

Good Morning

Kashmir

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₹96 Lakh Prize Purse Announced

IFFJK 2026 To Showcase 135 Films From 41 Countries



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir is all set to screen 135 films from 41 countries in its inaugural edition of the International Film Festival bringing the world of cinema to the UT from September 7 to 10, 2026.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday reviewed the final arrangements for the inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK 2026), directing all concerned departments and agencies to work in close coordination to ensure a seamless and memorable experience for filmmakers, artists, delegates and audiences.

The meeting reviewed the key features, participation, programming, venue arrangements, cultural presentations, publicity strategy and departmental responsibilities for the four-day festival, which is being positioned as a major international cultural and creative platform for Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Divisional Commissioners, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP (POS); Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Director, Information; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Director, Hospitality & Protocol; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir; Director, School Education, Kashmir; Director, Estates; Joint Director, Information Jammu/Kashmir; GM, NFDC and other senior officers of DIPR.

The Chief Secretary took detailed note of the arrangements being put in place for the successful conduct of the festival and directed the Divisional and District Administrations to remain fully geared up to ensure seamless, professional and glitch-free conduct of the marquee event.

He stressed **•P-06**

Providing Quality Health Care To Citizens Our Obligation: CM Omar

Calls For Strengthening Primary Healthcare To Realise J&K's Quaternary Healthcare Vision

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday called for a balanced and integrated healthcare strategy that combines the development of advanced quaternary care with strengthening of primary and secondary healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the valedictory function of the Quaternary Healthcare & Research Summit: 4th J&K Medical Conference-2026 at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), the Chief Minister said that while scaling tertiary healthcare into the fourth tier would enhance the capacity to provide highly specialised treatment, it must be accompanied by focused efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grassroots.

The three-day summit, held from August 25 to 27, was organised by the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, under the aegis of NITI Aayog, Government of India, in strategic collaboration with AIIMS New Delhi and



PGIMER Chandigarh, along with AIIMS Jammu and AIIMS Awantipora. The conference was themed "Scaling Tertiary into Quaternary Healthcare: A National Strategy for Advanced Care."

The Chief Minister said providing quality healthcare to citizens was one of the fundamental obligations of the government, adding that the medical profession was characterised by continuous learning, innovation

and advancement.

Referring to the concept of quaternary healthcare discussed during the summit, Omar Abdullah said the fourth tier could play an important role in decongesting tertiary care institutions. However, he cautioned that merely creating a higher tier would not adequately address the pressures confronting premier healthcare institutions unless the underlying gaps in the primary and sec-

ondary healthcare system were addressed.

"While there are certain aspects of quality care that can certainly be improved by upgrading SKIMS to a quaternary healthcare institution, the fact is that it will not resolve the pressures that SKIMS finds itself under. These pressures are not because of a top-down vacuum; they are because of a weakness at the foundation level," he said.

The Chief Minister observed that institutions such as SKIMS were essentially referral hospitals meant to cater to patients requiring highly specialised treatment. However, gaps at the primary and secondary levels often resulted in premier tertiary institutions having to undertake procedures and treatments that should ideally be available at lower levels of healthcare.

He cited routine surgical procedures such as gallbladder and appendicitis surgeries as examples of the burden being placed on tertiary institutions because of deficiencies in the lower tiers of the healthcare system.

"This defeats the **•P-06**

LG Sinha Greets People On Raksha Bandhan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, which is being celebrated today.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Heartiest greetings and best wishes to all on the sacred occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

The joyful festival celebrates the timeless bond between brothers **•P-06**

Congress Will Not Accept Ministerial Berths: Karra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Tariq Ahmad Karra on Thursday said the party would not accept ministerial positions in the Union Territory Government/

Addressing a gathering during a programme in Reasi, Karra said restoration of statehood had been the Congress's position from the outset and that the party would continue to adhere to **•P-06**

J&K To Remain Hot, Humid Over Next 10 Days: MeT



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre on Thursday predicted that Jammu and Kashmir would witness generally hot and humid weather over the next 10 days, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers at scattered places.

According to the forecast accessed, brief spells of rain or thundershowers are expected at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours from August 28 to 30.

The weather is likely to remain generally hot and humid on August 31 and September 1, with one or two spells of light to moder-

ate rain and thundershowers at many places. Brief intense showers are also possible during the early morning and afternoon hours.

From September 2 to 7, the weather is expected to remain generally dry, although brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at scattered places during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The Meteorological Centre has cautioned that brief intense showers at localised places on August 31 and September 1 may trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides.

It advised farmers to continue harvesting **•P-06**

Three More Arrested In Kishtwar Minor's Rape Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the recent Kishtwar case, involving the alleged rape, forced abortion, and subsequent death of a minor girl, has taken three more individuals into custody. These newly arrested suspects are accused of assisting the primary perpetrator in covering up the crime and are currently being interrogated.

Earlier, on August 21, the police had arrested the victim's teacher, Khalid Hussain Sheikh, who stands accused of raping and impregnating the student, along with his brother, who allegedly helped coerce the girl into undergoing the abortion procedure. Following these arrests, the Education Department placed Sheikh under suspension.

As part of their ongoing probe, the SIT has secured CCTV foot-



age from the Kishtwar hospital, where the minor was declared dead upon arrival.

Investigators have also recorded statements from roughly 20 individuals, including staff from the government school in the Chatroo area where the victim studied, as well as personnel from medical facilities suspected

of playing a role in the abortion.

In a parallel development, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued formal notices to the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, the Director General of Police, and the SSP of Kishtwar, demanding a response to their queries within a five-day deadline.

Northern Army Commander Reviews Security In South Kashmir



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Thursday reviewed security scenario and operational preparedness of the troops in south Kashmir, and directed them to remain proactive and mission-ready to sustain operational dominance.

During his interaction with the troops, the Army commander admired them for their professionalism and indomitable spirit.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, visited South #Kashmir to review the security environment and operational preparedness

of deployed troops. He was briefed on evolving security dynamics, operational challenges and measures undertaken to strengthen the security grid," the Army's Northern Command said in a post on X.

It said deliberations focused on technology integration for enhancing surveillance, intelligence and operational awareness to render a swift and decisive response to emerging threats.

"In a motivational interaction with the troops, the Army Commander commended them for their professionalism, high morale and indomitable spirit. He exhorted them to remain proactive, adaptive and **•P-06**

Exports Hit Rs 39,000 Cr

India's Defence Production Surged Four-Fold Since 2014: Rajnath Singh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday said the country is moving towards self-reliance in the defence sector as defence production has nearly quadrupled to around 1.8 lakh crore rupees and exports have surged to nearly 39,000 crore rupees over the last decade.

The Defence Minister made the remarks after laying the foundation stone of a 472-crore rupees facility for the overhaul of T-series battle tanks at the 57-year-old Vehicle Factory Jabalpur (VFJ), in Madhya Pradesh.

"Our Army is one of the most powerful forces in the world. T-72 and T-90 tanks



are extremely important for ground warfare. They stand like an iron wall on our borders," he said.

"Tanks act as a death knell for the enemy and also boost the morale of our soldiers deployed on the borders,"

Singh added.

Singh said the government has set a target of achieving defence exports worth 50 thousand crore rupees by 2028-29 fiscal. He said India was not only manufacturing weapons domestically but was

also developing the capability to maintain, overhaul and upgrade them.

He described the tank overhaul project as a major milestone for India's self-reliant industrial ecosystem. He added, the project would also open up employment opportunities for local people.

Expressing confidence that the facility would be completed on schedule and to high-quality standards, Singh said the upcoming project would overhaul 80 T-72 and T-90 tanks annually.

Singh said modern warfare was changing rapidly, with drones, missiles and other advanced technologies playing an increasingly important role.

"We need drones, **•P-06**

IPS Reshuffle

Sujit Kumar Appointed IGP Kashmir Zone

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor on Thursday ordered a major reshuffle in the Police Department, transferring and posting several senior IPS and JKPS officers, with Sujit Kumar, IPS, appointed as IGP Kashmir Zone and Tijendra Singh as IGP Jammu Zone.

As per Government Order No. 438-Home of 2026, dated August 27, M.K. Sinha, IPS (AGMUT: 1996), ADG HQ, has been transferred and posted as ADG CID J&K, replacing Nitish Kumar, IPS.

Nitish Kumar, IPS (AGMUT: 1999), has been transferred from ADG CID J&K and posted as ADG Armed Police J&K against an available vacancy.

Uttam Chand, IPS (AGMUT: 2002), IGP Police Operations & Services, Police Headquarters, has been **•P-06**

Nepal Floods Kill 270, Nearly 300 Indians Missing



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHMANDU: Rescue teams in Nepal raced against time on Thursday to trace hundreds of people still missing after devastating flash floods killed at least 270 people. Among those unaccounted for are 288 Indian nationals, with Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal saying nearly 300 Indian tourists were among thousands reported missing after the floods swept through parts of the Nepal-Tibet border.

The disaster also hit areas across the border in Tibet. Chinese Premier Li Qiang

visited Gyirong Township near the Nepal border post on Thursday, where 360 people were reported missing after a massive flash flood that caused heavy casualties. In another report, official media said as many as 588 people were missing in Tibet after a massive mudslide hit a border area with Nepal. The US Geological Survey said the Nepal flash floods were triggered by a glacial collapse, not by a 4.4 magnitude earthquake as reported earlier.

In Nepal, hundreds of people gathered outside hospitals on Thursday, searching for family **•P-06**

Implement Food Safety Regulations in all J&K Schools: FDA to Directors

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has called for strict and effective implementation of the Food Safety and Standards "Safe Food and Balanced Diets for Children in School" Regulations, 2020 in all government and private schools across Jammu & Kashmir.

In a communication addressed to the Directors of School Education, Jammu and Kashmir, the FDA has emphasized the need to ensure compliance with the provisions of the regulations, which seek to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and nutritionally balanced food in and around educational institutions and to safeguard the health and well-being of school children.

Regulation 3(5) mandates that the School Authority shall ensure that no person sells or offers for sale, including free sale, or permits the sale of food products high in saturated fat, trans-fat, added sugar or Sodium (Junk Foods) within the school premises or campus.

Further, Regulation 5(1) provides that no person shall advertise market, sell or offer for sale, including free sale, or permit the

sale of such food products within the school campus or to schoolchildren in an area within 50 metres from the school gate in any

Food & Drugs Administration J&K



Food & Drugs Administration J&K

direction.

