per AIFF guidelines. The J&K Sports Council has encouraged aspiring footballers to make the most of this opportunity to earn a place in the Union Territory team and showcase their talent at the national level.

Under-17 Subroto Cup Provincial Championship Kicks Off in Baramulla



GMK SPORTS DESK

BARAMULLA: The Under-17 Boys Inter-District Provincial Level Subroto Cup Football Tournament 2026 commenced Wednesday at St. Joseph's School, Baramulla, following the successful conclusion of the Under-15 edition. The championship is being organized under the aegis of the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, Jammu & Kashmir, with DYSS Baramulla serving as the host district.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by

the District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO), Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori. The opening ceremony was attended by Mubeen Ahmad Khan (PEM), Shabir Ahmad Thoker (PEM), and Showkat Ahmad Waza (PEM), who is also the Convener of the Tournament, alongside officials, technical staff, coaches, and the participating teams.

A total of eight districts out of ten are competing in this prestigious provincial championship, which aims to provide a competitive platform for young foot-

ballers to showcase their talent and sportsmanship.

The opening day's first session featured six thrilling encounters. Bandipora defeated Anantnag by 4-0, while Baramulla registered a commanding 8-0 victory over Shopian. Srinagar outclassed Kulgam by 9-0, and the match between Ganderbal and Budgam ended in a hard-fought draw. In later matches, Srinagar continued their impressive run by defeating Anantnag 4-2, while Baramulla and Budgam shared points after their encounter ended in a draw.

Speaking on the occasion, DYSSO Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori, emphasized the importance of such tournaments in nurturing young talent and promoting sportsmanship. He wished all participating teams the very best for the tournament.

The tournament is expected to witness intense competition in the coming days as participating districts strive to secure the coveted provincial title and earn qualification for the next stage of the prestigious Subroto Cup Football Tournament 2026.

Duleep Trophy 2026: Ishan Kishan to lead East Zone, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi named vice-captain

IAN S

NEW DELHI: East Zone on Wednesday named a strong 15-member squad for the 2026 Duleep Trophy, with wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan appointed captain and teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi named his deputy for the tournament, which begins on August 23.

The squad combines experience and youth. Senior India pacer Mohammed Shami is back to strengthen the pace attack alongside Mukesh Kumar. Abhimanyu Easwaran, Shahbaz Ahmed, and Anukul Roy also contribute to the batting and all-round departments.

Kishan enters the tournament after a strong performance in India's recent white-ball series against Zimbabwe. The left-handed wicketkeeper-batter delivered several aggressive innings at the top of the order, giving India quick starts. His recent form and leadership experience made him the top choice to lead the East Zone side.

All eyes will be on 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who is rising quickly in Indian cricket



after a breakthrough season. The young player recently stood

out during India's series against Zimbabwe, showing impressive calm against international bowling while maintaining the strong form he has shown over the past year.

The batting unit also includes Sudip Kumar Gharami, Virat Singh, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal, Subhranshu Senapati, Denish Das, and Shikhar Mohan. Kumar Kushagra will serve as another wicketkeeping option.

Shami brings valuable experience to the bowling attack as he returns to domestic cricket. He will be backed by Mukesh Kumar and Abhijit Sarkar, with Shahbaz Ahmed and Anukul Roy likely to play important all-round roles.

East Zone squad: Ishan Kishan (captain), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (vice-captain), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sudip Kumar Gharami, Shahbaz Ahmed, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal, Mohammed Shami, Mukesh Kumar, Kumar Kushagra, Shikhar Mohan, Anukul Roy, Virat Singh, Subhranshu Senapati, Denish Das and Abhijit Sarkar.

Stand-by: Ayush Loharuka, Sridam Paul, Sambit S. Baral, Sharandeep Singh, Swastik Samal

My Youth My Pride Wushu, Kabaddi Championship concludes in Handwara

GMK SPORTS DESK

KUPWARA: The two-day My Youth My Pride Wushu and Kabaddi Championship concluded Wednesday at the Indoor Stadium Handwara in Kupwara district, bringing together 120 boys and girls across two disciplines.



The championship drew strong participation from young athletes who competed in Wushu and Kabaddi events over both days. Organisers reported high enthusiasm throughout, with competitors demonstrating technical skill, discipline and sportsmanship across every round.

