

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



Laid the foundation stone of the Amriteshwar Sarovar under the Jan Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative at Dharpur, Sunderbani, in Rajouri.

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CM Inaugurates

‘Waste To Wonder’

Garden In Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday inaugurated the Waste to Wonder-Flower Garden and Floriculture Mela at Floriculture Park, Polo View, Srinagar, describing the innovative garden as an effort to demonstrate how discarded materials can be given a new life through creativity, reuse and recycling.

The Chief Minister first inaugurated the Floriculture Mela and visited the exhibition showcasing a wide range of floral varieties and products associated with floriculture. He inspected stalls put up by flower growers and farmers from across the districts of Kashmir, featuring ornamental nurseries, interior herbal plants, pots and terrariums, floral décor and gifts, event management services, cut flowers

and machinery and products of J&K Agros, among other items.

Interacting with the stall owners, the Chief Minister appreciated their innovative business models and encouraged them to continue expanding their activities in the floriculture sector. He also wished the growers and entrepreneurs success in their endeavours.

The Floriculture Mela provides flower growers, nursery owners and floriculture enthusiasts from various districts of Kashmir a platform to showcase their floral produce, exchange best practices and explore commercial opportunities in the sector.

Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Waste to Wonder-Flower Garden and took a tour of the thematic garden, which features a range of attractive

J&K Youth Creating Jobs Rather

Than Waiting For Them: LG Sinha

Says Shift In Aspiration Central To Vision Of Self-Reliant Union Territory

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Highlighting India's changing employment aspirations, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that J&K youth are looking to create jobs rather than wait for them.

“Today, there are startups worldwide continuously exploring new possibilities in agriculture and allied sectors. The biggest message from these startups and new innovations is that agriculture and allied sectors themselves are the next big frontier for innovation. You must understand your own fields, farmers, climate, and local problems to prepare your next solution, and customize those models in your own way wherever appropriate. I believe that different countries have innovated for their own problems, and now it is time for Jammu Kashmir to innovate for its own questions and challenges,” the Lieutenant Governor said while inaugurating a series of new infrastructure facilities at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology



(SKUAST), Jammu.

He also addressed the launch of the Startup Outreach Programme under JKCIP. The event brought together the researchers, innovators, young entrepreneurs and farmers from across the Jammu division.

The newly inaugurated facilities include the Unnati Girls Hostel, Centre for AI and ML in Agriculture, the Centre for

Mushroom Research and Innovation, the Advanced Sericulture Laboratory, and the Centre for Digital Media and Publication. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor described the additions as more than physical infrastructure, calling them a commitment to the region's innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and farming families.

The Lieutenant

Community Solidarity's

Vital In Eliminating

Terrorism: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Asserting that security forces alone cannot win the war against terrorism, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called for a "whole-of-society" approach, urging united public support to help agencies dismantle the financial and logistical networks supporting narco-terrorism in the region.

“Security forces alone cannot defeat terrorism. Eradicating this threat demands a whole-of-society approach. United societal effort is required along with police and security agencies to dismantle the illicit financial and logistical webs of narco-terror networks,” LG Sinha said while laying a foundation stone of the Amriteshwar Sarovar under the Jan Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative at Dharpur, Sunderbani, in Rajouri district.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the people to remain vigilant against the nefarious designs of anti-national elements, report suspicious activities, and

No Major Weather

Activity Till

August-End: MeT



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Hot and humid weather is likely to continue across Jammu and Kashmir through the end of August, with brief showers and isolated intense spells expected at some places, particularly during late-night, early-morning and evening hours, the Meteorological Department said on Friday.

According to the latest weather assessment, isolated intense showers are likely in parts of south Kashmir, particularly Kulgam and Shopian, while Katra, Ramban, Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu division may also experience brief intense or locally heavy showers.

The MeT official said the weather was expected to remain “slightly hot and humid” in the coming days, with the possibility of brief showers at isolated places.

“In the coming days, especially during late-night and early-morning hours, there are chances of brief intense showers at some places and even heavy showers at a few places, especially in the Jammu division,”

Maps Cannot Substitute Facts

China's Renaming Game Fails

Ahead Of BRICS Summit



IANIS

BEIJING: For years, China has attempted to turn maps, place names and administrative terminology into instruments of territorial pressure against India. Beijing's repeated publication of Chinese names for locations inside Arunachal Pradesh is not simply an exercise in geography. It is part of a broader political strategy designed to normalise China's territorial claim through repetition, official documentation and state-controlled messaging. India's latest cartographic response

therefore represents more than a naming exercise: it is a rejection of Beijing's attempt to manufacture sovereignty through nomenclature.

On August 7, the Survey of India formally identified 27 locations in Arunachal Pradesh by their standard names on India's official map. The list covers strategically and historically significant locations, including mountain passes, settlements, Sambho Sarovar and the Sher-e-Thapa Memorial. The stated objective was to facilitate accurate identification and improve public awareness of their

Dies After Stillbirth

Minor Raped, Impregnated By

School Headmaster In Kishtwar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A government school headmaster allegedly raped a minor girl over several months, inducing a pregnancy that ended with her death after a failed abortion attempt and subsequent stillbirth, in Kishtwar district.

Following the girl's death late on Thursday night, protests broke out in her village and spread to different parts of the district by Friday morning.

The minor victim, a fifth-grade student at a local government middle school, was taken for medical care when her condition worsened. Police have lodged FIR No. 34/2026 at the Chatroo police station and have launched a full investigation into the events leading to her pregnancy and subsequent death.



The tragic incident has sparked serious concerns regarding the safety mechanisms for minors in rural areas, with questions being raised about how a young child could have remained pregnant for several months without her family, school administration, or local authorities becoming aware of it.

According to those familiar with the timeline, the girl developed a fever roughly ten days ago. Her mother took her to a local medical practitioner in Chatroo, where an examination reportedly disclosed the pregnancy. Following this, the family began moving her to various healthcare facilities for treatment and to seek termination of the pregnancy. They initially took her to Kishtwar, then were referred toward Doda. When her health took a critical turn, they pressed on toward Jammu, but she succumbed to her condition at Batote.

In the FIR, police have accused the girl's school headmaster, identified as Khalid Hussain, of sexually assaulting the child. His brother, Tariq Hussain, has also been named as an accused in the case. These allegations are still to be proven in a

Citing Convention

BJP Stakes Claim For

Deputy Speaker's Chair

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the upcoming autumn session of the Legislative Assembly, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State President Sat Pal Sharma on Friday said the post of Deputy Speaker should be allotted to the party, citing the convention of the position being given to the largest opposition party.

Sharma said that when the BJP was in power, the post of Deputy Speaker was given to the NC.

“As per convention, the post of Deputy Speaker is allotted to the opposition,” he said.

Sharma added that the Chief Minister should have given the post of Deputy Speaker to the BJP at the time of the election of the

Speaker. “He should look into the matter to uphold the tradition and convention,” he remarked.

During the PDP-BJP government, Nazir Gurezi of the National Conference served as Deputy Speaker, while Sartaj Madni of the PDP held the post during the NC-Congress rule.

The key statutory post of Deputy Speaker has remained vacant for nearly two years, with the ruling National Conference showing no inclination to fill the position.

As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, the election of the Deputy Speaker is conducted under the supervision of the Speaker, who fixes the date for the election—(KNO)



'J&K India's Integral Part'

‘No Reason To Comment On Pak’s Frustration’:

MEA After Pak Summons Us Diplomat

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: India on Friday dismissed Pakistan's objections to remarks by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Jammu and Kashmir, with the Ministry of External Affairs asserting that Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are an “integral and indivisible” parts of the country.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, said while addressing ministry's weekly media briefing here said, “New Delhi sees no reason to comment on Pakistan's frustration over the US envoy's recent statement during his visit to Srinagar.”

“I will repeat, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and indivisible parts of India. They were, they are,



and they will remain so,” Jaiswal said.

“I see no reason to comment on Pakistan's frustration. This is what I have to say,” he reiterated.

The remarks came two days after Pakistan summoned the US Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad and lodged a pro-

test over Gor's comments on Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan had termed the ambassador's remarks “factually incorrect”, maintaining that they were inconsistent with what it described as Washington's longstanding position on the Kashmir issue.

Gor, who was in Srinagar on Wednesday for his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir, had described the Union Territory as an “important part of India” after meeting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The visit assumed significance as it came nearly seven years after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and followed the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025.

Speaking to reporters after his meeting with CM Omar, the US envoy also praised the security measures taken by the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, saying significant steps had been taken to make the region safer.

He indicated that Washington could review its travel advisory for Jammu and Kashmir, which currently places the region

'Appointment Forgery Case'

Crime Branch

Searches Police

Constable's Residence

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K on Friday conducted a search at a residential house in Safakadal, Srinagar, as part of an investigation into alleged forgery of date-of-birth and educational qualification documents for a J&K Police appointment.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said that the Special Crime Wing Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K conducted a house search at Safakadal in connection with the investigation of Case FIR No. 10/2026, registered under Sections 420, 468 and 471 RPC. The search was carried out in compliance with a search warrant issued by the Court of Special Mobile Magistrate (PT&E), Srinagar.

He said the case pertains to allegations of appointment in the J&K Police Department through the submission

After Temporary Closure,

Doodhpathri Reopens

For Tourists



NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: Authorities on Friday reopened Doodhpathri, one of the major tourist spots in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, for visitors. The destination temporarily closed due to inclement weather conditions and the risk of flash floods and landslides last month.

Local traders, pony operators, cab drivers, food stall owners and other stakeholders welcomed the decision, saying the reopening will help them resume their livelihoods after the temporary closure. “We are happy that Doo-

dpathri has reopened. Tourism is our main source of livelihood, and the return of visitors will provide much-needed relief to local families,” locals said.

The authorities had earlier ordered the temporary closure of Doodhpathri in view of continuous rainfall and the possibility of flash floods and landslides, particularly along the approach roads.

With weather conditions improving, the destination has now been opened for tourists, bringing relief to the local tourism community and businesses dependent on visitor footfall—(KNO)

Handicrafts Dept urges artisans to enroll kin in Craft MBA course at CDI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, has urged the artisans and weavers to encourage their wards to apply for admission in two-year MBA course in the Craft Management & Entrepreneurship Programme at Craft Development Institute (CDI), Srinagar, affiliated with the University of Kashmir.

The Department stated that the specialised post-graduate programme aims to create a new generation of professionally trained craft entrepreneurs capable of taking Kashmir's world-famous handicrafts and handloom traditions to the national and international markets. The course integrates craft, design, technology, management



and entrepreneurship, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the craft economy and its emerging opportunities.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesman of the Department stated that the programme would provide a strong edifice for craft entrepreneurship and enterprise development in Jammu & Kashmir.

"We particularly urge the children and wards of artisans and weavers to avail this programme. Our traditional crafts possess enormous economic and export potential and a professionally trained young generation can play a decisive role in converting this heritage into sustainable enterprises, creating employment opportunities and globally

competitive brands," the spokesman added.

The spokesman further stated that the Government shall reimburse the tuition fee of the two-year PG course as per the prescribed eligibility criteria. "Interested artisans and weavers shall have to produce an Income Certificate issued by the concerned competent authority to establish eligibility for reimbursement of the tuition fee," he stated.

Highlighting CDI's contribution to the handicrafts sector, the spokesman said the Institute has played a pivotal role in promoting professionalism, innovation and entrepreneurship, with its alumni venturing into businesses related to the traditional crafts of Kashmir. The Institute's integrated approach to design, tech-

nology and management equips students with skills in product development, branding, marketing and enterprise management.