The Regulation 3(1), provides where the School Authority itself sells or caters school meals on the school campus, or where Food Business Operators (FBOs) sell or cater food on the school campus or the concerned FBOs shall be registered/licensed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and shall comply with the prescribed sanitary and hygienic practices under Schedule 4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, along with the requirements relating to the Food Safety Display Board and Food Safety Supervisor(s).

The Regulations further require that designated meal times in schools shall be mandatory to inculcate healthy eating habits among children. It shall also be ensured that safe drinking water is provided free of cost to all students.

The Regulations define the School Authority as the Head of the Institution, including the Principal or Headmaster, along with the governing body, trust or any other entity responsible for the management and administration of the school and shall also have a system of regular inspection of food premises to ensure that safe, balanced and hygienic food is served to students.

The School Authority may appoint a Health and Wellness Ambassador or constitute a Health and Wellness Team, which shall act as nodal mechanism for monitoring the availability of safe, balanced and hygienic food in the school.

The FDA has accordingly called upon the School Education Department and the concerned School Authorities to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Regulations in all government and private schools across Jammu & Kashmir.

PM e-Bus Sewa

Jammu Takes a Giant Leap into Future of Green Urban Mobility

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) Thursday signed an agreement with PMI Electro Mobility Solutions Private Limited for the addition of 25 electric buses to Jammu's existing electric public transport fleet under the Government of India's PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar was also present on the occasion.

The agreement was signed by Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited Dr. Devansh Yadav on behalf of the Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir and COO – SPV Operations, PMI Electro Mobility Solutions Private Limited Chandra Kant Goyal.

The agreement marks an important milestone in scaling up Jammu's existing electric mobility ecosystem. Jammu Smart City Limited is already operating 100 electric buses in the city, and the addition of 25 more buses will further strengthen the public transport network and expand access to clean and sustainable mobility.

The initiative represents a continued commitment



to transforming Jammu into a cleaner, greener and future-ready city, where modern public transport keeps pace with the city's growth and evolving mobility needs.

As part of the programme, PMI Electro Mobility Solutions Private Limited made a detailed presentation before the Chairman, JSCL and Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, showcasing its electric bus products and apprising the senior leadership of the key features and passenger-oriented aspects of its mobility solutions.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, CEO, JSCL, also briefed the Chairman, JSCL and Divisional Commissioner

on the PM e-Bus Sewa project, the proposed fleet augmentation and the current status of the associated infrastructure, including the development of the Bhagwati Nagar Depot.

The new electric buses will be operated from the Bhagwati Nagar Depot, which is currently being developed by Jammu Smart City Limited as a dedicated electric bus and mobility facility.

The Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir laid the foundation stone for the Bhagwati Nagar Depot earlier this month, marking the beginning of another important piece of mobility infrastructure for Jammu.

The development of the depot, together with the

expansion of the electric bus fleet, reflects JSCL's integrated approach towards building the next generation of public transport infrastructure in Jammu. The facility will provide the supporting ecosystem required for the growing electric bus network and will play an important role in strengthening public transportation in the city.

While speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner said that the expansion of electric public transport is an important step in supporting Jammu's rapid growth and improving the quality of urban mobility for its citizens. The addition of these buses, along with the development of the Bhagwati Nagar Depot, will strengthen the city's public transport infrastructure and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable Jammu. We must continue to focus on mobility solutions that are efficient, accessible and aligned with the future needs of the city, he added.

Dr. Devansh Yadav said "Jammu has already embarked on its journey towards electric mobility. Today's agreement takes that journey further by adding 25 more electric

buses to our existing fleet. With the development of the Bhagwati Nagar Depot, we are also creating the infrastructure required to support the next generation of public transport in Jammu. Together, these initiatives represent a significant step towards building a cleaner, smarter and more future-ready city."

He added that strengthening public transport is an important part of Jammu's ongoing urban transformation and will contribute towards providing citizens with better, cleaner and more sustainable mobility options.

Chandra Kant Goyal, COO – SPV Operations, PMI Electro Mobility Solutions Private Limited, said: "PMI Electro Mobility is pleased to partner with Jammu Smart City Limited in further strengthening Jammu's electric public transport network. We are committed to supporting the city's journey towards sustainable and modern mobility and to delivering a high-quality mobility experience for the people of Jammu."

Under the PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme, 25 electric buses have been allocated to Jammu, with the present agreement marking their implementation in the city.

JKEDI conducts Startup Idea Challenge 2.0

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organised a series of Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 and Junior-Level Idea Challenge boot camps across Jammu and Kashmir from August 24-27, 2026 as part of its ongoing efforts to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and a startup culture among the youth.

The programmes were held at Government Degree College for Women, Pulwama; Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Amira Kadal, Srinagar; NIPS, Zainapora, Shopian; Government Degree College, Kulgam; Government Degree College, Sopore; and Government College for Women, Parade, Jammu. The initiatives were conducted under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, offering students and aspiring entrepreneurs a platform to present innovative ideas, seek expert guidance and explore pathways to transform their concepts into viable startup ventures.

More than 45 participants pitched their ideas before a jury, which encouraged them to further develop and pursue their innovative concepts. The ideas covered diverse areas, including sustain-



able Waste Management, AI, Agriculture and other emerging sectors.

Innovation was a key focus of the boot camps, with participants encouraged to think creatively, identify local challenges and develop practical solutions with the potential for wider social and economic impact. The sessions highlighted the importance of innovation in turning ideas into sustainable enterprises and creating new opportunities for employment, growth and community development.

The participants also interacted with academics, banking officials and entrepreneurs, gaining valuable insights into entrepreneurship, business development and the practical challenges faced by startups. Experts provided feedback on refining and validating their ideas and offered guidance on

developing them into sustainable business ventures. Interactive question-and-answer sessions were also conducted during the boot camps, enabling participants to clarify their concerns and gain a better understanding of real-world issues associated with establishing and running enterprises.

The boot camps further familiarised participants with the provisions and opportunities available under the J&K Startup Policy, while providing exposure to mentorship, idea validation, incubation and other forms of startup support.

JKEDI reiterated its commitment to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level and strengthening a supportive ecosystem for youth-led startups across Jammu and Kashmir.

Wildlife Deptt holds Awareness Programme on Human-Wildlife Coexistence

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir, through the Office of the Wildlife Warden, Shopian Wildlife Division, Thursday conducted a Workshop-cum-Orientation Programme on "Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Wildlife Management" at Khangund Range, Satoora Aripal.

The programme was organised in collaboration with Wildlife SOS under the theme "Promoting Coexistence Through Conservation, Capacity Building and Scientific Wildlife Management."

The event, held under the broader banner "Bridging the Gap – Understanding and Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict," brought together Wildlife Department officials, field staff, conservation partners from Wildlife SOS, and members of the local community, including village heads and residents of areas affected by recurring wildlife encounters. The programme aimed to strengthen coordination between the Wildlife Department and local communities while building practical, science-based capacity for conflict mitigation.

Assistant Conservator



of Forests and Wildlife Warden, Shopian, Sohail Ah Wagay, spoke on the objectives of the programme and the importance of community participation in strengthening coordination between local residents and the Wildlife Department.

During an awareness session on human-wildlife conflict led by Aaliya Mir, Head of Wildlife SOS and Member, UT Wildlife Board, discussed the causes of conflict, wildlife behaviour, the reasons behind wildlife movement into human habitations, and preventive, community-based approaches to coexistence.

Dr. Mohsin Gazi, Departmental Veterinary Officer, Wildlife Protection Department, J&K, conducted a capacity-building and technical training session for field staff and participants, covering safe handling and rescue techniques for wildlife in distress.

Participants were sen-

sitised on precautionary measures to reduce conflict, including keeping surroundings clean and properly disposing of waste, using secure fencing around farms and orchards, using solar lights or noise deterrents to humanely keep wildlife away, and promptly reporting wildlife sightings or incidents to the Department. Residents were also advised against feeding or luring wildlife, using firecrackers, poisons or other harmful methods, setting snares or traps, and encroaching upon or degrading wildlife habitats.

The Department of Wildlife Protection reiterated its commitment to community-centred conservation and stated that such awareness and orientation programmes will continue to be organised across the Shopian Wildlife Division to promote safer coexistence between residents and wildlife.

JKEDI organises Capacity Building Programme on MSME Health Clinic

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the leadership of Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, JKEDI, a one-day Capacity Building Programme was organized on MSME Health Clinics at its Sempora, Pampore campus Thursday, aimed at enhancing the capacity of field-level officials to assess the overall health, sustainability and potential stress factors affecting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The programme brought together Industry Promotion Officers (IPOs) from the District Industries Centres (DICs), Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) officials from Mission YUVA, and District Nodal Officers (DNOs) of JKEDI.

The sessions provided participants with a practical understanding of the MSME Health Clinic framework and equipped them with tools and

techniques to identify early warning signs of financial, operational and other forms of business stress. The programme highlighted the importance of timely assessment and intervention in ensuring the long-term sustainability of MSMEs.

A key component of the programme was the introduction to a data-driven approach for assessing the health of enterprises. Participants were familiarised with various indicators, including GST turnover and filing patterns, EPFO compliance, electricity consumption and payment trends, Udyam-related data and key financial parameters. The sessions stressed that individual indicators should not be viewed in isolation; rather, multiple parameters need to be analysed together to identify patterns and understand the underlying causes of enterprise stress.

The programme also fea-

tured case-study-based exercises, allowing participants to apply the concepts in practical scenarios. Through these exercises, officials analysed the health of MSMEs, connected different data points, identified early warning signals, assessed the severity of emerging stress and explored appropriate corrective measures.

The interactive sessions and discussions provided participants with an opportunity to strengthen their analytical and field-level capabilities while gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges confronting MSMEs. The programme concluded with an emphasis on adopting a proactive, evidence-based and field-oriented approach to MSME support. Such an approach can help identify emerging challenges at an early stage and facilitate timely interventions before they develop into serious financial or operational distress.

ADDC Shopian reviews implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Complex, Shopian, to evaluate the progress and implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) across the district.

The meeting focused on resolving critical field-level bottlenecks, addressing lingering functionality issues within the Power Development Department to ensure seamless, reliable power supply to consumers across District Shopian.

