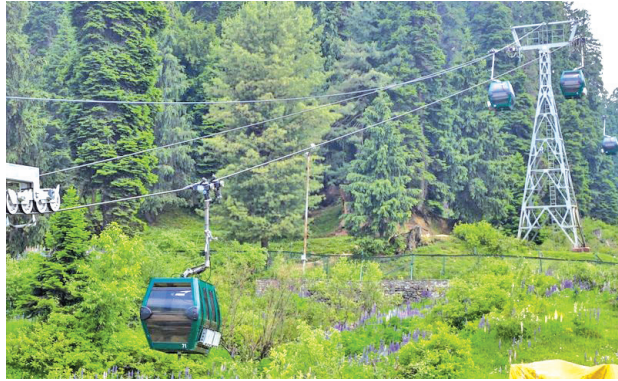


'J&K Highly Vulnerable To Multiple Natural Hazards'



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has observed that Jammu & Kashmir remains highly vulnerable to multiple natural hazards, including floods, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), owing to its fragile Himalayan ecology, challenging terrain and climatic variability.

In its report, the Committee noted that different regions of J&K face varying disaster risks. The Kashmir Valley is particularly prone to floods, the Chenab Valley remains vulnerable to landslides, while the Jammu region falls under high seismic risk zones.

The Committee observed that J&K has developed a structured disaster management framework. The Disaster Management Plan, initially notified in 2017, was revised in 2023 to align with the UT's administrative

structure and the National Disaster Management Plan. District Disaster Management Plans have been prepared for all 20 districts.

Institutional arrangements have been strengthened following the reorganisation, including restructuring of the Disaster Management Authority. However, the transition period witnessed challenges related to clarity of responsibilities and coordination between departments.

Disaster risk reduction is being incorporated into infrastructure development, with measures such as slope stabilisation and improved drainage being undertaken in road, tourism and hydro-power projects. However, such measures are still project-specific and have yet to become part of a uniform system.

The Committee appreciated steps taken to strengthen early warning mechanisms, including adoption of the Common Alerting

LG Calls For Stronger Red Cross Network, Focus On TB Elimination

Chairs The Annual General Meeting Of Indian Red Cross Society, J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Monday chaired the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K UT, directed the Deputy Commissioners to intensify resource mobilisation and explore innovative avenues for fund generation to further strengthen humanitarian and welfare activities of the Red Cross Society.

The Lieutenant Governor, who is the President of the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K UT, directed the Deputy Commissioners to intensify resource mobilisation and explore innovative avenues for fund generation to further strengthen humanitarian and welfare activities of the Red Cross Society.

He further directed them to prepare comprehensive district-wise annual activity plans, identifying priority areas and interventions, and submit the same for effective implementation.

Emphasising the need to take Red Cross services closer to the people, the Lieutenant Governor called for greater outreach in far-flung and border areas.

He advised the Deputy Commissioners to explore opening Diagnostic Centres in remote areas, particularly at places



where people have to travel long distances to reach hospitals and access essential healthcare services.

The Lieutenant Governor called for intensifying coordinated efforts towards the complete elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) and ensuring effective identification, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of TB patients at the grassroots level.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that the Red Cross Society must further strengthen its humanitarian role and expand its activities to ensure timely

assistance and essential services reach vulnerable and needy sections of society across Jammu Kashmir. He also entrusted upon the officials of IRCS J&K to further intensify the anti-drug campaign and make their valuable contribution to building a Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir.

Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, General Secretary, IRCS, J&K presented various agenda items for review and ratification.

The meeting also deliberated on various important matters including budget estimates, audit, appointment of Medical

Officers at Blood Banks and Diagnostic Centres, and activities undertaken by the Red Cross Society and its District-level units.

The Deputy Commissioners apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the activities being undertaken in their respective districts and shared suggestions for further strengthening the functioning and outreach of the Red Cross Society.