The spokesman further stated that the Department is working towards creating a 'startup launch pad' for students successfully completing the MBA programme, enabling them to convert their professional knowledge into viable craft enterprises and employment opportunities.

The Department has urged eligible candidates and wards of artisans and weavers to avail this opportunity and apply within the prescribed admission schedule, reiterating its commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods in the handicrafts and handloom sector.

DDC Shopian convenes review meeting to assess status of approved projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Shopian, Shishir Gupta Friday chaired a review meeting in his office chambers to evaluate the implementation and current progress of various ongoing and approved development projects across the district.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on the progress and issuance of necessary approvals for projects pertaining to Urban Development, Tourism, Health, Culture and other sectors.

The DDC stressed upon the concerned offi-



cers to ensure timely completion of all requisite formalities, speedy execution of works and strict adherence to prescribed timelines.

Emphasizing the importance of timely delivery of developmental works, the DDC called for focused efforts, effective monitoring and

accountability at every level to ensure that the benefits of various projects reach the people at the earliest. He directed the Additional District Development Commissioner to closely monitor the progress of all projects, ensure regular follow-up with the concerned departments and facilitate timely completion of the works.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Chief Executive Officer, Shopian Dubjan Peer Ki Gali Development Authority, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and other concerned were present.

Mission Shakti spreads awareness on women empowerment in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Shopian, under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, organised an awareness programme at Government Middle School Mashwara, Block Keller, with a special focus on girl education, empowerment, safety and protection.

During the programme, students and participants were sensitised about the importance of educating girls and ensuring equal opportunities for them to pursue their studies and build a bright, secure and dignified future.

The team emphasised that an educated girl is the foundation of an educated, empowered and progressive society. Participants were encouraged to support girls in continuing their education and to promote a safe, positive and supportive environment where every girl can learn, grow and realise her potential.

The programme also highlighted the collective responsibility of families, schools and communities in promoting the rights, safety, education and empowerment of girls, in line with the objectives of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

ADDC B'pora visits Ahamshareef; reviews Milad arrangements

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, Friday conducted a thorough inspection of the Ahamshareef Shrine to review the arrangements and ensure adequate facilities for devotees ahead of the observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

During the visit, the ADC assessed various aspects of the preparations and facilities being put in place for the devotees. He emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts among all concerned departments to ensure a smooth, peaceful and serene observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

The ADC also stressed upon the concerned stakeholders to ensure that all necessary arrangements and essential amenities are put in place well in advance for the convenience, comfort and safety of the devotees.

The ADC also interacted with members of the Auaq Committee and discussed the arrangements for the auspicious occasion. He listened to their suggestions and assured that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for the devotees.

The ADC was accompanied by DySP Headquarters Bandipora, Executive Engineer PHE Bandipora, Executive Engineer, PDD Bandipora and other concerned officials.

District-Level NCORD meeting held in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday chaired the 50th District-Level NCORD meeting at the Conference Hall, Budgam, along with SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK, to review the measures being taken to curb drug abuse in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed enforcement measures, awareness programmes, treatment and rehabilitation facilities, and directed all concerned departments to further strengthen their coordinated efforts against the menace.

Stressing the importance of awareness and prevention, the Deputy Commissioner directed intensified Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, particularly among youth, students, families and vulnerable sections of society.

He also instructed for strict vigil around educational institutions and other vulnerable areas and stringent action against those involved in drug peddling and trafficking.

He directed concerned departments to ensure timely identification, treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and follow-up care of persons affected by drug abuse, with the objective of ensuring that no affected individual is left without necessary support.

He stressed on intensified action against the illegal cultivation of cannabis, poppy and other prohibited crops through coordinated efforts for their identification and destruction.

DC Budgam takes stock of arrangements for annual Hawan at Shiv Mandir

Interacts with members of Kashmiri Pandit community, locals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday visited Shiv Mandir Dainag in Budgam to take stock of arrangements for the observance of the annual Hawan programme.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the facilities being put in place for devotees and reviewed arrangements to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the religious programme.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with members of the local Kashmiri Pandit community, devotees and local residents, and enquired about the facilities and arrangements at the religious site. He directed the concerned officers



to ensure uninterrupted essential services, including electricity and potable water supply, for the convenience of devotees.

He appreciated the efforts of the local community in making refreshment arrangements and extending support and hospitality to visiting devotees. Members of the Kashmiri Pandit community also lauded the initia-

tive and appreciated the cooperation and support extended by the local community during the religious programme.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the devotees and organisers of all necessary support from the District Administration for the smooth, seamless and peaceful observance of the annual Hawan and other religious functions.

Labour Commissioner reviews functioning of Labour Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Continuing with the review of the functioning of the Labour Department across the divisions, the Labour Commissioner, J&K, S. Charandeep Singh, today conducted a detailed review of the functioning of the Labour Department, Kashmir Division, during a meeting held with the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Kashmir, and Assistant Labour Commissioners of Kashmir Division in his office chamber at Batamaloo, Srinagar.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), Deputy Director Planning & Statistics and Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central).

The meeting focused on assessing the progress of various departmental initiatives, with particular emphasis on implementation of the Labour Codes, enrolment under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM), grievance redressal, disposal of court (quasi-judicial) cases, delivery of services under the Public Services Guarantee Act and clearance of pending official communications.

Interacting individually with the field officers, the Labour Commissioner took



stock of the ground-level progress and directed the officers to adopt a result-oriented and measurable approach towards implementation of the Labour Codes. He stressed the need for intensified awareness and outreach among workers and establishments and called for preparation of comprehensive work plans/master files to facilitate systematic monitoring of targets, activities and outcomes.

The Chair also underscored the importance of capacity building of field functionaries, directing that structured training and orientation programmes be undertaken to equip officers with the requisite knowledge and skills for effective implementation of the new labour regime.

Reviewing the progress under PMSYM, the Labour

Commissioner called for greater field-level mobilization and directed the officers to devise area-specific strategies for improving enrolment against prescribed targets. He stressed continuous monitoring, identification of uncovered worker groups and effective facilitation to ensure that eligible workers derive the intended benefits of the scheme.

On grievance redressal, the Chair directed that all grievances received through SAMADHAN as well as offline channels be monitored from receipt to final disposal, with officers ensuring prompt and effective resolution. He further called for strict adherence to the timelines prescribed under the Public Services Guarantee Act so that citizens receive departmental services within the stipulated period.

DC Kulgam reviews 'Class of Joy' programme across schools

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Friday chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the 'Class of Joy' initiative across schools in District Kulgam.

The meeting focused on strengthening the implementation of the programme, addressing identified gaps, improving monitoring, and ensuring better learning outcomes for students.

During the meeting, representatives of Pratham NGO presented a detailed status report on the programme, covering various key indicators, including school awareness, monitoring status, implementation at the school level, regular conduct of Classes of Joy, availability and effective utilisation of TLMs, student grouping, and maintenance of assessment records.

It was informed that the Class of Joy programme is currently being implemented in eligible Primary, Middle and High Schools across District Kulgam for students of Classes 3rd, 4th and 5th.

While appreciating the efforts of the CEO Kulgam and the concerned teams, the DC directed that monitoring reports of schools should be formally shared with the concerned schools. He further direct-



ed that appropriate action must be taken on the observations recorded during monitoring.

Emphasising that education remains one of the top priorities of the district administration, the DC informed that 60 schools have been selected for renovation during the current year. He further stated that water coolers will be provided to 160 schools this year to improve basic facilities for students.

The DC stressed that proper planning is the cornerstone of development and directed the Education Department to prepare and submit school-related development projects for approval. He emphasised that the projects should be conceptualised in a manner that ensures maximum benefit to students.

He further highlighted the importance of a conducive school environment for effective teaching and learning, stating that infrastructure development and quality education must go hand in hand. He informed

that all 36 schools in Aspirational Block Manzgam will also be taken up for renovation.

While reviewing the performance indicators of the Class of Joy programme, the DC directed that performance should exceed 90 per cent across all indicators. He called for immediate identification and filling of gaps and directed that Zonal-level training programmes be organised wherever required to strengthen implementation.

The DC further informed that the endline assessment will be conducted on October 2, 2026. He directed that the performance of teachers responsible for 'Classes of Joy' be appropriately reflected in their Annual Performance Reports (APRs).

He also announced that the best-performing schools and teachers will be suitably rewarded in recognition of their commitment, performance and contribution towards improving learning outcomes.

Director HP&M chairs apple rail meet

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Director, Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar to explore and identify modalities for transportation of apple fruit from Kashmir to different parts of the country through the railway network.

Representatives from Railway authorities headed by Kapil Sharma, Chief Area Manager, Jaswant Singh, ACM Railways and Presidents of various F&V markets of Kashmir participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the feasibility of transporting apples by rail, with particular focus on developing an efficient, economical and time-bound transportation mechanism for the horticulture sector.

The initiative is aimed at providing apple growers and traders with an additional reliable mode of transportation, especially during the peak harvesting season.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir, All Valley President of Fruit Growers and Traders Association deliberated on various issues and Challenges associated with rail transportation of Apple.

The meeting also deliberated upon various operational aspects, including availability and scheduling of railway services, loading and unloading arrangements, transportation time, handling of perishable fruit, packaging and other logistical requirements. The need for better coordination among the Horticulture Department, Railways, growers, traders and other stakeholders was also emphasized.

The Director, Horticul-

ture Planning & Marketing, highlighted the importance of establishing a dedicated and well-coordinated railway transportation mechanism for Kashmir apples, noting that efficient rail connectivity can help reduce transportation costs and facilitate timely movement of produce to major consumption centres across India.

The Railway authorities assured that the concerns and requirements of the horticulture sector would be examined and appropriate modalities would be worked out in consultation with the concerned stakeholders.

The meeting was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen post-harvest management and marketing infrastructure for Kashmir's horticulture produce and to ensure better market access and improved returns for apple growers.

SWD organizes VTP to promote livelihood opportunities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar organised a vocational training programme at S.P. College, Srinagar, with the objective of promot-

ing skill development, self-employment and livelihood opportunities among participants.

Resource persons from the District Industries Centre (DIC), Srinagar, and the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute

(JKEDI), Srinagar, participated in the programme and provided valuable guidance to the participants on various aspects of vocational skills, entrepreneurship, self-employment opportunities and available support mechanisms.

During the programme, the resource persons highlighted the importance of acquiring market-oriented skills and encouraged participants to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment as viable avenues for sustainable livelihoods. They also

apprised the participants about the institutional support and opportunities available through DIC and JKEDI.

The Social Welfare Department emphasized that such initiatives are aimed at empowering individuals through skill

development and facilitating their economic and social inclusion. The department reiterated its commitment to organizing similar programmes to create greater awareness about vocational training, entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities.

CM Omar felicitates J&K's four NEET toppers



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday felicitated four outstanding NEET achievers from Jammu and Kashmir, recognising their exceptional performance in the country's premier medical entrance examination. The four toppers—Hadiya Nisar, Zaidan Wani, Aarav Gupta and Maleeha Ajaz—were felicitated by the Chief Minister with a cash prize of 1 lakh each, a tablet and a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their remarkable achievement. Congratulating the stu-

dents on their success, the Chief Minister appreciated their hard work, dedication and perseverance, and commended their parents and teachers for the support and guidance extended to them in their academic journey. He said the achievement of these four students was a matter of pride for Jammu and Kashmir and would inspire other young students to pursue excellence through dedication and sustained effort. On the occasion, Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Director School Education

Kashmir Naseer Ahmed Wani, ZEOs, CEOs, principals of several schools, students and the proud parents of the achievers were present. An interactive session was also held during the felicitation programme, providing students, educators and parents an opportunity to share their suggestions and feedback with the Chief Minister on various aspects of education and student welfare. The Chief Minister listened to the suggestions and assured the participants that the issues and recommendations raised during the interaction would be considered.