Addressing the meeting, the ADDC emphasized the importance of strict adherence to timelines and quality standards. He directed the executing agencies and contractor firms to expedite ongoing civil and electrical works and ensure smooth inter-departmental coordination to achieve 100% saturation of targets within the stipulated timeframe.

The ADDC emphasized that quality execution and active monitoring are vital for ensuring sustainable and long-term strengthening of the district's power distribution system. Clear instructions were issued to ensure project management authorities complete field evaluations and submit comprehensive status reports before issuing final clearances.

VC JKLCMA takes on-site assessment of cleanliness around SKICC, Lalit Ghat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Vice Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Thursday undertook an extensive on-site assessment of the areas around SKICC and Lalit Ghat in connection with the forthcoming 1st International Film Festival, scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026.

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by Collector LCMA and other senior officers during the inspection.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman reviewed the cleanliness and overall maintenance of the designated areas and directed the concerned field staff to undertake necessary cleaning measures on priority. He stressed the need to ensure that the surroundings of SKICC and Lalit Ghat remain clean, well-maintained and presentable ahead of the international event.

For the special cleanliness drive, four machines, including three harvesters and one Water Master, have been deployed. The machinery will facilitate the removal of aquatic weeds and other floating material, thereby improving the overall appearance and water surface conditions around the designated areas.

The Vice Chairman called for timely completion of all cleanliness-related measures and emphasized sustained monitoring of the area to maintain high standards throughout the festival period.

The JKLCMA has reiterated its commitment to ensuring clean and well-maintained surroundings at the venues and adjoining areas, in view of the participation of national and international guests in the 1st International Film Festival.

CM Omar Abdullah reviews drainage system of Srinagar City

Directs time-bound action to strengthen drainage infrastructure

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the drainage sector of Srinagar city, with a focus on addressing waterlogging, strengthening stormwater infrastructure and putting in place both immediate and long-term measures to improve the city's drainage resilience.

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Fazlul Haseeb gave a detailed presentation on the drainage profile of Srinagar and outlined a comprehensive five-year integrated roadmap to address the key infrastructural and environmental challenges affecting stormwater management in the city.

The presentation highlighted that Srinagar currently has around 680 km of stormwater deep drainage network, while the city faces a deficit of nearly 2,500 km of drain length in view of future development envisaged under Master Plan 2035. Around 15 per cent of the existing stormwater network is presently not functioning at optimum hydraulic capacity due to inadequate drain dimensions, ageing infrastructure, silt deposition and solid-waste ingress. The



review also highlighted the impact of rapid urbanisation on the city's natural drainage system and stressed the need for conservation and restoration of remaining natural drainage corridors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that, to the best extent possible, the drainage system must be strengthened so that the city does not face inundation after few hours of rainfall.

He directed SMC to adopt the proposed short-term measures as its Standard Operating Procedure and ensure its timely implementation. He further directed that whenever an alert regarding high precipitation is received, SMC should immediately activate these measures to minimise waterlogging and mitigate its impact.

"While these measures will help address some of the immediate problems,

the major challenge is infrastructure," the Chief Minister said, directing the SMC to proceed with the proposed long-term interventions, engage a competent agency and prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR).

He stressed that the DPR and proposed interventions should form part of the overall drainage plan rather than becoming a standalone emergency measure. He directed SMC to take all concerned departments on board and, once the DPR and financial requirements are finalised, work out the funding mechanism, including resources available with the departments.

The Chief Minister also emphasised the need for a sustained citizen awareness campaign, particularly regarding disposal of solid waste, plastic bottles and polythene bags. He observed that polythene bags are a

major cause of choking in the drainage system and called for greater public participation in keeping drains free from waste.

The proposed immediate measures include cleaning and de-silting of existing drains, clearing blockages, daily lifting of solid waste, prioritising missing links, installation of mechanical screens in large open drains and ensuring backup power for dewatering stations. Long-term interventions include construction of additional dewatering stations, segregation of sewerage and stormwater networks, upgradation of old and natural drains, prevention of encroachments and conservation and rejuvenation of lakes.

The proposed integrated programme is to be implemented in two phases over five years, with priority accorded to commercial and densely populated areas followed by low-lying areas.

Adv Wani visits far-flung areas of Kupwara; reviews Dev issues

Directs officers to execute works on war footing ahead of winter season

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Thursday visited the far-flung area of Moorie in Kalaroose of Lolab Sub-Division to take stock of the developmental issues and problems being faced by the people of the area.

The Advisor was accompanied by SE R&B Circle Kupwara, ACD Kupwara, ACP Kupwara and other officers of the concerned departments.

During the visit, the Advisor visited Sona Pend village in Moorie, where several residential houses and a mosque were damaged in a recent cloud-burst.

Interacting with the affected residents, the Advisor said that the government has announced special assistance for restoration and rehabilitation of the affected families and infrastructure.



During his day-long tour, the Advisor also inspected the identified land near Lastiyal Bridge in Kasba Kalaroose, proposed for establishment of a Sports Stadium. He directed the Executive Engineer, Sports Council Srinagar, to initiate the construction work within a week positively.

Nasir Aslam also interacted with various public delegations from Moorie, who apprised him of

their day-to-day developmental issues, including road connectivity, water supply, ration and other basic amenities. He assured them that their genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for timely redress.

On the occasion, the Advisor directed the concerned officers to accord top priority to the issues of the far-flung and hard-to-

reach areas. He asked them for ensuring execution of developmental works on war footing, particularly in view of the approaching winter season.

Nasir Aslam undertook a detailed tour of various villages and hamlets, including Sona Pend Gali, Narizeb, Ladah, Kothiyan, Nagsri, Thayan Gujran, Moorie and adjoining areas. He took stock of the developmental requirements of the local population.

Earlier, the Advisor chaired a meeting of concerned officers at Sogam and sought detailed feedback regarding the progress of ongoing developmental works and the major issues requiring immediate attention.

ACD Kupwara, ACP Kupwara, AD Food, Executive Engineer Sports Council and other senior officers and representatives of various departments attended the meeting.

Div Com reviews Proposed Road Projects for Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Thursday chaired a meeting to review various proposed road projects for Srinagar aimed at improving urban mobility, easing traffic congestion and strengthening the city's transportation network.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, Chief Conservator of Forests, Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Chief Engineers of I&FC and R&B, and officers from PHE, NHAI, Police, Traffic and KPDCI, among other concerned departments.

At the outset, the Superintendent Engineer, PWD, presented replies to the observations raised during the previous meeting regarding the proposed Parimpora-Dalgate Flyover, along with a detailed analytical report on the project.

While reviewing the report, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Commissioner SMC to submit the final report of the com-



mittee constituted under his chairmanship to assess the project's likely impact on traffic decongestion and improved mobility.

He instructed to incorporate assessments, concerns and inputs from all stakeholder departments regarding the flyover.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized that the project should be evaluated through a comprehensive and integrated assessment, taking into account its impact on the overall transportation network rather than examining it in isolation. He stressed the need for detailed technical and stakeholder evaluation before taking the project forward.

The meeting also reviewed the proposed Ring Road Part-III, particularly the stretch passing through

the city from Lasjan to Pandach. The Divisional Commissioner examined the comparative statement of the three alternative alignments proposed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

He further reviewed the observations made by the I&FC Department and the Cantonment Board regarding the proposed 8-km flyover component from Lasjan to Dalgate.

On the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Chief Engineer, I&FC, to convene a meeting with NHAI to deliberate upon the proposed alignment and associated technical aspects, with particular emphasis on ensuring that the project does not pose any threat to the embankment of River Jhelum.

KVK G'bal organizes Capacity Building Workshop on Agrivoltaics

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ganderbal, SKUAST-K, organized a one-day Capacity Building Workshop on Agrivoltaics in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Bengaluru, to create awareness and strengthen the technical capacity of farmers and other stakeholders on the emerging integration of agriculture with solar photovoltaic technology.

The workshop focused on the potential of agrivoltaic systems to enable simultaneous crop production and renewable energy generation from the same land, thereby promoting efficient resource utilization, diversification of farm income and climate-resilient agriculture.

The session commenced with an introduction by Dr. Faiqa Syeed, Scientist, KVK Ganderbal. Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Malik, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Ganderbal, emphasized the potential of agrivoltaics as a promising approach for sustainable agriculture, renewable energy generation, and additional income opportunities for farmers, particularly amid rising energy demands, climate variability, and increasing pressure on agricultural land.

Int'l Film Festival of J&K DIPR announces cash prizes across nine categories



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major initiative to recognise and encourage excellence in filmmaking, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has announced cash prizes across nine distinct award categories during the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026, scheduled to be held from 7th to 10th September 2026 at SKICC Srinagar, gulmarg and jammu.

The awards are aimed at celebrating creative excellence, technical craftsmanship, individual performances and emerging cinematic talent, while providing a significant platform of recognition to the filmmakers and artists participating in the inaugural edition of the festival.

The Best Film award carries the highest prize of Rs. 25 lakh, recognising the outstanding cinematic work of the festival. The Best Director and Best Debut Film of a Director categories carry a cash prize of Rs. 15 lakh each, underlining the festival's emphasis on both established creative leadership and new voices in cinema.

Giving special prominence to the cinematic iden-

tity of Jammu and Kashmir, DIPR has announced a Rs. 10 lakh cash prize for Best Film – J&K Select, aimed at recognising the compelling cinematic works connected with Jammu and Kashmir and highlighting its rich cultural, social and artistic landscape.

The DIPR will also honour excellence in acting during the festival, with Rs. 8 lakh each proposed for Best Actor (Male) and Best Actor (Female).

Recognising the crucial role played by technical and creative crafts in filmmaking, the department has proposed Rs. 5 lakh each for Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design and Best Editing.

The award framework reflects the DIPR's endeavour to create a meaningful ecosystem of recognition for the filmmakers across different dimensions of cinematic excellence.

The cash prizes seek to appreciate the creative achievement, individual performance, technical craftsmanship and regional talent, making the inaugural IFFJK not merely a celebration of films but a platform for acknowledging the diverse artistic contributions that bring cinema to life.

CM Omar extends greetings on Raksha Bandhan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

In his message, the Chief Minister described Raksha Bandhan as a cherished festival that celebrates the bond of love, affection and mutual respect between brothers and sisters.