The closing ceremony was attended by Ajaz Hassan, Incharge, Indoor Stadium Handwara, who

distributed medals and certificates to winners and participants.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ajaz Hassan appreciated the efforts of participants, coaches, officials and organisers who made the championship a success. He urged the young athletes to keep training

'We are deeply concerned': FA slams FIFA's plan to sell stakes to private investors

IAN S

LONDON: The Football Association (FA) stated that it is "deeply concerned" about FIFA's plan to sell off stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

FIFA has proposed creating a commercial subsidiary and selling minority stakes to private investors to fund a sharp increase in development funding for its 211 member associations via FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), a new FIFA-owned and controlled subsidiary consolidating FIFA's commercial and event operations.

This plan drew fierce criticism from UEFA, with European associations expected to meet this week to discuss their response. In response to FIFA's proposal, the FA said, "We were completely unaware of this proposal and have no substantive details, including what the proposition actually is, and what conditions are attached."

It added, "Based on the limited information, we are deeply concerned about the lack of process and governance to get to this point, and the apparent substance and principles



involved. When the proposal is shared in the full and transparent way now promised by FIFA, we will make our views clear, and comment further."

FIFA would seek to raise up to 4.2 billion U.S. dollars by selling minority, non-controlling stakes in the company, based on an initial equity valuation of 20 billion dollars.

The proposal requires the support of a majority of FIFA's member associations and relevant approvals from the 37-member FIFA Council.

UEFA, European football's governing body, which represents 55 member associations and organizes the continent's leading club competitions, rejected the proposal outright.

"This crosses a line that football's governing institu-

tions should never cross," it said. "The soul and governance of football are not assets to trade -- especially with zero transparency as to who gains financially."

FIFA said if the plan approved, football development in every corner of the world would benefit immediately from increased funding available to all 211 FIFA Member Associations (MAS): (i) An optional USD 20 million per MA in exceptional and immediate funding for special projects from the new FIFA Fast Forward Programme (FFFP), (ii) USD 20 million per MA in Forward funding for 2027-2030 (currently budgeted USD 8 million), (iii) USD 22 million per MA in Forward funding for 2031-2034, and (iv) USD 24 million per MA in Forward funding for 2035-2038.

Gill returns to ODI summit, Sooryavanshi storms up T20I rankings

IAN S

DUBAI: India's dominance in the latest ICC rankings was underlined on Wednesday as Shubman Gill regained the No. 1 spot among ODI batters, while 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi emerged as the biggest mover in the T20I batting charts after a breakthrough series against Zimbabwe.

Fresh off India's 3-0 clean sweep in Harare, Sooryavanshi enjoyed a spectacular leap of 230 places to break into the top 50 of the T20I batting rankings for the first time. The teenager climbed to a career-best 48th with 536 rating points after accumulating 151 runs at an average of 50.33 and earning his maiden Player of the Series award.

Despite the youngster's rapid ascent, the top of the T20I batting rankings continues to belong to India, with wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan retaining the No. 1 position. Kishan, who struck a commanding 81 during the Zimbabwe series, now has 910 rating points after briefly touching a career-high 916



during the contest. That peak placed him third on the all-time T20I batting ratings list, behind only compatriot Abhishek Sharma (931) and England's Dawid Malan (919).

India also enjoyed gains elsewhere in the T20I batting rankings. Tilak Varma advanced two places to sixth, while Shreyas Iyer climbed seven positions to 24th. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi was another major beneficiary, soaring 31 spots to 41st in the T20I bowling rankings

after claiming three wickets across the Zimbabwe series.

Zimbabwe also had reason to celebrate despite the series defeat. Ryan Burl improved six places to joint 85th among T20I batters, while fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani climbed 10 positions to 26th in the bowling rankings.

In the 50-over format, Gill reclaimed the No. 1 ODI batting ranking after New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell slipped from the summit. Mitchell had occu-

pied the top spot since January, but his absence from recent international action allowed the Indian opener to move back to the top.

The ODI bowling rankings also witnessed movement, with Namibia left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz breaking into the top seven after consistent displays in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 tri-series involving Nepal and the Netherlands in Utrecht.

The weekly rankings update also reflected stand-out performances in Test cricket. West Indies all-rounder Justin Greaves was rewarded for his memorable outing against Pakistan in Trinidad, rising 21 places to 48th among Test bowlers and eight spots to ninth in the all-rounders' rankings after producing five successive wicket maidens.

Elsewhere, West Indies pacer Jayden Seales climbed to 24th in the Test bowling rankings, Pakistan quick Mohammad Abbas rose to 17th, while Babar Azam's half-century in the second innings earned him a four-place jump to 15th in the Test batting rankings.

INOX

— SRINAGAR —

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