Model Recruitment Rules for GMCs to be notified by Sept 30

Sakeena Itoo reviews progress on formulation of MRRs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Model Recruitment Rules (MRRs) for Non-Gazetted cadre in all GMCs of Jammu and Kashmir will be notified by the 30th September, 2026. This decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday at Civil Secretariat here in the backdrop of protests by employees of newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of Jammu and Kashmir regarding non-availability of recruitment rules. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary ARI and Trainings, Shabnam Kamili; Special Secretary, ARI, Narinder Khajuria; Director Health, Riyaz Ahmad; Additional Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Anil Kumar; Deputy Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Murtaza Rashid, as well as representatives of the protesting employees from GMCs of Anantnag and Baramulla. The meeting held detailed discussions on the proposed recruitment



framework aimed at ensuring a transparent, uniform and streamlined mechanism for filling various Non-Gazetted positions required for the effective functioning of the newly established medical colleges and their associated institutions. Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Minister emphasised that the recruitment rules should be comprehensive, practical and aligned with the functional requirements of the newly established GMCs. She called for close coordination among the concerned departments and directed that the exer-

cise be completed within a stipulated timeframe so that the recruitment process for the required Non-Gazetted manpower can be taken forward without unnecessary delay. The Minister directed the ARI Trainings and health department to notify the recruitment rules by 30th September to ensure career progression of employees working in these prestigious medical institutions. She stressed the need to maintain uniformity across institutions while ensuring that the rules adequately address the specific manpower requirements of

different departments and services. Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned officers to undertake a thorough examination of the existing recruitment rules and relevant provisions before finalising the Model Recruitment Rules. She called for incorporating clear provisions regarding eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, recruitment methodology, promotional avenues and other service-related matters. The Minister underscored that a well-defined recruitment framework is essential for strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring availability of

adequate human resources in the newly established medical colleges. She called for expediting the process while maintaining due diligence and adherence to prescribed procedures. "Recruitment rules must be clear, transparent and responsive to the actual requirements of our institutions. The newly established GMCs need a robust human-resource framework so that they can function efficiently and deliver quality services to students and patients," the Minister said. She further directed the officers to examine all aspects comprehensively and prepare the draft rules in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, ensuring that there is no ambiguity or scope for procedural delays at the implementation stage. Later, the Minister also requested the protesting employees of all GMCs to immediately call off the strike, as they are the pillar of strength of the health-care care system of Jammu and Kashmir. She assured them that their other concerning issues will also be redressed on priority.

Javid Dar reviews arrangements for kisan mela

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday chaired a meeting of Heads of Departments (HoDs) of Agriculture and allied departments to review and finalise arrangements for the upcoming Kisan Mela and foundation stone laying ceremony of the Mandi at Wusan Bangil, Tangmarg in Baramulla district. MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah, HoDs of Agriculture, Horticulture and concerned officers were present in the meeting. The Minister had detailed deliberations on preparations being put in place by different departments for the mega kisan mela. He instructed all the concerned HoDs to ensure seamless inter-departmental coordination, meticulous



planning and timely completion of all arrangements for successful conduct of the programme. He stressed that every department should contribute its best towards making the event impactful, well-organised and beneficial for the farming community. The meeting also discussed the detailed programme schedule and participation of various Agriculture and allied departments in the event. Javid Dar directed the departments to establish informative and professionally designed stalls

showcasing their schemes, flagship programmes, achievements, innovative initiatives, modern technologies and farmer-centric interventions. He emphasised that the Kisan Mela should provide farmers with a meaningful platform to interact directly with the departmental officers, agricultural scientists, technical experts and other stakeholders. The event will help in familiarising the farmers with modern agricultural practices, government schemes and available support mechanisms.

Srinagar's Nishat residents thank LCMA for prompt response to drainage complaint

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Residents of Syed Rehmaina Stop in Nishat area of Srinagar City on Friday thanked the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) officials for promptly responding to their complaint regarding an overflowing drainage near Residents speaking, said the drainage overflow had caused waterlogging in the area, creating inconvenience for pedestrians, commuters and local residents. "We approached the LCMA after the drainage started overflowing and causing waterlogging. The response from the authority was prompt and we appreciate their intervention," Nazir Ahmed, a local from the area said. Another resident, Abdul Majeed Dar, said the issue had been causing inconvenience to people in the area and urged the authorities to ensure a permanent solution. "We are thankful to the LCMA and to Executive Engineer of Nishat second division for taking cognisance of our complaint and responding promptly. We hope the necessary work will be carried out soon so that the problem does not recur," he said. —(KNO)

Man, 42, found dead in Sgr's Dughwan Forest

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The body of a 42-year-old man was recovered from the Dughwan forest area on the outskirts of Srinagar early Friday morning, officials said. An official said that the man's body was found in the Dughwan forest area and was taken to PHC Harwan, where doctors declared him brought dead. He said the body was later shifted to SMHS Hospital for further medical examination. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Lateef (42), son of Mohammad Aalam, a resident of Thugla in Rajouri district. Meanwhile, an investigation has been initiated and further proceedings in the matter are underway—(KNO)

Teenager drowns in Kangan's Nallah Sindh

AGENCIES

KANGAN: An 18-year-old youth drowned in Nallah Sindh near Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district while taking a bath on Friday, officials said. An official said that the youth drowned in Nallah Sindh near Dumping Park in the Kijpara area of Kangan. He said that soon after the incident, police, along with local residents and the SDRF, rushed to the spot and launched a search operation to trace the missing youth. —(KNO)

Div Com reviews arrangements for 18th Harmuk Gangbal Yatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Friday reviewed the arrangements for the 18th annual Harmuk Gangbal Yatra in a meeting, here. The three-day yatra is being organised by the Harmuk Ganga Gangbal Trust (HGGT), with around 150-200 pilgrims expected to participate. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jitin Kishore, SSP Traffic Rural, Chief Engineers of the Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) departments, SDM, officials from the Archaeological Survey of India, Traffic Police, Wildlife Department, Forest Health Department and KPDCL,

besides HGGT General Secretary Vinod Pandit. Pandit briefed the meeting about the religious rituals scheduled during the three-day pilgrimage, including Charri Puja at Naraan Nag Temple and Puja, Pind Daan and Shradha at Harmuk Ganga. Chairing the meeting, the Div Com directed the concerned departments to ensure advance arrangements for tents, bedding and other essential facilities for the pilgrims. He also called for uninterrupted electricity through gensets and adequate water supply throughout the yatra. The meeting was informed that food and langar arrangements for the pilgrims would be made by the HGGT. The Divisional Commissioner directed the Health

Department to deploy a medical team equipped with the necessary logistics, instruments and medicines to meet any medical requirements during the pilgrimage. He also instructed officials to earmark an entire area within the fencing of temple exclusively for yatris. The Floriculture Department was directed to arrange flowers for puja and temple decorations while RDD was directed to provide pre-fab toilet facilities during the yatra. Garg further directed the deployment of SDRF and Civil Defence personnel during the yatra and called upon the concerned security agencies to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage.

Committee on Petitions reviews grievances of Khimber residents

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Petitions of J&K Legislative Assembly Friday met under the Chairmanship of Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah to examine the long-pending grievance of residents of Khimber Hazratbal regarding illegal occupation of their traditional grazing land. The meeting was attended by Members of the Committee including Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Javid Iqbal Choudhary and Shagun Parihar. Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; SDM East Srinagar, other concerned officers, besides officers of the Assembly Secretariat were also pres-



ent in the meeting. During the meeting, the Chairman observed that Government land belongs to the people and must not be allowed to fall into the hands of a few. He assured that the Committee will not allow such injustices to continue and will take every possible step to restore the rights of the common man, safeguard public property for future generations. The Chairman directed that strict action be taken

against all those found involved in the illegal encroachment of Government land. He instructed the District Administration to identify and take to task the land mafia and other elements involved, and to retrieve the illegally occupied land immediately. The Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, during the meeting, briefed the Committee in detail about the illegal occupation of their traditional grazing land in Khimber Hazratbal.

1 month on Kangan residents suffer as waste collection vehicles disappear

Garbage piles up, non-functional waste segregation sheds add to woes

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Absence of garbage collection vehicles in Kangan area in Ganderbal district for the past month has caused considerable inconvenience to residents, business owners and hotel operators, with waste accumulating along roadsides and at unauthorised dumping spots. Residents said that they continue to pay monthly waste collection fees, but irregular garbage collection has resulted in the accumulation of waste at Prang, Kijpora, Chin-nar, Cherwan, Margund, Wussan, Lari, Najwan, and other areas of Kangan subdivision. They said the situation is not only affecting cleanliness but is also creating environmental hazards and public health concerns, besides causing inconvenience to tourists and visitors. "Authorities should ensure that collection vehicles visit the area regularly," said Manzoor Ahmad, a resident of Prang. "Foul odour emanat-

ing from garbage dumps has made our lives miserable. These dumps are attracting stray animals who become violent after spotting the humans. We request the concerned authorities to restore regular waste collection at the earliest," said M Iqbal of Kijpora. "Chinnar is also facing problems due to the accumulation of waste. The authorities need to act. The garbage is piling up in public places. Clean surroundings are especially important for the people and visitors," said Abdul Ahad. Hotel owners in the area also expressed concern, saying the accumulation of garbage could have a negative impact on tourism and local businesses. Meanwhile, around seven waste segregation sheds have reportedly been constructed in Kangan Block, but residents said most of them are currently non-functional. They said the initiative could help improve waste management if the sheds are properly operated and

waste is segregated and processed regularly. Parwaiz Ahmad told KNO that no suitable land has so far been identified for the dumping and proper management of the waste. He appealed to the higher authorities to urgently identify suitable land for waste disposal and establish an effective waste management system to prevent garbage from being dumped along roadsides, public places and other unauthorised locations. Residents and business owners have appealed to the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) and Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal to intervene urgently, ensure regular deployment of garbage collection vehicles and make the waste segregation sheds operational in Kangan Block. They also urged the authorities to put in place a proper system for collection, segregation and disposal of waste to prevent further environmental and public health concerns—(KNO)

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Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

From Job Seekers To Job Creators

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a welcome change in the aspirations of its young generation. The traditional expectation of securing a government job is gradually giving way to a more confident and enterprising mindset, one that sees youth not merely as job seekers, but as potential job creators.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's message to students at SKUAST is therefore both timely and significant. His call for young people to create opportunities rather than wait for them reflects a broader transformation taking place across Jammu and Kashmir. A self-reliant region cannot depend indefinitely on limited formal employment opportunities; it must nurture entrepreneurship, innovation, research and enterprise.

The infrastructure facilities inaugurated at SKUAST, including the Unnati Girls Hostel, Centre for AI and ML in Agriculture, Centre for Mushroom Research and Innovation, Advanced Sericulture Laboratory and Centre for Digital Media and Publication, are important precisely because they connect education with emerging opportunities.

These are not merely buildings or laboratories. If effectively utilised, they can become platforms where ideas are transformed into products, research into enterprises and skills into livelihoods. Agriculture and allied sectors in particular have enormous potential in Jammu and Kashmir, from mushroom cultivation and sericulture to agri-technology, food processing, digital services and high-value horticulture.