He said the festival reflects the enduring values of family bonds, trust, care and responsibility that strengthen the social fabric of society.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that the occasion would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to every household and further strengthen the spirit of unity, harmony and brotherhood among people across Jammu and Kashmir.

Budgam initiates programme for eye check-ups of school children



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Thursday launched a comprehensive Children's Eye Health Programme for school-going children across the district.

The programme has been launched by the District Administration Budgam in collaboration with Nayanika Eye Care Charitable Trust and Help Foundation J&K, with the objective of ensuring early detection and timely treatment of vision-related problems among students enrolled in Government schools. Under the initiative, approximately 1.67 lakh students studying in 917 schools across the district will be covered through a comprehensive eye screening programme.

As part of the programme, preliminary eye screening of students will be conducted at the school level through the Snellen Eye Chart test. After initial screening, all those identified with vision related difficulties will be rescreened and assessed at District and Sub-District hospitals. All those kids requiring spectacles will be provided free of cost and those requiring surgical or other specialised treatment will be facilitated for same at GMC and other tertiary care eye hospitals. Following the examination, the required lens power and other specifications will be determined and recorded by the concerned medical professionals. The Nayanika Eye Care Charitable Trust and Help Foundation J&K will facilitate the provision of the required spectacles free of cost to needy students identified under the programme.

Speaking at the outset, the Deputy Commissioner said that the initiative has been launched with the objective of ensuring that no child is left behind in education due to undetected or unaddressed vision-related difficulties. He said that timely identification and correction of visual impairments are essential to enable children to participate effectively in classroom learning and other educational activities. He further stressed that every possible effort would be made to ensure that vision-related difficulties do not adversely affect the education, overall development and future prospects of any student.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Nayanika Eye Care Charitable Trust, Help Foundation J&K, Education Department, Health Department and school teachers in implementing the initiative at the grassroots level.

Among others, those present on the occasion included ADC Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Chief Education Officer Budgam, Chief Medical Officer Budgam, all Zonal Education Officers, Block Medical Officers, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Budgam, and Principals of Higher Secondary Schools of the district.

Speaker holds public outreach camp at Hardu Dalwan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Thursday convened an extensive public outreach programme in Charari Sharief constituency at Hardu Dalwan to listen to the grievances, issues and developmental demands of the people.

During the camp, the local residents and public representatives apprised the Speaker of various issues concerning road connectivity, water scarcity, electricity along with basic amenities and other developmental requirements of the area. The Speaker assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for redress in a phased and time bound manner.

Rather emphasized that regular interaction with the public is essential for



ensuring that development priorities remain aligned with the actual needs of the people. He said that concerted efforts would be made to resolve the highlighted issues through the concerned departments.

The Speaker urged the people to continue providing constructive feedback regarding developmental works and public services. He said that active public participation and cooperation are vital for achieving balanced and sustainable development across the constituency.

During his tour, the Speaker visited the Government Higher Second-

ary School, Hardu Dalwan and assessed the facilities and requirements of the institution.

On the occasion, the students presented a colourful cultural programme, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm.

During his interaction with the students, teaching staff and school management, the Speaker took detailed feedback on functioning of the institution. The school management apprised him of the need for adequate desks and benches and provision of smart-class facilities to enhance the learning environment for the students.

Relief Com reviews implementation of Special Relief Ration Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) Dr Arvind Karwani Thursday convened a meeting to review the implementation of the ration distribution in terms of the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants notified vide Government Order No.15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2026 dated 05.03.2026 and extension of benefits of social sector/welfare schemes to eligible migrants, after integration of their ration cards on the national database.

The meeting was attended by the officers from the Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Relief Organization and National Informatics Centre, Delhi and J&K. Besides, Camp Commandants, Zonal Officers and territorial Tehsildars were also present.

It was apprised that more than 26,000 migrant ration cards have already been punched into the NFSA database and that FCS&CA is distributing three months ration (August to October) and the said period of distribution has fur-



ther been extended beyond 31st August, 2026, till September.

The technical issues being faced by some beneficiaries in the ration distribution were deliberated and the National Informatics Centre was asked to redress these on priority. It was decided that the officers of FCS&CA and the Relief Organization shall take proactive steps to reach out to all households and ensure ration supply to all migrant beneficiaries.

It was also decided that the extensive IEC campaign shall be continued on the ground to make migrants aware about various welfare schemes of the Government and that the integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database is purely a welfare-oriented governance reform aimed

at inclusion of migrants into the mainstream welfare architecture, extension of social security benefits, digitization and modernization of records, transparency and accountability in beneficiary management, ensuring the continuation and protection of all the existing relief provisions/guidelines/entitlements available to Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants. More than 4000 eligible migrant families have so far been facilitated through intensive IEC campaign aimed at door to door reach out and regular special outreach camps. More than 2500 families have already availed benefits of the social sector schemes like old-age pension, widow pension, disability pension and marriage assistance etc.

■ India's Space Revolution

Private Enterprise Fuels A New Scientific Power

LALIT GARGG

India's space journey is no longer confined to government institutions and scientific laboratories. Today, it has evolved into a powerful convergence of innovation, entrepreneurship, young talent, private capital and global ambition, giving India fresh momentum on its path to becoming a major space power. The decision to open the space sector to greater private participation under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a decisive milestone in this transformation.

An arena once viewed largely through the lens of government control and institutional limitations is now witnessing the emergence of hundreds of young enterprises, boldly pursuing new possibilities with their ideas, technologies and entrepreneurial spirit. Prime Minister Modi's interaction with and encouragement of Indian private space entrepreneurs is not merely an event; it is a powerful articulation of the direction of India's future. His vision of making India a global magnet for space talent, investment and entrepreneurship reflects the country's rapidly expanding role on the world stage.

India's achievements in space have an extraordinary history. Despite limited resources, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) demonstrated remarkable scientific discipline, self-reliance and determination, earning global admiration. The journey that began with Aryabhata progressed to the Mars Orbiter Mission, while the Chandrayaan missions demonstrated India's growing capability to explore the Moon. Chandrayaan-3 created history by making India the first country to successfully land in the Moon's southern polar region.

This was not merely a scientific triumph; it was a testament to Indian talent, technological confidence and the nation's ability to turn seemingly impossible challenges into achievable goals. The Mars Orbiter Mission, achieved at a remarkably low cost, showcased India's capability in inter-planetary exploration. Aditya-L1 took India's ambitions in solar research to a new level, while the Gaganyaan programme, aimed at sending Indian astronauts into space, signals the country's next major leap. This entire jour-



ney has made one thing clear: India is no longer merely following global achievements in space science; it possesses the capability to establish new benchmarks of its own.

The natural next step in this journey is greater private-sector participation. Following reforms in the space sector, the emergence of around 440 space-tech startups in India reflects the depth of this transformation. Some are engaged in satellite manufacturing, others are developing launch-vehicle technologies, while several are working in cutting-edge areas such as space-based data analytics, artificial intelligence, Earth observation, communications, weather forecasting and space-debris management. Skyroot Aerospace has taken a historic step towards private-sector rocket launches, while Agnikul Cosmos has demonstrated through indigenous technology and modern manufacturing methods that Indian private enterprises can establish themselves even in the highly complex field of space launches. These efforts are changing the very perception of space as an exclusive domain of scientific institutions. It is increasingly becoming a new frontier for young entrepreneurs, employment, research, investment and global business.

The most significant aspect of this transformation is that space is no longer merely about achievements in the sky; it is increasingly becoming an instrument for improving life on Earth. Satellite-based services can enhance agricultural productivity, monitor crops, identify water resour-

ces, provide accurate weather information, support fisheries and forest conservation, and strengthen disaster management. During natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, droughts and landslides, satellite-derived information can make rescue and relief operations faster and more effective. Space technology can also play a crucial role in expanding communication and digital services in villages and remote areas. India's space programme, therefore, is no longer merely a matter of scientific prestige; it is becoming a powerful engine of social transformation and economic development.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the space sector appears to be rooted in precisely this broader perspective. His ambition is not merely to make India a country capable of reaching space but to establish it as a leading force in the global space economy. He wants global talent to see India as a destination, Indian youth to enter the sector with innovative ideas, and India to emerge as a trusted hub for global space companies and investors. Such a vision can give a new direction to India's economic strength. In the coming years, the space economy will become increasingly intertwined with communications, weather forecasting, defence, agriculture, transportation, energy, disaster management and digital services. The countries that establish technological leadership in this domain will inevitably strengthen their economic as well as strategic influence.

Yet, while the opportunities before

private space enterprises are immense, the challenges are equally formidable. Space technology requires enormous investment in research and development. The risks associated with launch failures are far greater than in most conventional industries. Highly complex technology, stringent safety standards, specialised human resources and long-term investment requirements make the sector exceptionally demanding.

Therefore, the government's role cannot be limited merely to framing regulations. It must create policies that encourage innovation, provide private enterprises with access to testing and research facilities, strengthen collaboration between research institutions and industry, and sustain investor confidence. Institutional mechanisms such as a single-window system for the space sector and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) are creating an important foundation for this transformation.

Another major opportunity for India lies in connecting its traditional strengths of cost-effectiveness and efficiency in space technology with the global market. India has already demonstrated that it can deliver high-quality space services at comparatively low cost. If this capability is combined with the speed, innovation and risk-taking capacity of the private sector, India can capture a significant share of the global market in small-satellite launches, satellite manufacturing, space-based data and other space services. This would not only generate foreign-exchange earnings but also create large numbers of high-skilled employment opportunities.

Here, ISRO's experience represents invaluable capital for India's emerging space enterprises. The knowledge accumulated through decades of scientific endeavour, along with expertise in launch technology, satellite manufacturing and mission management, can serve as a powerful source of guidance for the country's young space companies. If government institutions and private enterprises develop a culture of collaboration alongside healthy competition, India's space capabilities can multiply manifold. The government's responsibility is to open the pathways; scientific institutions must share knowledge and experience; and the pri-

vate sector must bring speed, innovation and market-orientated dynamism. The synergy of these three forces can propel India to unprecedented heights.

Prime Minister Modi's call for creating an environment in which young people from around the world aspire to build their future in India's space sector expresses a new Indian ambition in the global competition for talent. This is not simply a goal of increasing the number of rockets or satellites launched. It is a vision of transforming India into a global centre for space-based knowledge, technology and economic activity. In the years ahead, India's success in space will not be measured merely by how many satellites it launches or how many rockets it sends into orbit.