The meeting was attended by Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri

Intense Showers May Trigger Flash Floods In J&K: MeT

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally hot and humid weather on September 1, with light to moderate rain and thunder showers expected at many places, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Monday.

The weather office, said brief spells of intense heavy showers are likely, particularly in the Jammu division during the early morning and late afternoon or evening hours.

It advised people to remain cautious as brief intense showers at localised places may trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides during August 31 and September 1-2.

According to the weather data issued by the Meteorological Centre, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 28.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 16 degrees Celsius during the past 24 hours.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 27.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 18 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 24.3 degrees and 11.8 degrees, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of



Despite Intense Heat Across Country J&K Records Zero Heatwave Days In August

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded no heatwave days during August, even as large parts of the country experienced unusually high temperatures, with intermittent rain, cloud cover and persistent moisture keeping the weather pleasant across the Union Territory.

According to the details available, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in previous years has linked prolonged heat spells to deficient rainfall and subdued monsoon activity, which allow temperatures to rise sharply.

An official of the Meteorological Department said that the weather pattern remained more variable through much of the August month, with repeated spells of rain and thunderstorms providing temporary relief



from rising temperatures.

"Several parts of the Kashmir division received light to moderate rainfall at different intervals, while the Jammu region also witnessed episodes of heavy rain, particularly in districts such as Reasi, Udhampur and Jammu," he said, adding, "The intermittent precipitation was accompanied by cloud cover, which limited solar heating during the day and prevented temperatures from remaining elevated for prolonged periods."

"Although

Population Enumeration In 1115 Villages, 3 Municipalities Of J&K To Begin Today

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The month-long population enumeration in snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir will begin today, with enumerators set to physically visit households to record details in 16 districts of the Union Territory.

The population count in the snow-bound areas of J&K will begin on September 1 and continue till September 30.

"The population enumeration exercise will begin in snow-bound areas of J&K and the entire Ladakh Union Territory," Amit Sharma, Director Census Operations for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories, said.

Sharma, who is also Chief Principal Census Officer for J&K and Ladakh, is visiting Dudu and Basantgarh sub-divisions of Udhampur to formally inaugurate the population enumeration exercise.

As per details available, the population enumeration in 1115 villages and three municipalities, which fall under the list of snow-bound non-synchronous areas.

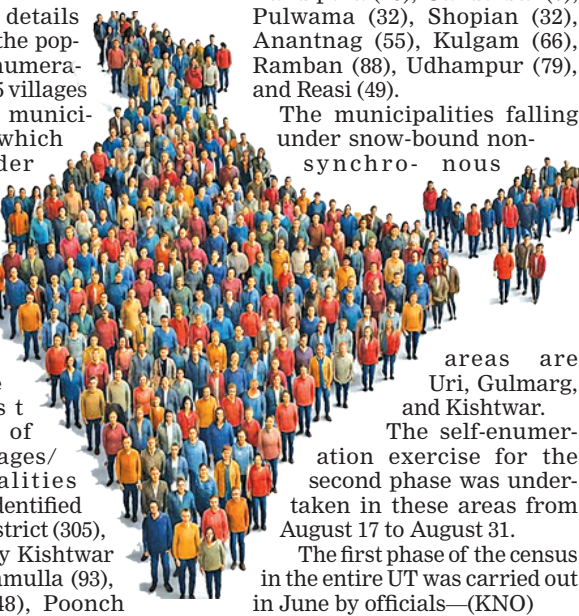
The highest number of such villages/municipalities has been identified in Doda district (305), followed by Kishtwar (158), Baramulla (93), Kathua (48), Poonch

(24), Kupwara (49), Budgam (5), Bandipora (28), Ganderbal (7), Pulwama (32), Shopian (32), Anantnag (55), Kulgam (66), Ramban (88), Udhampur (79), and Reasi (49).

The municipalities falling under snow-bound non-synchronous areas are Uri, Gulmarg, and Kishtwar.

The self-enumeration exercise for the second phase was undertaken in these areas from August 17 to August 31.