The LG's observation that a degree is not a destination but a runway for success deserves particular attention. Education must prepare young people not only to seek employment but also to identify problems, develop solutions and build enterprises around those solutions. At the same time, the responsibility cannot rest entirely on young people. The ecosystem around them must be equally supportive. Universities, financial institutions, government departments and industry need to work together to make it easier for innovative ideas to receive mentorship, funding, market access and technological support.

The real test of this changing aspiration will be whether a student with an idea can move from a classroom to a laboratory, from a laboratory to a startup and eventually from a startup to a sustainable enterprise. That journey requires patience, honesty, hard work and, equally importantly, an enabling ecosystem.

Jammu and Kashmir has no shortage of educated, talented and ambitious youth. What is needed is to convert that talent into productive enterprise. The region's universities can play a pivotal role in this transformation by becoming centres not only of learning but also of innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship.

A self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir will not be built simply by increasing the number of vacancies. It will be built when its young people increasingly believe that they can create opportunities for themselves and others.

The emergence of the young entrepreneur, innovator, researcher and employer could well become one of the most important stories of Jammu and Kashmir's economic transformation. The aspiration to create jobs, rather than merely wait for them, is a change worth encouraging, and nurturing.

When Education Stops Valuing Talent



DR. ANJUM NAZIR QURESHI

Teaching is a profession that shapes almost every other profession. Teachers are often described as nation builders because they guide, mentor, and support learners during some of the most important stages of their lives. Yet, behind this respected image, many educators continue to face challenges that remain largely unnoticed. Society expects teachers to deliver lessons, solve students' problems, mentor them, and contribute beyond the classroom, often without considering whether teachers themselves receive adequate recognition, respect, and professional support. Such conditions are gradually weakening the education system and discouraging talented intellectuals from entering the profession.

One of the major reasons for this declining interest is inadequate remuneration. Particularly in higher education, teachers are expected to fulfil numerous academic and professional criteria before securing a position. They are required to possess advanced degrees, research experience, publications, and other qualifications. However, are they always compensated according to their expertise and achievements? In many institutions, educators continue to work for modest salaries while being expected to undertake extensive academic and administrative responsibilities. Even salary increments can become difficult when teachers are expected not only to complete their duties but also to remain aligned with the preferences of the administration. Differences in professional opinions may sometimes result in uncomfortable consequences.

Another serious concern is the growing perception of educational institutions as commercial establishments. In some



places, appointments and opportunities are influenced more by personal references and connections than by merit, competence, and experience. In extreme cases, monetary considerations may also influence recruitment. When favoritism becomes more important than qualifications and achievements, deserving educators gradually lose faith in the system. The same problem can emerge during performance evaluations and annual increments, when individuals close to decision-makers receive greater benefits while hardworking and capable educators are overlooked.

When flattery is valued more than professional competence, institutions cannot achieve sustained excellence. Such an environment often leads to the silent exit of intellectuals. Talented educators who receive little recognition may eventually look beyond academia for careers where their abilities and contributions are valued. Teachers require professional respect, autonomy, and reasonable personal space. Excessive interference, unnecessary control, and disregard for their opinions can gradually reduce their confidence and motivation. An educator contributing through teaching, research, mentoring, innovation, and institutional service should be appreciated rather than taken for granted.

The consequences extend beyond

individual teachers. An institution may possess excellent infrastructure, technology, and impressive policies, but its greatest strength remains the quality of its educators. When talented professionals are overlooked because of favouritism, institutional credibility suffers. When questioning and independent thinking are discouraged, capable educators may stop expressing ideas, accepting responsibilities, or initiating innovative projects. Ultimately, students are affected because a disengaged teacher may find it difficult to create an inspiring and intellectually stimulating learning environment.

Educational leadership must therefore establish transparent and objective criteria for appointments, promotions, rewards, and the distribution of responsibilities. Roles should be assigned according to expertise, interest, competence, and proven performance rather than personal relationships. Unfortunately, there are instances where individuals are given prominent responsibilities despite lacking the necessary skills, while more capable educators remain overlooked. For example, assigning public communication, podcasting, anchoring, or other institutional responsibilities to unsuitable individuals can affect the quality and professional image of an institution, particularly when more

Society expects teachers to deliver lessons, solve students' problems, mentor them, and contribute beyond the classroom, often without considering whether teachers themselves receive adequate recognition, respect, and professional support.

competent candidates are available.

There are countless examples where merit remains unrewarded and deserving educators are denied opportunities to grow. This raises an important question: If we want students to believe that merit matters, should educational institutions not demonstrate that merit matters?

When education stops valuing its educators, it gradually stops valuing education itself. A truly progressive institution must create an environment where talent is recognised, effort is respected, excellence is rewarded, and every educator receives a fair opportunity to contribute and grow. Only then can education continue to attract the intellectual minds capable of shaping the future.

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Is Agristack Ready For The Ground Reality?

MOHD AMIN

As the AgriStack assignment nears completion in Jammu & Kashmir, Aadhaar authentication failures, deceased landowners and pending inheritance mutations underline the need for adequate time to complete the final verification process accurately. The AgriStack assignment is nearing completion, marking an important milestone in India's journey towards digital agriculture. Across Jammu and Kashmir, revenue officials and field functionaries, particularly Patwaris, have worked relentlessly to bring land records into a digital ecosystem that can eventually support farmers through more accurate identification, targeted benefits and improved agricultural planning.

The progress achieved so far deserves recognition. Yet, as the assignment approaches its final stage, the experience from the ground makes one fact increasingly clear: the last mile of digitisation is often the most difficult mile. One of the important components of the AgriStack ecosystem is the creation and verification of land-related digital groupings, commonly referred to as buckets. In simple terms, a land bucket is a digital grouping of land parcels within a revenue village that the system identifies as belonging to the same individual owner.

The software analyses available land records, including the Record of Rights or Jamabandi, and groups parcels through matching of names and other available identifiers. A unique internal Bucket ID is assigned to such a grouping before its final verification. The prospective farmer can then claim the relevant land records, complete authentication and establish the linkage necessary for the creation of a verified digital farmer identity.

While the concept is technologically sound and administratively important, its implementation on the ground is encountering genuine practical difficulties.

The Aadhaar OTP Challenge A major challenge in completing the bucket verification process is



Aadhaar-based authentication. In many cases, the system requires an OTP linked to the Aadhaar details of the recorded landowner. However, a significant number of landowners are unable to receive the OTP.

There can be several reasons. In some cases, the name recorded in the revenue record does not exactly correspond with the name appearing in Aadhaar. In other cases, the Aadhaar number may not be linked with the mobile number currently being used by the landowner. Some landowners may have changed their mobile numbers years ago without updating their Aadhaar details. The result is that a person may be physically present, may possess genuine land documents and may be the rightful recorded owner, yet the digital verification process cannot proceed because the required OTP does not arrive.

This is not necessarily a failure on the part of the farmer or the revenue official. It is a gap between old records, changing personal information and the requirements of a modern digital authentication system. Such persons are being advised to approach the nearest Common Service Centre or authorised Aadhaar updation facility to correct or update their Aadhaar details, including mobile-number linkage where necessary. But this process itself requires time. Citizens may have to travel, wait for

appointments or complete biometric and documentary formalities before returning to the AgriStack verification process.

Expecting all such cases to be resolved within a rigid deadline would therefore ignore the practical realities of rural administration. An even more sensitive challenge arises where the land recorded in the Jamabandi continues to stand in the name of a person who has passed away. In many villages, the legal heirs may still be cultivating and possessing the land, but the inheritance mutation has not yet been entered and attested in the revenue records. Consequently, the digital system encounters the name of a deceased person as the recorded landowner.

Naturally, Aadhaar-based OTP authentication in the name of a deceased individual cannot solve this problem. The appropriate course for the legal heirs is to approach the concerned Patwari and initiate the process for entering the inheritance mutation. After due verification and completion of the prescribed revenue procedure, the land records can be updated in the names of the rightful successors.

But inheritance mutation is not an instant digital click. It involves the identification of legal heirs, verification of facts, examination of revenue records and completion of the prescribed procedure. In some cases, family members may be living outside the village or even outside Jammu and

Kashmir. In others, there may be disputes, incomplete documentation or difficulties in producing all concerned persons at the appropriate stage. Therefore, these cases cannot reasonably be expected to reach a correct conclusion overnight merely because the digital assignment is approaching its deadline.

The ultimate objective of AgriStack is not simply to achieve a numerical target. Its true purpose is to build a reliable and accurate digital foundation for agriculture.

An incorrectly mapped land parcel can create complications for farmers in the future. A wrongly linked digital identity may affect eligibility for agricultural schemes and services. Likewise, forcing verification despite unresolved Aadhaar or inheritance issues may create errors that are much harder to correct later.

This is why the final stage of the assignment requires patience.

The enormous effort already made by Patwaris and other officials should not be overshadowed by difficulties that are beyond their immediate control. Field staff can identify the problem, guide the citizen, enter mutations according to law and facilitate verification. But they cannot instantly update an individual's Aadhaar-linked mobile number, resolve a name mismatch or complete every pending inheritance case without following due procedure.

The AgriStack assignment has demonstrated the capacity

of Jammu and Kashmir's revenue machinery to undertake complex and technologically demanding work. Patwaris have worked under considerable pressure to connect traditional land records with a modern digital agricultural ecosystem. As the assignment now reaches its concluding phase, the administration should consider providing adequate time for genuinely pending cases.

A focused period may be used to resolve Aadhaar mismatches, facilitate mobile-number updates, guide citizens towards CSCs and authorised Aadhaar centres, identify deceased recorded landowners and process inheritance mutations wherever required. Special attention should be given to cases that cannot proceed because of circumstances beyond the control of the farmer or field official. The objective should be clear: complete the assignment, but complete it correctly.

AgriStack has the potential to become an important pillar of India's digital agriculture ecosystem. But the success of any digital system ultimately depends on the accuracy of the data fed into it and the ability of ordinary citizens to participate in the process.

A farmer should not be excluded merely because an OTP is linked to an old mobile number. A family should not face an administrative dead end because the name of a deceased ancestor still appears in the Jamabandi. And a Patwari should not be blamed for delays caused by Aadhaar discrepancies or inheritance procedures that require statutory verification.

The remarkable progress made in the AgriStack assignment should now be consolidated with equal emphasis on accuracy, inclusion and patience.

The work is near completion. The foundation has been laid. But the final buckets require careful verification, not hurried closure. The last mile may take more time—but it is this mile that will determine whether the digital record is merely complete on paper or truly correct on the ground.

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■ Broken Trust

Why Kashmir's Institutions Fail To Protect

ANAS RYIAZ

A classroom is supposed to be a place where a child learns, grows and develops an understanding of the world around her. For parents, schools and other educational institutions are spaces of trust, where children are expected to be protected by the adults entrusted with their education. But for some girls in Kashmir, that sense of safety has been replaced by fear and trauma after they experienced inappropriate touching, harassment or sexual abuse in places where they were supposed to feel protected. Recent cases of sexual violence across Kashmir has once again brought the issue of women's and children's safety into focus. The incidents are different in nature and circumstances, but together they have raised questions about the safety of women and girls not only in isolated locations but also in institutions and public spaces that form part of their everyday lives.

For many women and girls, however, the experience of harassment does not necessarily take the form of a case that reaches the police station or becomes a national headline. It can begin with an unwanted touch, an inappropriate gesture, a comment, a teacher crossing a boundary or a stranger taking advantage of a crowded public space. Such incidents can remain unreported, while their psychological impact continues long after the incident itself.