The real test will be how effectively space technology improves the lives of Indian farmers, students, entrepreneurs, soldiers, scientists and ordinary citizens. India's space journey has now reached a stage where the sky is no longer the limit—it is an expanding field of opportunity. From the lunar triumph of Chandrayaan-3 to Aditya-L1's journey towards the Sun, from the historic success of the Mars Orbiter Mission to preparations for human spaceflight, and from government institutions to private startups undertaking launches, India has travelled an extraordinary distance. The next chapter must be even more ambitious. Scientific curiosity must be connected with entrepreneurship, public policy with private-sector energy, and Indian talent with global opportunities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the space sector seeks to provide direction to precisely this convergence. India has already demonstrated its capabilities, from Earth to the Moon. The challenge now is to leave an equally enduring imprint in space through scientific excellence, economic strength, technological innovation and human leadership. This new space odyssey can become a vital link between the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) and the larger aspiration of a Viksit Bharat (developed India) and can ultimately establish India as a space power whose achievements the world will remember for generations.

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Climate Change And The Future Of Himalayan Ecosystem

BASIRAT GUL

The Himalayas are one of the world's most important mountain systems. They are home to high mountain peaks, glaciers, forests, rivers, grasslands, wetlands and diverse plant and animal species. Millions of people depend on the Himalayan region for water, farming, forests, tourism and electricity. Major river systems such as the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra are closely connected with the Himalayan region. However, climate change is now creating serious problems for this fragile ecosystem. Rising temperatures, melting glaciers, changing rainfall patterns, floods, landslides and cloudbursts are becoming major threats. Recent floods and landslides in Assam and Jammu and Kashmir, and particularly Poonch, show the dangers associated with extreme weather and environmental vulnerability.

Climate Change in the Himalayas

The concept of climate change refers to changes in weather patterns, including rainfall and temperature. The climate in the Himalayas is being characterised by rising temperatures that are affecting glaciers, forests and fauna. Glaciers are very important because they act as a store of fresh water that is eventually released into the rivers in the form of ice. Rising temperatures imply that glaciers will melt very fast, which may cause temporary flooding but a shortage of water in the future.

Effects on the Himalayan Ecosystem

The Himalayan ecosystem includes forests, rivers, glaciers, grasslands, wetlands and diverse wildlife. Climate change can disturb all these parts. Warmer temperatures may force some plants and animals to move towards higher areas. If species do not adapt fast, their chances of survival are going to be lower.

Forests are an integral part of mountain ecosystems. They play an important role in keeping the soil intact and in holding rainwater. The absence of forests on mountain slopes leads to soil erosion and instability of terrain, particularly in rainy weather.

Human activities can therefore



make the effects of climate change worse. Unplanned construction, deforestation, mining and the destruction of wetlands can reduce the natural ability of the Himalayan environment to absorb and manage extreme weather events.

Melting Glaciers and Water Resources

Himalayan glaciers are often called natural water stores. Melting glaciers form rivers used for domestic, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes. Continued melting of glaciers will make the river water supply irregular in terms of quantity and timing.

Another danger of glacier melting is the creation of glacial lakes. Meltwater can collect behind weak natural barriers near glaciers. If such a lake suddenly bursts, a huge amount of water can rush downhill. This is called a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood, or GLOF. Such floods can damage bridges, roads, houses, farms and power projects within a very short time.

Recent Floods in Assam

The floods in Assam in 2026 provide an important example of the growing danger of extreme weather in the Brahmaputra river system. Severe monsoon rainfall caused the Brahmaputra and other rivers to overflow. By August, more than 100 people had died in Assam's floods, while hundreds of thousands of people had been affected or displaced.

The flooding began with extremely heavy rainfall in July. Many villages were submerged, farmland was damaged, and livestock were lost. Roads and other infrastructure were also affected. In some places, residents reported that floodwater rose extremely quickly, leaving little time for people to escape.

Experts have pointed out that climate change is not the only reason for the destruction. Deforestation, sand mining, loss of wetlands, urbanisation and unplanned development can make floods more severe. Better early-warning systems, protection of wetlands and floodplains, scientific planning and proper evacuation systems are therefore needed.

Recent Floods in Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir also faced a severe spell of heavy rain, cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides in July 2026. Water levels in rivers and streams rose quickly, causing damage to roads, buildings and other infrastructure. The news included reports of death and destruction in various parts of the region.

These incidents posed a serious risk in the mountain regions since water can flow downhill very fast. Heavy rainfall can result in large volumes of water and mud being channelled to the valleys below.

The Poonch Flood and Landslide Case

Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir was

one of the areas badly affected by the July 2026 extreme weather. On 19-20 July, torrential rain triggered flash floods and landslides in Poonch and nearby areas. At least 11 people were initially reported killed in Poonch, while others were reported missing. Houses were damaged and roads and communication links were affected.

One of the most tragic incidents occurred in the Poonch district when a landslide buried a house and killed seven members of a family, including two children. Rescue teams, security personnel and local people worked together to search through the debris. The wider spell of heavy rain across Jammu and Kashmir had already caused many deaths and widespread destruction.

The Poonch tragedy shows the special risks faced by people living in mountain villages. Heavy rainfall, steep slopes, weak soil and damaged vegetation can combine to create sudden landslides. It also shows why safe construction, forest protection, early warnings and quick rescue arrangements are necessary in Himalayan areas.

Impact on People and Wildlife

Climate change is not only an environmental problem; it is also a serious human problem. The residents of the Himalayas usually rely upon agriculture, livestock, forests, and tourism. Floods and landslides may cause damage to crops, homes, roads, and bridges. The loss of animals as well as livelihoods may occur for families. Some people have to move from their places to safer places due to such natural disasters.

Wildlife in the region is also adversely affected. The change in temperature and precipitation can result in modification of forests and habitats. The cutting of forests along with fragmentation of habitats due to road construction leads to the loss of habitat for animals.

What Can Be Done?

The future of the Himalayan ecosystem depends on the actions we take today. First, forests must be protected, and more native trees should be planted. Healthy forests help hold soil together and reduce the speed of rain-

water flowing down mountain slopes. Second, development in the Himalayas must be carefully planned. Roads, houses, dams, hotels and other projects should not be built in high-risk flood and landslide areas. Environmental rules should be followed properly.

Third, early-warning systems should be improved. People living in vulnerable villages should receive warnings about heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides as early as possible. Shelters, evacuation routes, and rescue forces should be prepared well ahead of time before the disasters strike.

Furthermore, wetlands, rivers, and natural floodplains need to be preserved. They can serve as natural storage for the surplus water. Governments, scientists and the local community need to join hands in comprehending changes in weather patterns and future disasters.

Finally, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to limit further global warming. Greater use of renewable energy, conservation of forests, and wise management of natural resources can play an important role in combating global warming.

The Himalayas are a globally important and highly mountainous ecosystem. Climate change is bringing warmer temperatures, melting glaciers, changing rainfall and more dangerous weather conditions. The 2026 floods in Assam and the deadly flash floods and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir, including Poonch, show that these dangers are already affecting people.

The future of the Himalayas depends on protecting its forests, glaciers, rivers, wildlife and communities. Climate change cannot be stopped by one person or one country alone. Governments, scientists, local communities and common people must work together. With better planning, strong environmental protection, early-warning systems and responsible development, we can reduce the risks and help protect the Himalayan ecosystem for future generations.

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IFFJK 2026 To

the importance of close inter-departmental coordination and directed all concerned agencies to discharge their assigned responsibilities efficiently and in unison.

Emphasizing the significance of the inaugural edition, Atal Dulloo called upon the NFDC to make special efforts to bring a larger number of acclaimed filmmakers, actors and other prominent personalities from the film fraternity to Jammu & Kashmir.

In addition to that the detailed roles and responsibilities of the concerned departments and agencies were also discussed during the meeting. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the success of such a major international event would depend on seamless coordination, timely execution and a shared sense of ownership among all stakeholders.

The Chief Secretary directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure that every aspect of the festival from hospitality and protocol to venue management, security, civic amenities, transportation, cultural programming and public outreach is handled with professionalism and efficiency.

He underscored that the festival is envisaged as an annual international event from this year onwards, and therefore its inaugural edition should establish high standards of organisation, programming and audience engagement.

Giving a detailed presentation on the festival, Director Information & Public Relations, Shreya Singhal, highlighted the extensive international participation secured for IFFJK 2026. She highlighted that the inaugural edition will showcase an expansive lineup of 135 films representing 41 countries, bringing together diverse cinematic traditions, storytelling formats and creative voices from across the world.

Adding that India leads the country-wise participation with 64 films, followed by France with 13 and Iran with 8. Argentina and Spain will contribute four films each, while Brazil, Germany, the Russian Federation and the United States will have three films each.

A further group of countries, including South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Qatar, Colombia and Türkiye, among others, will each contribute curated films, giving the festival a distinctly global character.

A major attraction of the inaugural festival will be its proposed 96 lakh total prize purse, distributed across nine award categories to recognise excellence in filmmaking and cinematic craft.

The Best Film award carries the top prize of 25 lakh, while Best Director and Best Debut Film of a Director will carry 15 lakh each. Reflecting the festival's special focus on the region, the Best Film – J&K Select category carries a prize of 10 lakh.

The performance categories of Best Actor (Male) and Best Actor (Female) carry 8 lakh each, while the technical categories of Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design and Best Editing carry 5 lakh each.

The award structure, she said, has been designed to celebrate artistic excellence as well as the diverse creative and technical dimensions of filmmaking.

Adding a distinctive visual and experiential dimension to the festival, a Floating Screen on the waters of Dal Lake near SKICC is also being installed as part of the festival experience.

The initiative is expected to provide an iconic setting for film screenings while showcasing the unique cultural and natural landscape of Jammu & Kashmir to visiting filmmakers, artists and delegates from across India and abroad.

The Director Information also elaborated on the festival's masterclass programme, which will provide aspiring filmmakers, students and cinema enthusiasts an opportunity to engage directly with leading professionals from the industry.

The three-day master class series will feature acclaimed director Vidhu Vinod Chopra celebrated editor Namrata Rao, Veteran sound designer Baylon Fonseca in addition to Chittranjan Tripathi from NSD, Supriyo Sen (IDPA), Anil Mehta and many others from the film industry. A workshop too by canon is planned where it will showcase latest camera gadgets and equipments to students and enthusiasts.

The meeting was also briefed about the proposed participation of prominent national and international film personalities, jury members and members of the Steering Committee.

Details of live performances planned for the opening and closing ceremonies were also shared. The cultural programme will feature leading national and local artists, with performances designed to showcase the rich, diverse and vibrant cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir alongside contemporary artistic expression.

The meeting was further briefed about the publicity and branding strategy being undertaken through social media, national and local media platforms, as well as outdoor promotional campaigns, aimed at generating wider public engagement and building anticipation around the festival.

With its diverse international film selection, substantial prize purse, leading industry master classes, participation of eminent personalities and unique cultural programming, IFFJK 2026 is set to provide Jammu & Kashmir with a new global platform for cinema, creativity tourism promotion and cultural exchange as envisaged as the outcomes of this festival of international repute.

Providing Quality

purpose of the entire three-tier model of tertiary, secondary and primary healthcare,” he said, stressing that strengthening the foundation of the healthcare system was essential for the successful functioning of both tertiary and quaternary institutions.

Omar Abdullah welcomed the conference held under the aegis of NITI Aayog and described the participation of leading institutions such as AIIMS New Delhi, PGIMER Chandigarh and J&K’s own institutions as an important opportunity for meaningful collaboration.

He expressed hope that the engagement would translate into sustained cooperation, knowledge-sharing and institutional partnerships, particularly as J&K works towards strengthening its advanced healthcare ecosystem in line with the vision of a developed India by 2047.

The Chief Minister said the government would have to remain equally focused on ensuring access to good-quality basic healthcare beyond the two major urban centres of Jammu and Srinagar.

“We need to ensure good quality healthcare in rural J&K. I am not saying that we can either target or expect to provide SKIMS quality care in rural J&K. That is not the aim. But what we need to be able to ensure is that we can provide good quality basic healthcare beyond the two twin capital cities of J&K,” he said.

He said a combination of strong primary and secondary healthcare services with an advanced level of specialised quaternary care would place Jammu and Kashmir in a stronger position to meet the healthcare needs of its people.

The Chief Minister also underlined the importance of ensuring that patients from J&K do not have to travel outside for advanced treatment. He recalled that SKIMS was established with the fundamental objective of providing the most needy patients with the best possible healthcare within J&K.

“That is what we hope going ahead as SKIMS transitions from tertiary care to the fourth tier,” he said, assuring that the government would make every possible effort, within the financial limitations of J&K, to provide SKIMS with the infrastructure required for its next phase of development.

Omar Abdullah said infrastructure remained one of the principal factors determining the ability of healthcare institutions to retain and attract highly skilled professionals. He expressed confidence in the quality of human resources available in J&K, saying its doctors, nurses and paramedical staff were second to none.

“Our human resource is second to none. Our nurses, our paramedics and more than anything else our doctors are the best that you will find,” he said.

Highlighting the presence of J&K-trained doctors in every continent around the world, particularly in the Gulf and Middle East, the Chief Minister said many professionals were compelled to seek opportunities outside of J&K because of limitations in facilities and infrastructure.

He called for a concerted effort to create conditions that could facilitate a “reverse brain drain”, enabling doctors from J&K working outside to return and contribute to the healthcare system in their home state.

“How do we ensure that we provide the best possible facilities, the best possible infrastructure so that we can create a situation where tomorrow there is a reverse brain drain? Instead of exporting our doctors from J&K, we start welcoming many of them back to our own shores,” he said.

The Chief Minister said achieving this objective would strengthen both tertiary and quaternary healthcare in J&K and contribute significantly towards building a self-reliant and advanced healthcare system.

He also emphasised that the recommendations emerging from the summit should move beyond being a theoretical exercise and be translated into action on ground, practically .

“I hope that the recommendations are not only a theoretical exercise but are put in a shape where they can be given practical implementation,” he said.

Omar Abdullah said the summit had provided a valuable platform for collaboration among premier healthcare institutions, NITI Aayog, policymakers, clinicians and researchers, and expressed hope that the deliberations would result in tangible improvements in healthcare delivery and advanced medical services in J&K.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister released the book “Platinum Pearls in General Surgery Super Specialities” and the souvenir “SKIMS Journey of Transforma-

tion.” He also presented awards to nine winners of the Quiz Competition, Poster Presentation and Oral Presentation categories.

Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Masood Itoo, MLA Pampore Retd Justice Hasnain Masoodi, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Director SKIMS Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Dean SKIMS Medical College Prof. Dr. Fazlul Q. Parray and Organizing Co-Chair Prof. Dr. Aejez Ahsan Baba were present on the occasion.

Former Directors of SKIMS, faculty members, officers of SKIMS and officers and officials of the Health and Medical Education Department also attended the valedictory ceremony.

The summit brought together leading medical institutions, clinicians, researchers, policy makers and healthcare professionals to deliberate on advanced care, research, institutional collaboration and the roadmap for scaling tertiary healthcare into a quaternary healthcare ecosystem.

LG Sinha Greets

and sisters. The sacred thread of rakhi symbolizes unconditional love, affection, and trust. May the auspicious occasion further strengthen societal ties, deepen the spirit of unity and togetherness across all sections."

Congress Will Not

it until Jammu and Kashmir regained its full statehood.

His remarks come amid discussions over the Congress potentially joining the National Conference-led JK Government.

Karra reiterated that restoration of statehood remained a key demand of the Congress and indicated that the party’s position would not change unless the Union Territory was granted full statehood.

The statement sets out the Congress’s position on participation in the JK Council of Ministers while keeping the restoration of statehood as a condition for accepting ministerial office.

J&K To Remain

and other agricultural operations while keeping local weather conditions in view.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 29.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16.7 degrees Celsius on Thursday. Qazigund recorded 27.2 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 24.7 degrees, Kupwara 30.1 degrees, Kokernag 26.8 degrees and Gulmarg 20.3 degrees as the maximum temperatures.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 33 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 24.3 degrees, while Banihal recorded 30.1 degrees, Batote 25.9 degrees, Katra 30 degrees, Bhaderwah 29.1 degrees and Kathua 33.1 degrees.

Udhampur received the highest rainfall of 51 mm during the past 24 hours, while Kathua recorded 24.2 mm of rain, according to the weather bulletin.

The MeT centre said people, particularly those living in vulnerable areas, should remain alert during periods of intense rainfall—(KNO)

Northern Army Commander

mission-ready to sustain operational dominance," the Northern Command added.

India's Defence

missiles, artillery, electronic warfare systems and modern tanks. Our soldiers should have both tanks and drones, with effective coordination between the two," he said.

The upcoming facility in Jabalpur would further strengthen India's capabilities in this direction, Singh added.

He said, the Indian Army requires the overhaul of around 230 such tanks every year. He added that the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) at Avadi currently overhauls around 150 tanks annually, and the new facility at VFJ will bridge the remaining shortfall, the defence minister said.

VFJ, Established in 1969, initially produced Shaktiman 3-tonne vehicles in collaboration with Germany's MAN, as well as Nissan 1T and Jonga vehicles in collaboration with Japan's Nissan Motors Co.

The factory complex is spread over 330 acres, while its adjoining estate covers another 600 acres, officials said.

Sujit Kumar

transferred and posted as IGP Railways, J&K, vice Vivek Gupta.

He will also continue to hold the additional charge of IGP Police Operations & Services, PHQ, till further orders.

Bhim Sen Tutl, IPS (AGMUT: 2004), IG Jammu Zone, has been transferred and posted as IG Headquarters, J&K, against

an available vacancy.

Sujit Kumar, IPS (AGMUT: 2007), IG Security J&K, has been transferred and posted as IGP Kashmir Zone against an available vacancy.

Consequently, Vivek Gupta, IPS (AGMUT: 2007), IGP Railways, J&K, has been transferred and posted as IGP Security J&K, vice Sujit Kumar.

Tejinder Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2008), IG CID J&K, has been transferred and posted as IG Jammu Zone, vice Bhim Sen Tutl.

Shakti Kumar Pathak, IPS (AGMUT: 2009), has been designated as Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Among other postings, Mubassir Latifi Ameer, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), DIG Personnel, PHQ, holding additional charge of DIG Training, PHQ, has been transferred and posted as DIG IR Kashmir against an available vacancy.

Sahil Sarangal, IPS (AGMUT: 2017), SSP Handwara, has been transferred and posted as SSP Pulwama, while Sunny Gupta, IPS (AGMUT: 2020), Addl SP Anantnag, has been posted as SSP Kishtwar vice Naresh Singh.

ahir Saleem Khan, JKPS (2001), SO to IGP Kashmir Zone, has been transferred and posted as SSP Handwara, vice Shri Sahil Sarangal.

Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, JKPS (2004), SSP SCW Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as SO to IGP Kashmir Zone, vice Saleem Khan.

Naresh Singh, JKPS (2004), SSP Kishtwar, has been transferred and posted as SSP Rajouri against an available vacancy.

The transfers and postings have been ordered in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

The order has been issued by the Home Department with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor and signed by Principal Secretary to the Government, Chandraker Bharti, IAS.

Nepal Floods Kill

members and friends who had gone missing. Rescue teams continued to search riverbanks and downstream areas for those still unaccounted for.

Authorities also stepped up relief efforts. More than 40 charter flights by private helicopters took off from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport on Thursday to carry relief supplies to flood-affected areas, including Rasuwa. Nepalese authorities also arranged alternative power sources for affected regions, where electricity supply has been disrupted after extensive damage to power projects, and said solar power banks would be distributed.

The scale of the devastation was reflected in accounts from survivors. Giri Lal, whose wife and four children were swept away when floods hit Timure in Nepal's Rasuwa district on Wednesday, said, "Nothing is left."

With the death toll rising and large numbers still missing in Nepal and Tibet, rescue and relief operations continued on Thursday as families searched hospitals and authorities tried to reach badly affected areas with supplies and alternative power support.

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Javid Dar calls for farmer-centric approach to boost horticulture in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday called for a focused, farmer-centric strategy to harness the vast horticultural potential of Jammu division, enhance farm incomes and transform horticulture into a more productive and remunerative economic activity.