One young student experienced what she describes as inappropriate and deeply disturbing behaviour by a person she trusted, said the experience fundamentally changed her relationship with the educational environment. "I am totally broken, and even today I find it difficult to speak about what happened to me. I went to that place to learn. I went there believing that it was a place where I would learn how to live, how to understand the world and how to build my future. Instead, that place became a trauma for me. The person involved was someone I trusted deeply. I looked at him like a father figure and, in many ways, like an elder brother. I never imagined that someone I respected and trusted could touch me in a way that would leave such a deep impact on my life. When it happened, I did not know how to react. I was confused, frightened and completely unable to understand why someone I trusted would



cross such a boundary. Even now, when I think about it, I feel the same fear and helplessness. I was supposed to remember that place for my education, my friends and the dreams I had for my future. Instead, I remember what happened to me. It changed the way I look at people, and it changed the way I feel in places where I once believed I was safe."

Her account reflects one of the most difficult aspects of harassment in educational institutions: the betrayal of trust. Teachers and other adults working in schools occupy positions of authority, and students are expected to trust them. When that relationship is violated, the consequences can extend beyond the incident itself and affect a student's confidence, education and sense of security.

For a student, reporting inappropriate conduct by a teacher or another person in authority can be extremely difficult. A young girl may fear that she will not be believed, that her character will be questioned, that her education could be affected or that the matter could become

public. In many cases, the fear of consequences can become powerful enough to prevent a complaint from ever being made.

The issue is not limited to educational institutions. For women who travel to schools, colleges, workplaces and markets, public transport is another part of everyday life where concerns about personal safety can arise. In Srinagar, the Smart City bus service has become an important means of public transportation, particularly after the introduction of free travel for women on government-operated buses. The initiative has helped improve women's mobility and reduced the financial burden associated with daily commuting. However, the growing popularity of the service has also resulted in severe overcrowding during peak hours.

Recent reports have highlighted instances of Smart City buses carrying substantially more passengers than their intended capacity. Commuters have raised concerns about congestion, discomfort and safety, particularly when buses become so crowded that passengers are forced to

stand extremely close to one another.

For women, overcrowding can create an additional vulnerability because it becomes difficult to maintain personal space or identify who is touching them in a tightly packed vehicle. A woman standing in the middle of a crowded bus may have little room to move, and confronting an offender in such an environment can be intimidating. The presence of dozens of passengers does not necessarily make a victim feel safer; in some circumstances, it can make her feel even more powerless because nobody around her may realise what is happening.

In the meantime, the government needs to acknowledge the growing demand for public transport. There is also a need for effective mechanisms through which women can report incidents, greater awareness among passengers and stronger accountability when complaints are made. Public transport should not only be affordable and accessible; it must also allow women to travel with dignity and without fear.

The same principle applies to

educational institutions. A school or college cannot be considered safe simply because there is a gate, security personnel or a disciplinary committee. Students need to know that if a teacher, staff member or another person crosses a physical or emotional boundary, they have a safe and confidential mechanism through which they can report it.

The challenge becomes even greater when the victim is a minor. Children may not always have the vocabulary to describe inappropriate behaviour, may not understand what is happening immediately or may fear the reaction of adults if they disclose it. This makes the responsibility of parents, teachers and institutions even more important.

Recent cases involving children and women have also highlighted another difficult reality: not every experience of harassment becomes a police case. Many incidents remain within families, schools or communities. Some survivors never report what happened because they fear social consequences or because they believe that speaking about it will not change anything. That silence can make the scale of the problem difficult to understand.

The responsibility for safety also cannot rest entirely on women and girls. They are already told to be careful about where they go, how they travel, whom they trust and what time they return home. The question that needs to be asked is why the burden of preventing harassment should fall primarily on those who may become its victims. A society's response to sexual violence cannot be measured only by the number of arrests made after an incident. It must also be measured by whether a girl feels comfortable reporting inappropriate behaviour, whether a woman can board a bus without fear and whether institutions have systems capable of protecting people before a situation becomes a headline.

For the young student who once saw her classroom as a place to learn how to live, that sense of safety was taken away. For the woman who was travelling home, an ordinary bus journey became an experience she says she will never forget. Both stories point towards the same unresolved question: when classrooms, public transport and other everyday spaces no longer feel safe, where are women and girls supposed to find that safety?

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The Silent Epidemic

Substance Abuse And Drug Addiction Among Youth

A Hidden Crisis Stealing The Future Of Our Youth



DR. TAWSEEF A. MIR

Walk through any city, town or village today, and beneath the bustle of daily life lies a crisis that is steadily growing yet often remains hidden from public view. Substance abuse and drug addiction have become one of the most alarming social issues of our time, particularly among young people. While governments, educators, and families continue to address the problem, the reality is that addiction is spreading faster than awareness and prevention efforts.

Drug addiction is not merely a personal weakness or a bad habit. It is a complex social, psychological, and health problem that affects individuals, families and entire communities. Unfortunately, many people still view addiction as a moral failure rather than a disease, making it even more difficult for those affected to seek help.

One of the most troubling aspects of this issue is the increasing involvement of young people. Adolescence and early adulthood are periods marked by curiosity, experimentation and the desire for social acceptance. During this vulnerable stage, many young individuals are introduced to drugs through peer pressure, social gatherings or even online platforms



that glamorize substance use. What starts as a moment of curiosity often turns into a dangerous dependency.

The reasons behind substance abuse are numerous. Academic stress, unemployment, family conflicts, anxiety, depression and social isolation all contribute to the problem. In today's fast-paced world, many young people struggle to cope with emotional and psychological pressures. Instead of seeking healthy solutions, some turn to drugs in the hope of escaping their problems, even if only temporarily.

However, drugs do not solve problems; they create new ones. The temporary relief they provide is often followed by long-term suffering. Addiction gradually takes control of an individual's thoughts, behavior and decision-making abilities. It affects physical health, mental well-being, relationships, and career prospects.

In many cases, addiction robs individuals of their potential and dreams.

The impact extends far beyond the individual user. Families often experience emotional trauma, financial hardship and social stigma. Parents watch helplessly as their children become trapped in cycles of dependency. Siblings suffer from neglect and emotional distress. Marriages break down, trust erodes and family bonds weaken under the strain of addiction.

Communities also bear the burden. Drug abuse is frequently linked to rising crime rates, violence and unemployment. Resources that could otherwise be invested in education, healthcare, and development are diverted toward law enforcement and rehabilitation efforts. In this way, addiction becomes not only a personal tragedy but also a societal challenge.

Particularly concerning is the normalization of substance use in certain social circles. Popular culture, films, and social media sometimes portray drugs as symbols of freedom, excitement, or success. Such portrayals can create misleading perceptions among impressionable audiences. Rarely do these images show the devastating consequences that addiction leaves behind the broken families, lost opportunities, declining health and shattered lives.

Addressing this crisis requires more than punitive measures. While strict action against drug trafficking is essential, prevention must remain the primary focus. Schools and colleges should incorporate comprehensive drug education programs that go beyond simple warnings. Students need accurate information about the risks of substance abuse and practical skills to resist peer pressure.

Parents also have a critical role to play. Open communication, emotional support and active involvement in a child's life can significantly reduce the likelihood of substance abuse. Young people who feel valued, understood and supported at home are less likely to seek comfort in harmful substances.

Equally important is the availability of mental health services. Many individuals struggling with addiction are also battling anxiety, depression, trauma or other psychological issues. By expanding access to counseling and mental health support, society can address some of the root causes that drive substance abuse.

For those already affected, rehabilitation should be viewed as a pathway to recovery rather than punish-

ment. Every individual deserves a second chance. Effective treatment programs, counseling services, and community support can help people overcome addiction and rebuild their lives. Recovery is often a long and difficult journey, but it is possible when society offers understanding instead of judgment.

The fight against substance abuse cannot be won by governments alone. It requires collective responsibility. Families, educators, healthcare professionals, religious leaders, community organizations, and young people themselves must work together to create environments that promote healthy choices and discourage drug use.

As we observe the growing impact of addiction on our communities, one truth becomes clear: silence is no longer an option. Every day that passes without meaningful action allows the problem to grow stronger. Awareness, education, compassion and prevention must become our most powerful tools.

Substance abuse and drug addiction are not merely issues affecting a small segment of society; they are challenges that concern us all. If we fail to act today, future generations may pay an even greater price. The time has come to confront this silent epidemic with determination, empathy and a shared commitment to protecting the well-being of our youth and society as a whole.

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CM Inaugurates

installations created from discarded and scrapped materials. These include a vintage Ambassador car, classic Kashmiri tonga, floral boat, floral scooter, heritage jeep, floral tractor, old tyres and other reclaimed items, which have been creatively transformed into garden features.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the garden was a wonderful initiative of the Department of Floriculture aimed at demonstrating that discarded objects could be reused with thought and imagination.

“This is an effort by the Department of Floriculture to show people that almost anything can be reused if you have the thought and imagination to do so,” he said.

Pointing towards the installations, the Chief Minister said the garden contained several unusual objects that one would not normally imagine being used in a garden, including a tractor, scooter, old jeep, Ambassador car and even a refrigerator in which plants had been placed and decorated.

He said the initiative carries an important message for society to think about reuse and recycling before throwing things away, particularly at a time when solid waste and plastic waste management has emerged as a major challenge in cities and villages.

“Before throwing anything away, we should stop and think whether it can be reused or recycled. Of course, we cannot use every piece of waste as a decorative item, but wherever there is a possibility of recycling or reuse, we should make the effort,” the Chief Minister said.

Emphasising the importance of reducing plastic waste, he said people could adopt simple habits such as carrying reusable bags from home while going shopping instead of taking new plastic bags from shops and subsequently discarding them.

“That is the message behind this garden, and I hope people will come here, enjoy it and also take this message back with them,” he said.

The garden has been conceived as a thematic model landscape based on the principles of Reduce, Recycle and Reuse (RRR). Nearly 90 per cent of the materials used in its construction have been sourced through recycling and refurbishment rather than fresh procurement, making the project an example of resource-efficient and sustainable landscaping.

Designed as an all-season garden, the Waste to Wonder-Flower Garden has been planned to offer continuous bloom from spring through late autumn. Plant selection and bloom-succession scheduling are aimed at keeping the site visually vibrant and florally active across changing seasons.

The Chief Minister also spoke about the scope for further developing the Chrysanthemum Garden, noting that its first season had provided valuable lessons that could be used to improve it during its second season.

Drawing a parallel with the evolution of the Tulip Garden, he said the iconic garden had also started on a much smaller scale and was developed progressively over the years through the addition of features such as fountains, water channels and new levels. “In the same way, we will continue to add to and improve the Chrysanthemum Garden,” he said.

Regarding the Waste to Wonder Garden, the Chief Minister suggested that the Department of Floriculture should visit Chandigarh to study similar initiatives and explore possibilities of recreating and further developing the concept in Jammu and Kashmir.

“If we can recreate a similar Waste to Wonder concept here, it could become a great attraction for tourism,” he said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Bani Dr Rameshwar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Gardens & Parks Zubair Ahmad, Director Floriculture, Gardens & Parks Kashmir Ms. Mathora Masoom and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

J&K Youth Creating

Governor drew attention to global examples of technology-driven agriculture, from a dairy innovation hub in the Netherlands that brings together scientists, companies and farmers on AI-based nutrition and animal health solutions, to Israel's integration of data and smart management across agriculture and dairy, New Zealand's digital push in animal husbandry, and a Brazilian irrigation startup that turned a farmer's everyday problem into a scalable solution. The message from these examples, the Lieutenant Governor said, is that agriculture and allied sectors represent the next major frontier for innovation worldwide.