The Minister was speaking at an interactive session with the farmers organised by the Department of Horticulture Jammu at Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo, here. He was the chief guest occasion and MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta was the guest of honour.

Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed, Director Rural Development Jammu Shanaz Akhter, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Sanjay Gupta, senior officers of the Horticulture Department and allied departments besides farmers attended the programme.

The interaction provided a direct platform to the farmers to share their concerns, difficulties and suggestions regarding the horticulture sector. The farmers highlighted issues related to incentives, availability of quality planting material, market support and measures required to improve production, productivity and profitability.

Responding to the concerns, Javid Dar assured the farmers that their genuine issues would be



examined and addressed through coordinated interventions. He stressed that the department must maintain continuous engagement with the farming community so that policies and schemes are aligned with the ground realities and emerging needs.

On the occasion, Javid Dar released the Handbook of the Department of Horticulture Jammu, a practical reference document for farmers containing information on modern horticultural practices, departmental schemes, technologies and other farmer-oriented interventions. He also distributed sanction letters under various components of different Horticulture schemes among the eligible beneficiaries.

The initiative will facilitate the farmers in availing departmental assistance and undertaking horticultural activities in a systematic and commercially viable manner.

In another farmer-oriented initiative, the Minister flagged off buses carrying farmers for an educational and exposure visit to Government Fruit Plant Nurseries in Jammu and Samba. The visit is aimed

at providing the farmers with practical exposure to modern nursery management, quality planting material, scientific fruit production and advanced horticultural technologies.

As part of the exposure programme, the farmers will also visit Krishi Vigyan Kendra Samba, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jammu, SKUAST-Jammu and Chakroi Farm, where they will observe field demonstrations, modern technologies and best practices that can be replicated at the farm level.

The Minister subsequently chaired a meeting of the Department of Horticulture Jammu and reviewed implementation of various schemes, programmes and farmer-oriented interventions.

The Minister directed the officers to intensify enforcement against the sale and distribution of fake and spurious pesticides and ensure stringent quality control in the market. He called for regular inspections and effective monitoring mechanisms to safeguard farmers from substandard agricultural inputs and protect horticultural production.

Javid Dar also laid special

emphasis on regulating the agencies involved in supply of planting material. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that only quality and certified planting material reaches the farmers and that suppliers strictly adhere to prescribed standards. He called for strengthening the government nurseries and expanding the availability of quality fruit plants at subsidised rates.

The Minister said that development of a robust nursery infrastructure and timely supply of healthy planting material would be crucial for improving productivity and accelerating the expansion of modern horticulture in Jammu division.

Calling for a scientific assessment of horticultural potential, the Minister directed the department to identify areas best suited for fresh and dry fruit cultivation. He stressed the need for location-specific and crop-specific plans based on agro-climatic conditions, available resources and market demand, so that farmers can be encouraged to adopt crops offering better and sustainable returns.

Javid Dar reviews functioning of Agricultural Department

Inaugurated Seed Separation, Processing unit at Chinor farm

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday chaired a review meeting of the Agriculture Department at Talab Tillo, Jammu. He reviewed the physical and financial progress of various schemes and programmes being implemented across Jammu division.

The meeting held detailed and threadbare deliberations on implementation of Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), NABARD works and Jammu and Kashmir Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP) besides other UT funded initiatives.

Director Agriculture, Jammu, Anil Gupta, gave a detailed presentation on district-wise progress of ongoing

projects, fund releases and expenditure under different schemes.

The Minister also took stock of the current year's financial performance and reviewed the crop-wise area, production and productivity achieved during 2025-26. He directed the officers to maintain strict focus on timely utilisation of funds and ensure that all ongoing projects are executed within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised that implementation of government schemes must be closely monitored at every level so that their intended benefits reach farmers without delay.

Giving special emphasis to the quality and regulation of agricultural inputs, the Minister directed the concerned officers to establish a dedicated enforcement toll post at Lakhanpur to ensure strict adherence to the rules governing fertilizers, pesticides and seeds. He called for intensified enforcement and regular

field inspections to prevent the movement and sale of substandard, spurious or unauthorised agricultural inputs. He also directed the senior officers to undertake frequent field visits and personally monitor the agricultural activities and enforcement measures.

The Minister stressed that protecting the farmers from poor-quality inputs must remain a priority. He called for effective coordination among the concerned agencies to ensure strict implementation of the prescribed regulations.

Describing agriculture as the "backbone of our economy," Javid Ahmad Dar said that strengthening the agriculture sector is crucial for improving farmers' incomes, generating rural employment, ensuring food security and giving a further boost to the rural economy. He called upon the officers to adopt a result-oriented and farmer-centric approach, with greater

emphasis on modern technology, scientific interventions, field-level monitoring and efficient delivery of government schemes.

Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, Managing Director JKHPMC Dr Farooq Ahmad Dar, Joint Directors, Chief Agriculture Officers of Jammu division and other senior officers and concerned officials attended the meeting.

Later, Javid Dar visited Agriculture Farm Chinor, where he inaugurated the Seed Separation and Processing Unit, a significant addition to the farm's seed production and processing infrastructure. The facility is designed to facilitate the systematic cleaning, grading, processing and treatment of harvested seed lots. This will help in removing foreign matter, weed seeds and damaged or inferior kernels and thereby improving seed purity, quality and germination potential.

ADC Sopore Felicitates Tonga Rally Participants

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SOPORE: Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina Thursday felicitated the tonga riders and officials who participated in the Tonga Rally organised during the Tiranga Rally as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

During the felicitation ceremony, the ADC presented mementos and

certificates of appreciation to the participants in recognition of their enthusiastic participation and contribution to the event. Appreciating their efforts, the ADC said that the participation of tonga riders added a distinctive traditional and cultural touch to the celebrations. He commended their enthusiasm and cooperation, which contributed to making the rally vibrant and memorable.

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE SALEEM JAHANGIR AND ASSOCIATES.

In the case of : Burhaan Ayoub Wani
S/o Mohammad Ayoub wani R/o Sempora Panthachowk
2. Tanzeela Mushtaq
W/o Burhaan Ayoub Wani R/o Sempora Panthachowk Srinagar (Caveators)
Vs
Public at large (Non-Caveator)

In the matter of: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of CPC
The Caveators have reasons to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveators may file any suit, Application, Appeal, Petition or any other type of proceedings before this Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief / order at their back/ in ex parte against the Caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that Caveators are given Opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order .

Sd/-
Advocate

NAME CORRECTION

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that i have changed my name in my aadhar bearing no : 479901634833 (from) Jameela, daughter of Abdul Jabar Dar, resident of Rahmoo, Pulwama to Gulshan, daughter of Abdul Jabar Dar, resident of Rahmoo, Pulwama. Now I want to correct it. Any person having any objection in this regard may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, J&K

SDA Colony Bemina Srinagar/ Ashok Vihar Janipur Jammu

Fax(K) 2493376, (J) 2531731, (K) 25389807, (J) E-mail: jandk-des@jk.gov.in

Subject: - Final Seniority List of Statistical Assistants of J&K Economics & Statistics (Subordinate) Service as on 01.07.2026.

ORDER NO. 267 - DES OF 2026

DATED: 25-08-2026

Whereas, Rule-11 of SRO 252 J&K Economics & Statistics (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 1989 read with SRO 03 of 2005, provides for maintenance of updated and Final Seniority of members of the service strictly as per J&K Civil Services (Classification Control & Appeal) Rules 1956;

Whereas, the Directorate of Economics & Statistics has notified the Tentative Seniority List of Statistical Assistants viz. UT Cadre, Divisional Cadre Jammu and Divisional Cadre Kashmir as on 01.01.2026 vide Circular No. 01-DES of 2026 dated 10.02.2026 for inviting objection(s), if any, from the members of the service within the stipulated time period from the date of the issuance of the Circular with documentary proof in support of their claim;

Whereas, some representations/ objections were received by the Directorate against the Tentative Seniority List of Statistical Assistants viz. UT Cadre, Divisional Cadre Jammu and Divisional Cadre Kashmir which have been examined and considered;

Whereas, necessary changes have been incorporated in the seniority list wherever required as warranted under rules on the basis of objections/ representations which were found valid and those found devoid of any merit were rejected and reasons for the same have been intimated to the concerned applicants accordingly; and

Whereas, the candidate(s) who have submitted resignation or who have left the job without intimation to the department (Annexure 'A') are excluded from the list and action as warranted under rules is being initiated in respect of those, separately followed by termination of lien from E&S service.

Now, therefore, without prejudice and subject to the outcome of writ petition, if any, pending in the Court of Law, the Final Seniority List of Statistical Assistants (UT Cadre, Kashmir Division Cadre & Jammu Division Cadre) borne on the J&K Economics & Statistics (Subordinate) Service as on 01.07.2026 is hereby issued forming Annexure-I, II & III to this Order.

The Final Seniority List is also available on the official website of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, J&K i.e. www.ecostatjk.nic.in for information of concerned members of the service.