At the same time, the Lieutenant Governor cautioned the youth of Jammu Kashmir against simply replicating foreign models, urging them instead to study their own fields, farmers, climate and local challenges, and to build solutions suited to the region's specific needs.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted India's changing employment aspirations and observed that today's youth in Jammu Kashmir are increasingly looking to create jobs rather than wait in line for them. He said such shift in aspiration is central to the vision of a Self-Reliant Jammu Kashmir.

“I want to tell all students that your degree is not your destination; rather, it is like a runway for your flight of success. SKUAST-Jammu will give you knowledge, but your curiosity will give you new thoughts and ideas. Your courage will turn that idea into a startup, and if you continue to advance that startup with patience, honesty, and consistent hard work, one day that same startup will provide employment and dignity to someone who today is sitting exactly where you are. That is why I often say that the truest meaning of a Self-Reliant Jammu Kashmir is a region where every young citizen becomes

an employer in some form, according to their ability and talent,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke at length about diversifying beyond traditional farming activities, encouraging young and progressive farmers to explore cold chains, grading and packaging units, regional branding, and digital marketplaces that could connect Jammu Kashmir's produce with markets in Delhi, Dubai and beyond.

He also said that women's participation in the entrepreneurship ecosystem should be the key priority.

“No entrepreneurship revolution can be complete without the equal and active participation of women. And no economy can truly become strong until women are equal partners in it. I do not just want to see women present in enterprises; I want to see enterprises led by women. You must support those Self-Help Groups and Farmer Producer Organizations that gain equal access to finance, technology, and markets. Support such women through your research and innovation who start their own businesses and then, through those same businesses, create employment opportunities for other women,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the Startup Outreach Programme, the Lieutenant Governor noted its focus on reaching farmers and youth in villages who may have had no prior exposure to concepts such as incubation, mentoring or venture capital. He said the most useful solutions to farmers' problems are often conceived by those who have lived those problems firsthand.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that SKUAST-Jammu has so far selected more than 150 students for idea incubation and supported 56 promising startups, while extending its outreach to remote parts of the Jammu region. Calling this a commendable beginning, the Lieutenant Governor urged the SKUAST-Jammu to multiply these numbers and evolve into a genuine bridge between laboratories and markets, scientists and farmers, and technology and ground-level needs.

“Real success of SKUAST-Jammu will not be measured only by how many students graduate from here, but the success of this campus will be measured by how many new ideas were born here, how many solutions to problems were developed here, how many enterprises were established here, and how many farming families' lives were positively changed by those enterprises,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon students to ask four questions every day during their time on campus- what problem can I solve, what enterprise can I build, what value can I add to agriculture and how many families can benefit from my idea?

“If these four questions keep troubling your mind continuously, then no one can stop you from finding the purpose of your career,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Jammu Kashmir would increasingly be recognised for innovation, agricultural entrepreneurship and youth leadership in the years ahead.

“Do not make your dreams small. Do not let your circumstances become the limits of your future. Draw strength from your roots, direction from knowledge, speed from technology, and create new paths with your resolve. I am confident that in the coming years, Jammu Kashmir will also be recognized for innovation, agricultural entrepreneurship, science, technology, and youth leadership,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also felicitated eight startups, FPOs and cooperative/rural enterprises for their contributions to agriculture, allied sectors, value addition and rural enterprise development.

Four publications including “Policy Document for Promoting Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in J&K”, “Chronicle of Innovation & Startups under RKVY-RAFTAAR, SKUAST-Jammu”, “Value on the Vine: Economic and Market Dynamics of Vegetables” and “Student's Rural Exploration Programme (SREP)”, were also released.

Shri Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension; Dr. Anil Kumar, Registrar and faculty of SKUAST Jammu; senior officials, students, scientists, entrepreneurs, representatives of startups, FPOs, cooperatives and other stakeholders were present.

Community Solidarity's

completely isolate terror sympathizers.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance at the Shri Amritheshwar Shiv Temple, and prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of one and all.

Addressing a public gathering, the Lieutenant Governor commended the local community and the Shri Amritheshwar Shiv Mandir Vikas Samiti for their collective efforts in establishing and developing the sacred site.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the vital role of community solidarity in eliminating terrorism, substance abuse and corruption, while driving economic development and a spiritual renaissance in UT of Jammu Kashmir.

“India is going through a great spiritual revival. This cultural wave is felt across Jammu Kashmir, bringing people closer together and strengthening our community bonds,” he said.

A concerted security and societal effort, driven by army, security forces, J&K Police, local administration and residents of Jammu Kashmir have significantly degraded terrorism and transformed the region's security landscape.

It was once grimly predicted that the Tricolour would find no willing hands to carry it in Jammu Kashmir. Today, it is held high with pride on countless resolute shoulders,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Responding to the demands, the Lieutenant Governor assured that sincere efforts would be made by the administration to address

public grievances and local infrastructure needs.

Thakur Randhir Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kalakote-Sunderbani; Shri Satyapal Sharma, President, Shri Amritheshwar Shiv Mandir Vikas Samiti and Chelda Biradari; Shri Rajesh Gupta, President Vishva Hindu Parishad, J&K; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Sandeep Wazir, DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Udhampur Reasi Range; Shri Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; Dr Bharat Bhushan, General Secretary and other members of Shri Amritheshwar Shiv Mandir Vikas Samiti, senior officials, and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

No Major Weather

the official said.

The official said the possibility of showers would continue intermittently rather than developing into a prolonged spell of rainfall.

There is no continuous rain and no heavy rain,” the official said, adding that weather would “generally remain hot and humid” across the Valley as well as the Jammu division.

In Kashmir, brief showers are likely in some districts, particularly during the early morning and morning hours. There could also be isolated showers towards late afternoon and evening. “Early morning, morning hours and late afternoon and evening hours have some possibility of brief showers,” the official said.

The weather department has ruled out any significant weather activity over the coming week. “There is no significant weather activity until almost August 27-28,” the official said.

The Jammu division is expected to experience generally hotter and more humid conditions during the day, while isolated showers could provide temporary relief in some areas. The weather pattern is also expected to persist towards the end of August, with the MeT indicating that conditions would remain largely stable apart from brief, isolated showers.

“Generally, the weather may remain slightly hot and humid,” the official said, adding that the prevailing conditions were likely to continue “until the ending of August.”

The MeT also forecast a slight rise in day-time temperatures over the coming days. Minimum temperatures, meanwhile, may see some fluctuation but are not expected to fall significantly before the end of August. “Day temperatures are likely to rise slightly in the coming days,” the official said.

On minimum temperatures, the official said there could be a slight fall, but added that “until the end of August, there will be no significant fall.” Temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir are expected to remain around three to four degrees Celsius above normal during the period.

“They are likely to remain about three to four degrees above normal,” the official said. A more noticeable change in temperatures is expected only with the arrival of September.

The MeT said temperatures, both maximum and minimum, could begin to decline from the first or second week of September onwards across Jammu and Kashmir.

“From the first week of September or second week of September onwards, a fall in temperatures, both maximum and minimum, can be seen across Jammu and Kashmir,” the official said.

For now, therefore, the weather outlook remains largely stable, with no indication of a prolonged rainy spell. Isolated brief showers are likely to punctuate otherwise hot and humid days, particularly during the early morning and late afternoon or evening hours.

The MeT has particularly flagged parts of south Kashmir and the Jammu division for the possibility of brief intense showers over the coming days, while a broader seasonal decline in temperatures is expected only in September.

China's Renaming

geographical and historical significance. The importance of the move becomes clearer when placed against China's own record. Beijing has repeatedly issued batches of what it calls “standardised geographical names” for locations in Arunachal Pradesh, which China refers to as “Zangnan” and claims as part of southern Tibet.

In April 2026, China's Ministry of Civil Affairs released its sixth batch of such names. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun explicitly defended the practice as an exercise of China's claimed “sovereign rights”. That argument exposes a striking contradiction. Beijing insists that assigning Chinese names to locations administered by India is legitimate, yet objects when India standardises names on its own official maps. A principle cannot credibly operate in only one direction. If nomenclature alone cannot confer sovereignty on India, it cannot confer sovereignty on China either.

China's approach demonstrates the limitations of cartographic pressure. Repeated publication of new names may reinforce Beijing's domestic narrative, but it does not by itself alter administration, civilian governance or control on the ground. Arunachal Pradesh functions as a state within the Indian Union, while Beijing continues to dispute its status. India's Ministry of External Affairs reiterated on August 11 that Arunachal Pradesh is an “inalienable and integral part of India” and said the condition of the border would inevitably influence the wider bilateral relationship. The weakness in China's position is therefore not that it maintains a territorial claim. States are entitled to advance claims in unresolved boundary disputes, but Beijing often presents its preferred terminology as though repetition itself settles the dispute. Cartography should describe political reality and not be used as a substitute for negotiated settlement.

The naming controversy has coincided with far more consequential allegations from the

Taksing sector of Upper Subansiri district. A four-member fact-finding team from the People's Party of Arunachal reported alleged Chinese intrusions. While the claims are unsubstantiated and uncorroborated, Beijing has said the overall border situation is “generally stable”. Reuters nevertheless reported claims of a late-July patrol confrontation near Taksing and allegations from a local welfare body of increasing Chinese activity.

The timing is particularly significant. The 36th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was held in New Delhi on August 6, only a day before reports of India's cartographic move emerged. Both governments publicly support dialogue, yet border stability remains the real test of improving relations. According to reports, the latest concerns have emerged ahead of the BRICS Summit scheduled in New Delhi for September 12-13, which Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to attend. This creates a simple challenge for Beijing. China cannot simultaneously call for stable ties while using administrative naming campaigns to reinforce contested territorial claims and dismissing India's equivalent cartographic actions as damaging to relations.

India's response should therefore extend beyond naming places. Roads, telecommunications, forward logistics, reliable intelligence, civilian settlements and regular patrolling are ultimately more important than symbols on a map.

China's cartographic strategy depends on repetition creating political familiarity. India's strongest answer is not endless retaliation through competing lists of names but effective administration, historical documentation and credible defence of the territory it governs. The wider lesson of this cartographic war is straightforward: sovereignty cannot be created by renaming someone else's geography. Beijing may continue publishing new terminology for Arunachal Pradesh, but maps cannot substitute for facts on the ground, nor can unilateral labels resolve one of Asia's most complicated boundary disputes.

Minor Raped,

court of law.

The FIR additionally claims that efforts were made to cover up the crime, and that medication was given in an attempt to end the pregnancy. Authorities have collected biological samples and other evidence as part of the medico-legal process, and a post-mortem was conducted at the District Hospital in Kishtwar.

The legal provisions invoked in the case include Sections 61(2), 65(1), 90, 91, and 92 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, alongside Sections 4, 6, 8, 10, and 17 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Both suspects have been taken into custody, and the police have stated that their investigation is ongoing.

The girl's parents have asserted that they had no knowledge of the pregnancy until it was detected by the doctor. Her father has reportedly stated that the family was completely unaware of what had befallen their daughter. The family, which includes a son and the deceased girl, is in shock over the events.

Local residents, however, have alleged that the teacher had previously been a source of harassment for the family. They are demanding a thorough and transparent inquiry into all aspects of the case—from how the girl became pregnant to the circumstances of her death. These claims have not yet been independently verified.

The tragedy has ignited widespread fury in Chatroo, with residents taking to the streets to demand justice. Business establishments and shops have remained closed in protest against the incident.

Crime Branch Searches

of forged documents relating to date of birth and educational qualifications. As part of the ongoing investigation, the Special Crime Wing conducted a search at the residential premises of SG Ct. Manzoor Ahmad Najar at Safakadal, Srinagar.

The spokesperson said the search was conducted in accordance with due process of law. Further details will be shared as the investigation progresses.

The general public has been advised to remain vigilant against fraudsters and report any such incidents directly to SSP SCW Kashmir (Crime Branch J&K). Those who have been victims of fraud may also send their complaints to the official email: sspscw-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in.

‘No Reason To

under its highest Level 4 warning, advising US citizens not to travel there.

Gor said the US periodically reassesses its travel advisories and suggested that the warning for Jammu and Kashmir could be downgraded following improvements in the security situation.

“I cannot make any big announcements here today, but it is something that we are going to look at,” he said.

The envoy also said Jammu and Kashmir offered considerable tourism potential and that more Americans could visit the region if the security assessment improved.

It's in place to mention here that after Pakistan summoned US diplomat over ambassador Gor's remarks in Srinagar, CM Omar had said that it was an issue between Islamabad and Washington and did not concern his administration.

Gor's comments have drawn attention in the region, particularly against the backdrop of continued differences between India and Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir.

India has consistently maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the country and that matters concerning the Union Territory are internal to India—(KNO)

Speaker visits Buzgoo, Nilnag; emphasizes faster tourism development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Charar-i-Sharief, Abdul Rahim Rather, Friday visited Buzgoo and Nilnag areas of the Charar-i-Sharief Assembly Constituency in Budgam district and interacted with the local residents to take stock of their developmental needs and concerns.

The development of Nilnag Lake was also discussed, with emphasis on developing the destination on the latest and sustainable model of tourism.

The Speaker stressed for adequate tourist facilities and related infrastructure so as to make Nilnag an attractive destination for the visitors while also benefiting the local population. He said that the region has immense potential to emerge as a major tourist destination and a source of sustainable livelihood and income generation for the local population.

He said that an amount of Rs 71 lakh is proposed to be spent during the current year for creation of tourism-related infrastructure, including parks, fencing, gates and walkways. The proposed works are aimed at improving the overall infrastructure and visitor experience in the area, he added.

The Speaker said that efforts would be made to



improve the connectivity between prominent tourist destinations, including through the development of the Barinibal Road connecting Yusmarg and Nilnag, enabling the tourists to conveniently visit and enjoy both destinations.

He said that a comprehensive development plan would be pursued for Nilnag and the entire adjoining tourism belt to ensure planned infrastructure development and enhanced facilities for the visitors.

The closure of tourist destinations, including Yusmarg, Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan, was highlighted as having an adverse impact on the local economy.

The Speaker asked the concerned authorities to review the decision in the larger public interest, keeping in view its impact on tourism-related activities, livelihoods and the local economy.

The Speaker added that

Bamilbal –Yusmarg and Dobal–Yusmarg roads shall also be explored on public demand, with a view to improve the connectivity and facilitate hassle-free movement of local residents as well as visitors to the area.

Rather said that Maharaja Road has been projected for development at an estimated cost of Rs 12 crore. The proposed development is expected to improve road connectivity and provide better access to the concerned areas. The macadamisation of the Nagam–Nilnag road shall be taken up shortly, with the work scheduled to commence within the stipulated timeframe. He directed that the concerned agency shall ensure early completion of the work so that the road is made traffic-worthy at the earliest.

The Speaker emphasized that link roads of Buzgoo shall be macadamised to facilitate hassle-free movement of residents and improve connectivity

within the area. Priority shall be accorded to roads requiring immediate attention, he added.

The Speaker also said that an amount of Rs 30 lakh has been provided for construction of a wall around the High School, with the work to be taken up on priority so as to provide a secure and suitable environment for students and staff.

Interacting with the local residents, Rather assured them that necessary facilities and infrastructure, particularly in the sectors of road connectivity, drinking water supply and tourism infrastructure, would be strengthened.

On drinking water facilities, he assured the residents that efforts would be made to provide an adequate and reliable drinking water supply under the Kalnag scheme, benefiting a large number of households in the area.

The Speaker informed that the balance work of water supply scheme will be started tomorrow and completed within one month.

The Speaker was accompanied by CEO, Yusmarg Development Authority, Riyaz Ahmad Beigh; SE, Jal Shakti Department, Shazia Majid; Executive Engineer, PHE Chadoola, Mohammad Younis, and other officers of line departments from Chadoola and Charar-i-Sharief Sub-Divisions.

NC-Cong biggest enemies of local self-government: BJP MLA Pathania

Says CM Omar led Govt delaying Panchayat, ULB polls deliberately

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Terming National Conference (NC) and Congress as the “biggest enemies of local self-government” in Jammu and Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania, on Friday accused the CM Omar led government of deliberately delaying Panchayat and Urban Local Body polls in the Union Territory.

Pathania said Jammu and Kashmir needs stronger local self-government. Slamming the Congress and National Conference over the delay in local body elections, he said the two parties should explain their position.

“Today, Ladakh has announced its local body elections. What has stopped Jammu and Kashmir? What is the obstacle?” he asked.

“The biggest enemies of local self-government in Jammu and Kashmir are the National Conference and Congress. They want people to suffer for a small drain, lane, pipe or road and come to them,” Pathania alleged.

He said the delay in Panchayat and ULB polls will be a major issue for the BJP in the upcoming session.

Launching a broader attack, Pathania said, “This is a government which has no commitment, no direction, no development philosophy. We will expose it and oppose it.”

He accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of being invisible on the ground. “We accept and acknowledge that Omar Abdullah is the elected Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. But on the ground, he is not visible. His government is fragmented,” he said.

Pathania accused the government of failing to fulfil its electoral promises.

“The government is not living up to its commitments made in its manifesto to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and commitments made on the floor of the Assembly,” he said.

On jobs, Pathania alleged, “They had promised one lakh jobs. Let us say they gave 25000, but the irony and duplicity is that they gave them through the back door to their own people and favourites. In the name of outsourcing, they have placed their workers, their people and their supporters in different departments.”

He accused the government of running a “transfer industry”. “If you look at transfers in the PWD and other departments, there is no rhyme or reason. People are transferred within two

months, while those who have completed eight years are left untouched. There is no unanimity, no common policy on transfers,” he alleged.

Pathania also criticised the government for keeping MLAs out of the loop on programmes organised in their constituencies. “There have been repeated complaints. It started from Jammu and then in Jammu North and other areas, where the Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated works without involving the local MLA.

An MLA is the elected voice of the people. Involving the elected representative is respecting the mandate of the people. If you do not involve him, it means the government is disrespecting and insulting the mandate,” he said, referring to such incidents in Handwara and his own constituency—(KNO)

Ajeet Sahu reviews progress of ADP, PMDDKY and PM SHRI in B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Union Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, who is also serving as the Central Prabhari Officer for the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) for Baramulla Friday presided a meeting to review the implementation and progress of ADP, Prime Minister Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) and PM SHRI School at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, Principal Government

Medical College Baramulla, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) and sector officers from concerned departments.

At the outset, the CPO Baramulla presented a comprehensive overview of the district's performance under 5 key indicators of the ADP, including Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Infrastructure.

During the meeting, the Central Prabhari Officer undertook a detailed review of the progress

achieved under the Aspirational District/Block Programme, with particular focus on key indicators, developmental outcomes and the interventions being undertaken to improve the socio-economic conditions of the identified areas.

Ajeet Kumar Sahu stressed the importance of outcome-oriented planning, inter-departmental convergence and regular monitoring to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Meanwhile, the meeting reviewed the implementa-

tion of the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana, aimed at strengthening agricultural productivity, improving access to agricultural infrastructure and services, promoting diversification and enhancing the overall income farmers.

The Joint Secretary directed the concerned officers to promote the adoption of high-yielding and improved crop varieties, particularly in the horticulture sector and other high-value cash crops, to enhance productivity, farm incomes and overall agricultural output in the district.

SKUAST-K conducts training programme for Tribal spice growers in Khag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: In an effort to extend agricultural outreach to remote and tribal regions, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), in collaboration with the Regional Office of the Spices Board, Srinagar, organised a one-day training and awareness programme for spice growers in the tribal area of Khag Drung in Budgam district.

The programme was led by Ashutosh Gautam of the Spices Board and Dr. Ambreen Nabi of SKUAST-Kashmir, KVK Budgam, and focused on strengthening farmers' knowledge of spice production, post-harvest management, quality standards, sustainable production practices and market opportunities.

During the inaugural session, Dr. Iram Farooq provided the participants with an overview of the objectives of the programme and the activities of the Spices Board. She also highlighted the outcomes of previous collaborations between the Spices Board and Krishi Vigyan Kendras, particularly in facilitating improved market linkages and expanding opportunities for farmers.

In the technical session, Ashutosh Gautam elaborated on the various activities and support mechanisms of the Spices Board. He apprised the participants about the existing schemes, eligibility criteria, application procedures, training opportunities and market linkage initiatives available to spice growers.

He also discussed improved production practices and post-harvest management of saffron and Kashmiri red chilli, besides sensitising farmers about organic production practices, the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), and the 8th edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

Min Rana reviews Wildlife department functioning, development initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Wildlife Department and the progress of various ongoing and sanctioned projects.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on projects sanctioned under CAPEX for the Pir Panjal and Chenab regions besides various development works at Jambu Zoo.

During the meeting, Javed Rana reviewed various developmental, plantation and conservation initiatives being undertaken across the Pir Panjal and Chenab Divisions under CAPEX. He emphasised the need for timely completion of all sanctioned works and activities while ensuring the highest standards of quality and sustainability.

Appreciating the efforts of frontline staff, the Minister encouraged them to continue working with dedication towards strengthening the department's conservation efforts and advancing its green mission.

The Minister reviewed the progress of infrastructure being developed at Jambu Zoo, including new and upgraded animal enclosures and specialised habitats for different species, along with facilities



ties for rescued wildlife. He stressed that all such works should be planned and executed with due emphasis on animal welfare, scientific management and conservation.

Detailed discussions were also held on the development of walk-through aviaries, a butterfly park and landscaped green spaces, as envisaged under the zoo's development and master planning framework.

The Minister called for ensuring that these facilities are developed in a manner that enhances both conservation and public engagement.

Javed Rana also reviewed arrangements for improving the overall visitor experience at the zoo, including walking tracks, battery-operated vehicle facilities. He directed the officers to explore further measures to increase visitor footfall and make Jambu Zoo a more attractive destination for families, students and tourists.

The Minister further called for exploring Smart City bus connectivity to Jambu Zoo to improve public transport access

and facilitate greater visitor movement.

Javed Rana emphasised that greater public engagement with the zoo would not only promote recreation but also help strengthen awareness about wildlife conservation and biodiversity and the development of Jambu Zoo as an important educational, recreational and tourism destination.

To strengthen preventive measures to address rising human-wildlife conflict, Forest Minister directed the introduction of safe, non-lethal deterrents to prevent wild animals from entering residential areas without causing them harm.