No. DES-HRM/32/2025-08/2848-55
Dated: 25.08.2026

(Ashu Gupta)
Director General,
Economics & Statistics, J&K

DIPK-5026-26
DT: 27/08/2026

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT BIJBEHARA

Merit/Tentative Selection list who have applied for the post of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper's) of Anganwadi centres advertised vide Notice No:07 of 2026 Dated: 20.06.2026 followed by Re-Advertisement Notice No: 06 of 2026 Dated: 17.06.2026 is shown below for wide publicity for general public for objection, if any then objection should be submitted to the office of Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Bijbehara within 10 days from the date of Publishing of the below mentioned tentative Merit list

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/Spouse Name	Residence	Date of Birth	AWC for which Provisionally Selected/ Tentative	Ward	Qualification	Max Marks as per 10th class	Marks Obtained	%age	Addl.02 points as per HR Policy	Total Merit	Remarks
1.	Neelofar Jan	D/o Mohammad Shafi Khan W/o Shah Nawaz Ahmad Khan	Lehenda-gen	20.04.1996	Lehendagen "A"	8	10th	500	227	45.40%	0	45.40%	Tentatively Selected
2	Rafia Hafeez	D/o Hafizullah Sheikh W/o Adil Mehraj Haji	Khiram	01.03.1989	Khiram "B"	4	10th	500	226	45.20%	0	45.20%	Tentatively Selected
3	Matlooba Akhter	D/o Abdul Rashid Bhat W/o Sheikh Fayazul Hassan	Khiram	28.10.1991	Khiram "B"	4	10th	500	198	39.60%	0	39.60%	
4	Rukena Akhter	D/o Gh Mohd Naikoo W/o Mudassar Ahmad Bhat	Wopzan	07.11.1991	Wopzan "E"	6	10th	500	307	61.40%	0	61.40%	Tentatively Selected
5	Aasirah Jan	D/o Abdul Gani Wani W/o Sajad Hussain Dar	Wopzan	09.04.1995	Wopzan "E"	6	10th	500	244	48.80%	0	48.80%	
6	Anjum Shaheen	D/o Mohd Afzal Khan W/o Bilal Ahmad Bhat	Waghama	02.12.1994	Waghama "H"	3	10th	500	233	46.60%	0	46.60%	Tentatively Selected
7	Tabasum Yousuf	D/o Mohammad Yousuf Mantoo W/o Rayees Ahmad Dass	Waghama	05.06.1990	Waghama "H"	3	10th	500	222	44.40%	0	44.40%	
8	Irfat Jan	D/o Ghulam Mohamad Ganai W/o Rizwan Ahmad Reshi	Waghama	04.02.1991	Waghama "H"	3	10th	500	210	42.00%	0	42.00%	

No: CDPO/Poshan/Bij/2026-27/447-56
Dated: 27/08/2026
DIPK-5052-26
DT: 27/08/2026

Sd/=
Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Bijbehara
Member Secretary

CMYK

Khelo India Samvaad held in B'la; Youth Engage in Nationwide Interaction with PM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: As part of the National Sports Day 2026 celebrations, a Khelo India Samvaad , “Khel Ki Baat, PM Modi Ke Saath” was held in Baramulla Thursday, providing young participants an opportunity to connect with the nationwide youth engagement programme and listen to Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s address through video conferencing.

Organised under the aegis of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), the initiative brought together youth, sports enthusiasts and MY Bharat volunteers to deliberate on the role of sports,

fitness and youth participation in nation-building.

The Prime Minister addressed young participants through video conferencing and highlighted the importance of developing a fit, disciplined and sporting nation while encouraging youth to contribute their ideas and aspirations towards building a Viksit Bharat.

The Samvaad focused on key themes including strengthening India’s sports ecosystem, nurturing talent with an eye on the 2036 Olympics, promoting youth leadership and volunteering, empowering young people with future-ready skills, and advancing the Nasha Mukti Yuva movement.

The programme also provided a platform for young participants to share their perspectives and aspirations, while highlighting the role of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork, leadership and a healthy lifestyle.

The nationwide initiative seeks to place youth aspirations at the centre of India’s sporting and development journey and encourage greater participation of young people in nation-building.

The event concluded with a renewed call to the youth to embrace sports and fitness, develop leadership qualities and actively contribute towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Khelo India Samwav held at GDC Ganderbal; Students Interact with PM Modi through virtual mode



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The NSS Units of Government Degree College (GDC), Ganderbal, organised “KHELO INDIA SAMVAD – Khel Ki Baat, PM Ke Saath”, a youth interaction programme, on Thursday under the aegis of MYBharat and the NSS, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

The programme commenced with the National Anthem, followed by a welcome address, NSS pledge and a virtual introduction of MYBharat volunteers. The highlight of the event was a virtual interaction with the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, held from

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The programme also featured the screening of a Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) video, MYBharat registration, the VBLYD Idea Box Quiz and an interactive question-and-answer session with the moderator and sports personalities.

Around 150 students, NSS volunteers, faculty members and officials participated in the event. Distinguished participants included Ms Afreen, sportsperson; Ms Saima Jan, sports coach; Dr Jamsheeda Akhter, MYBharat Nodal Officer and NSS Programme Officer; Dr Mansha, NSS Programme Officer; Dr Ravinder Kour, Sports Director; and Mr Wasil Ayoub, Guest of

Honour representing the MYBharat team.

Dr Rafiq Ahmad, Senior Professor, addressed the gathering, while Ms Hadika moderated the interactive session. The programme was coordinated by Dr Jamsheeda Akhter and Dr Mansha Nisar.

The event concluded with the NSS Coordinator’s address, remarks by the Principal, felicitation of participants, the Vote of Thanks and the National Anthem. The active participation of students, NSS volunteers, faculty members and officials reflected the enthusiasm of the college community towards sports, youth engagement and nation-building initiatives.

Khelo India Samvad at NIT Srinagar Connects Over 200 Youth with Prime Minister’s Vision for Viksit Bharat



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MY Bharat Srinagar, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, organised the Khelo India Samvad – Prime Minister’s Virtual Interaction with Youth and Sportspersons at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 200 youth, including MY Bharat Volunteers (NYVs),

students, sportspersons, social media influencers and representatives of various educational institutions. Organised as part of the nationwide Khelo India Samvad initiative, the event connected young people across the country with the Hon’ble Prime Minister through a virtual interaction.

Participants listened to the Prime Minister’s address, which underscored the importance of sports, fitness, youth leadership and active participation in

nation-building. The interaction highlighted the role of young people in shaping the future of the nation and contributing towards the vision of Viksit Bharat.

The programme was attended by officials from NIT Srinagar, the District Youth Officer (DYO), Srinagar, social media influencers and other distinguished guests. Speakers appreciated the initiative for providing a meaningful platform for engagement, inspiration and dialogue with the youth.

Despite a 1-0 series win over Sri Lanka, India stay in fifth spot in WTC standings

IAN S

COLOMBO: India’s hopes of upping their position in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings took a hit on Thursday as a resilient day five rearguard act by Sri Lanka forced the second Test at the SSC Ground to end in a draw.

Having registered a comprehensive 165-run victory in the series opener at Galle, India looked firmly on course to sweep the two-match series 2-0. However, Sonal Dinusha’s heroic second-innings century of 133 not out ensured Sri Lanka salvaged a draw, leaving India to settle for a 1-0 series triumph.

The drawn result also meant India’s Points Percentage (PCT) dropped from 53.33 to 51.52, though they retain the fifth spot after playing in eleven matches. India are still behind leaders, 2023 WTC winners Australia (80.00



PCT), 2025 WTC winners South Africa (75.00 PCT), 2021 champions New Zealand (72.22 PCT), and Bangladesh (55.56 PCT).

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, are still placed sixth in the WTC standings with a 33.33 PCT. Resuming on day five with a slender 16-run lead, Sri Lanka’s

lower order displayed remarkable grit. Dinusha and Keshara Nuwantha safely negotiated 31.2 overs in the morning session to add 100 runs. Dinusha brought up a half-century while Nuwantha stroked a disciplined 46 to push the lead past 100 before the lunch break.

India struck early in the second session when left-arm spinner Manav Suthar induced an edge from Nuwantha to second slip, where Dhruv Jurel took a clean catch. Ravindra Jadeja soon removed Prabath Jayasuriya, with Jurel holding onto another sharp chance.

Yet, Dinusha remained steadfast, taking the hosts to safety at tea alongside a resolute Lahiru Kumara.

Dinusha completed his second century of the Test and third of the series off the first ball of the evening session. Kumara stoically defended for 90 balls before falling to Jadeja, but Asitha Fernando held on, and that prompted India captain Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Jurel to bowl the final overs before hands were shaken and the game ended in a draw.

Having already crossed the halfway mark of their campaign following a 0-2 home reversal against South Africa and a drawn series in England last year, India now face a crucial stretch. Shubman Gill’s side will travel to New Zealand for a two-game Test series in November before hosting Australia in a five-match series to decide their fate for the WTC final.

DC Kulgam Inaugurates Annual Athletic Meet 2026



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Youth Services & Sports (YSS) Department, Kulgam Thursday organised the Annual Athletic Meet 2026 for girls all age group under the Annual Activity Calendar of the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K.

The meet was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, who appreciated YSS Kulgam for promoting athletics and nurturing sporting talent at the grassroots level.

He emphasized upon the budding athletes to make use of the platform

to showcase their sporting spirit in a disciplined and competitive atmosphere.

The event was also attended by Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, officials and sports lovers alongwith enthusiastic participation of young athletes from all six zones.

Athletes competed in Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 Girls categories across various track and field events, including 100m, 200m, 400m, 600m, 800m, 1500m and 3000m races, besides Javelin Throw, Shot Put, High Jump, Long Jump and Discus Throw.

Hockey World Cup: Indian women's team beats Germany 3-1 for best finish since 1974

IAN S

AMSTELVEEN: Indian women’s hockey team signed off from the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium and the Netherlands 2026 on a high, defeating world No. 5 Germany 3-1 in the 5th-6th place classification match in Amstelveen, Netherlands, on Thursday.

The result secured the Indian women’s team a fifth-place finish, their best in the FIH World Cup since the inaugural women’s edition in 1974, when they finished fourth.

After a goalless opening 30 minutes, India produced a superb attacking display in the third quarter, scoring twice through Navneet Kaur and once through Ishika to seal a memorable victory.

The match began with both teams adopting a cautious approach, although Germany enjoyed more possession in the opening stages. India gradually found



their rhythm, with Baljeet Kaur and Sakshi Rana combining well down the right flank in the fifth minute. Their move ended with a good ball towards captain Salima Tete, but the German defence denied the India captain the space to get a touch.

Both sides managed to enter the circle but struggled to produce clean shots. Germany came close in the 11th minute when Johanna Hachenberg attempted a reverse hit, only for an Indian defender to get a timely stick in the way. India responded through Lalremisiami, who

received a hit from Shilpi Dabas in the 13th minute before attempting to find Navneet inside the German 23-metre area, but the pass ran beyond her teammate.

Germany earned their first penalty corner in the 15th minute after a video referral by India failed to overturn the decision. Bichu Devi initially kept out the threat, while another penalty corner followed after the lift lifted off an Indian stick during the ensuing melee. Germany opted for a variation, but a miscommunication saw the ball run out of play.

INOX

SRINAGAR

NOW

SHOWING

28 AUGUST 2026 (FRIDAY)

AWARAPAN 2

U/A 16+

HINDI

01:55 PM

TOXIC: A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS

A

HINDI

02:00 PM

04:45 PM

05:45 PM

HINDI ATMOS

03:15 PM

07:00 PM

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CMYK

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