The Minister also called for identifying vulnerable locations, training local communities in safe response measures and strengthening rapid-response teams to deal with wildlife emergencies. He emphasised that protection of human lives and conservation of wildlife must go hand in hand, with prevention and community participation at the centre of the strategy.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER

NOWSHERA, SRINAGAR 190011

Tele/Fax No: 0194-2425954 email:- dshosrinagar27@gmail.com

Twitter handle:- @Sheepdist26375 FB Page: District Sheep Husbandry Office Srinagar

(Technical Section)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: LIVESTOCK INSURANCE UNDER NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MISSION (NLM)

Reference: DSHK-Plan/28/2021-05-1/772517/2026 Dated 20.08.2026

All livestock owners/farmers of District Srinagar belonging to the General Category are hereby informed that Livestock Insurance is being implemented under the National Livestock Mission (NLM) for the financial year 2026-27 for which this district has to cover 421 animals in the first instance. Interested and eligible livestock owners are advised to approach their concerned Sheep Development Blocks for registration, verification and further necessary formalities. Benefit of the scheme shall be provided on first cum first served basis.

NO:DSHO/Sgr/Tech/2026-27/1689-91 **DIPK-4835-26** **District Sheep Husbandry Officer**

Dated: 21/08/2026 **DT: 21/08/2026** **Srinagar**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

(JAL SHAKTI) IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL, DIVISION SUMBAL.

IRRIGATION COLONY, SUMBAL SONAWARI - 193501.

EMAIL: irrigationsonal2@gmail.com, ifedsumbal@gmail.com | Phone: 01954-230584

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Corrigendum to e-NIT No. 02 - I&FCD Sumbal of 2026 – 27 issued under No. 2230 – 38 Dt. 13-08-2026.

In continuation to the e-NIT No. 02 – I&FC Division Sumbal of 2026-27, issued under this office No. 2230-38 dated 13-08-2026, it is hereby notified that the following amendment shall be made with regard to the mode of submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and non-refundable Tender Document (TD) fee:-

- The tenderers who have already participated in the above-mentioned tender Prior to 21-08-2026 shall be governed by the conditions Stipulated in the original e-NIT, including the revised mode of submission of EMD/ TD fee.
- With effect from 22-08-2026, the earlier/old procedure of submission of EMD/ TD fee through physical deposit of CDR shall be restored and followed.

Accordingly, the tenderers Participating in the tender with effect from 22-08-2026 shall submit the requisite EMD in the form of physically deposited CDR/ TD Fee, as per the conditions of the tender.

All other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the aforesaid

No. IFCDs/CC/e-NIT/ 2349-52

Date: 21/08/2026.

DIPK-4851-26

DT: 21/08/2026

Yours Faithfully,

(Er. Umar Jan Bhat)

Executive Engineer

I&FC, Division Sumbal

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

JAL SHAKTI (I&FC) DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

IRRIGATION DIVISION TRAL.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: 07 of 2026-27,

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT J&K e-tenders (Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT Government for below mentioned works.

Date: 21/08/2026

Work Particulars

S. No	Name Of Work	Adv. Cost in Lacs	Earnest Money (Rs)	Class of Contract	Time of Completion (in Days)	Major Head/ Scheme	Position Of AA	Position of Funds
01	Restoration of Head Regulator of Medura Canal	4.90	9800/=	DEE	25	2702 M&R	Accorded	Budgetary Provision
02	Construction of outlet Regulator and Housing Chamber of Panner Storage Scheme	1.60	3200/=	DEE	20	2702 M&R	Accorded	Budgetary Provision

• **Tender Document Fee: ₹200/-**

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website <https://www.jktenders.gov.in> per schedule of date given below:

1.	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	21/08/2026 at 18:00 Hrs.
2.	Bid submission Start Date	21/08/2026 at 18:00 Hrs.
3.	Bid Submission End Date	11/09/2026 at 18:00 Hrs.
4.	Date & time of opening of Bids	12/09/2026 at 11:00 Hrs.

Note:

The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in the online submission of bids due to any reason whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to thoroughly read and understand the instructions provided in Annexure A as well as the General Conditions of Contract detailed in Annexure B, prior to submitting their bids. Submission of the tender shall be deemed as confirmation that the bidder has read, understood, and accepted all terms and conditions stipulated therein.

No:IDT/CC/1636-40

Date:21-08-2026

DIPK-4825-26

DT: 21/08/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

Irrigation Division Tral.

J&K Sports Council announces football selection trials for national championships



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has announced open selection trials for the selection of the UT's Junior Girls and Sub-Junior Boys football teams for participation in the National Football Championships 2026-27, being conducted under the aegis of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The divisional selection trials for the Junior Girls will be held on August 23 and 24 from 9 am at the Mini Stadium Synthetic Turf, Parade Ground,

Jammu, and the Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC Srinagar.

The UT-level trials for shortlisted players will be conducted at TRC Srinagar on August 26 and 27. Girls born between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012 are eligible to participate.

Similarly, the divisional selection trials for Sub-Junior Boys will be held on September 1, 2 and 3 from 9 am at the designated venues in Jammu and Srinagar. The shortlisted players will subsequently participate in the UT-level trials at TRC Srinagar on

September 7 and 8.

Boys born between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 are eligible to participate. All candidates must be residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Candidates have been advised to carry their original birth certificate, updated Aadhaar card, two passport-sized photographs and two photocopies of each document at the time of trials.

For further information, candidates may contact Javed Ahmad Sofi at 7006037351 or Ricky Kumar at 9149887665.

Inter-District Table Tennis Tournament concludes in Shopian



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: The Inter-District Divisional Level Table Tennis Competition for Under-14 Boys concluded successfully Friday with a grand closing ceremony, showcasing the exceptional talent, discipline and sportsmanship of young athletes from across the division.

District Kupwara secured the top spot by bagging 1st position in the championship, while District Srinagar

and District Bandipora achieved 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

The closing ceremony was graced by the District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Shopian, Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, who distributed trophies among the winning teams and praised all participants for their enthusiastic involvement.

Speaking on the occasion, the DYSSO congratulated the winners and acknowledged the relentless efforts of the

participating teams, officials, coaches, and staff in making the championship a grand success. He emphasized that sports play a vital role in instilling discipline, confidence, teamwork, and a healthy competitive spirit among young athletes.

The event concluded with the final distribution of trophies and appreciation awards, marking a successful end to the divisional-level sporting competition.

DC Budgam witnesses Volleyball Tournament Final at Aarath

Appreciates youth initiative; says Admin committed to promote sports



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday witnessed the final match of a volleyball tournament organised by the local youth at Aarath, Budgam.

The final was played between Safapora Ganderbal Club and Outlaw

Anantnag. A total of 16 teams from different areas participated in the tournament.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the organisers for providing a platform to young sportspersons. He said sports promote discipline, teamwork, leadership and

a healthy lifestyle, while providing youth with a positive avenue to channel their energy and talent.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration is committed to promoting sports and strengthening sporting infrastructure across Budgam. He said sustained efforts are being made to provide better facilities and opportunities to youth, encourage grassroots-level participation and identify emerging sporting talent across the district.

He encouraged young people to actively participate in sports and stay away from drugs and other harmful activities.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the organisers and participating teams on the successful conduct of the tournament and conveyed his best wishes to the players.

A large number of sportspersons, senior citizens, local residents, youth and officials were present on the occasion.

‘Govt aims to turn children’s passion into profession’: Satish Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma on Friday said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to create a robust sporting ecosystem where the children and young people can transform their passion for sports into a viable profession.

Satish Sharma was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the SKB Football Championship at Sports Stadium Naidkhai, organised by Kashmir Hunks and Thundrr FC. He said the government's responsibility is to provide talented youngsters with the right platforms, facilities and opportunities to pursue sports seriously and build a future around their sporting abilities.

“We want to ensure that children's passion for sports does not remain confined to the playground. Our aim is to provide



them opportunities so that they can make sports their profession,” Sharma said.

The championship commenced amid an enthusiastic response from the public, with a large gathering witnessing the opening encounter. The tournament provided young footballers with an important platform to show-

ing and ensure that talented sportspersons from every part of Jammu and Kashmir receive adequate opportunities to excel.

Satish Sharma said the government would continue to support initiatives that encourage greater participation of children and youth in sports, adding that sporting activities also contribute significantly towards discipline, teamwork, confidence and overall personality development.

The Minister appreciated the organisers, players and the local community for their efforts in promoting football at the grassroots level. He expressed hope that the championship would help identify promising footballing talent from the area.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, officials of the Sports Council and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Srinagar Defeats Bandipora in Opener

2nd Wular Smash Volleyball Cup 2026 Inaugurated in Sopore

BILAL DAR

SOPORE: The second edition of the Wular Smash Volleyball Cup 2026 was inaugurated Friday at the Sheikh-ul-Aalam Sports Ground in Tarzoo, Sopore, with organisers emphasising the need to channel youth energy into sports to combat growing social ills.

In the inaugural match, Srinagar defeated Bandipora, setting an exciting tone for the tournament that has drawn participation from multiple teams across the Valley.

The event was declared open by Mohammad Shafi, SHO Tarzoo, who attended as the chief guest. Other dignitaries present included Sajad Ahmad Wani, Abdul Ahad Rehmani, Bashir Ahmad Qasmi, Gulzar Ahmad, and Rahi Irshad.

Speaking to media, Chief Organiser Ishfaq Ahmad Dar said the sole objective behind the tournament is to keep youth away from drugs and other destructive influences. "As we all know how drugs and social evils have ruined our



young generation, sports is the only way out for their bright future," Dar said.

He added that this edition has witnessed increased participation and a conscious effort to promote sports beyond cricket and football. "We are focused on giving volleyball and other sports the recognition they deserve," he said.

SHO Tarzoo Mohammad Shafi, the chief guest, praised the organisers for their initiative. "It is great

to see sports being promoted where our young generation are being given the right platform. It is our collective responsibility to save them and work together to build a successful society," Shafi said.

Trade leader Mushtaq Ahmad, who also attended the event, hailed the tournament as a significant step for volleyball lovers in the region. "Teams from across Kashmir should participate so that it not only gives a boost to sports

but also provides a platform for youth to showcase their talent," he said. He also congratulated Ishfaq Dar and his team for their active role in promoting sporting activities.

The tournament is being organised by a team comprising Ishfaq Ahmad (Chief Organiser), Zahid Fayaz (Event Manager), and Mohammad Rafi Bhat (Coordinator). The event has been organised with the support of the J&K Sports Council.

DYSS Baramulla continues Inter-Zonal District-Level competitions in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), District Baramulla, continues its vibrant calendar of Inter-Zonal District-Level competitions and selection trials, providing young sportspersons with a dynamic platform to showcase their talent, competitive spirit and sporting excellence.

The ongoing sporting action unfolded simultaneously at the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla and Bipin Rawat Indoor Stadium, Baramulla, with enthusiastic participation of students from various Educational Zones of the district.

The Inter-Zonal District-Level Kabaddi Competition for Under-17 Boys formally kicked off at the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, with 13 Educational Zonal teams competing for honours. The young kabaddi players displayed remarkable energy, tactical awareness, discipline and determination, turning the arena into a vibrant spectacle of competitive sport.

INOX

SRINAGAR

MOVIE SCHEDULE

22 AUGUST 2026

BATWARA 1947

(HINDI)

01:10 PM

AWARAPAN 2

(HINDI) (U/A 16+)

12:20 PM 03:10 PM 06:00 PM

INSIDIOUS: OUT OF THE FURTHER

(ENGLISH) (A)

04:05 PM 08:20 PM

HINDI

10:55 AM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY

(3D ENGLISH) (U/A 13+)

01:45 PM

AWARAPAN 2

(HINDI ATMOS) (U/A 16+)

10:55 AM 04:40 PM 07:30 PM

PAW PATROL: THE DINO MOVIE

(ENGLISH) (U7+)

06:20 PM

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