The first phase of the census in the entire UT was carried out in June by officials—(KNO)



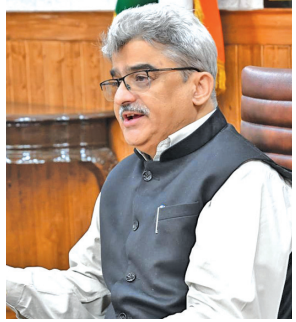
CS Reviews Roadmap To Unlock Jammu's Full Tourism Potential

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday reviewed a comprehensive, multi-faceted roadmap presented by the Department of Tourism for accelerating tourism development and upgrading visitor infrastructure across the Jammu Division, with emphasis on religious circuits, border tourism, adventure destinations and eco-tourism.

The meeting, attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Director, Tourism, Jammu and other senior officers, deliberated on a range of projects aimed at enhancing the visitor experience while unlocking the tourism potential of destinations across the region.

While reviewing the pro-



posed interventions, the Chief Secretary called for expanding the roadmap to cover other high-potential destinations across the Jammu Division, particularly emerging tourism hubs such as Baderwah, Sanasar, Seven Lakes and other suitable destinations.

He stressed the need to adopt an integrated approach that combines infrastructure development with destination-specific experiences, ensuring that the benefits of tourism reach a wider geographical area

'No Jurisdiction' India Rejects Hague Tribunal Order On Indus Waters Treaty

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: India on Monday rejected the order issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on the status of the Indus Waters Treaty, asserting that the tribunal has "no jurisdiction" over New Delhi's sovereign decisions and that its decision to keep the pact in abeyance remains in force.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs, described the arbitration body as an "illegally constituted" court and said India does not recognise its existence in law.

The statement came after the Court of Arbitration said the Indus Waters Treaty remains in force and that India cannot unilaterally suspend or place it in "abeyance".

India said it categorically rejects the latest award as



well as previous pronouncements by the body.

"This so-called court was constituted by the World Bank in patent breach of the terms of the Treaty and India categorically rejects its so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements by this illegally constituted body," the MEA said.

It said India has never appeared before the tribu-

nal and has refused to take cognisance of its earlier pronouncements.

"India has never recognised the existence in law of this illegally-constituted and so-called Court of Arbitration, and has consistently maintained that the very establishment of this alleged arbitral body constitutes a grave violation of the Indus Waters Treaty," it said.

The MEA further asserted that the tribunal had no authority to adjudicate on India's sovereign decisions.

"This so-called Court of Arbitration has no jurisdiction whatsoever to pronounce on India's sovereign decisions," it said, adding that its present or future pronouncements would have no impact on India's actions concerning projects being undertaken by the country.

The ministry also made clear that New Delhi's decision to suspend the implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty has not been withdrawn.

"India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance remains in force," it said.

The treaty was placed in abeyance by India in April 2025, days after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

Budgam-Katra Direct Train Service Resumes

YOGESH

JAMMU: In a significant step towards passenger convenience and strengthening rail connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu Division has successfully resumed the operation of Train No. 04688/04687 Budgam - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Budgam Special Express with effect from 29th August 2026.

With the resumption of this train, passengers travelling from the Kashmir Valley to Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, especially pilgrims, have got great relief.

Earlier, passengers had to change trains at Banihal, which caused inconvenience, but now with the availability of a direct train from Budgam to Katra, their journey has become smooth as well as time-saving.

Since its resumption, the train has been receiving an overwhelming response from passengers. Passengers at Budgam, Srinagar,

Nepal Flash Floods: Death Toll Rises To 939



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHMANDU: At least 939 people have died, and over 4,000 people are still missing in the aftermath of deadly floods that hit the Nepal-Tibet border. According to Nepal's foreign ministry, 886 people have been rescued, while search and rescue efforts continue. The ministry said 400 foreign nationals are among those reported missing.

Residents in Nepal also received fresh flood warnings on their mobile phones as water level in the Bhotokoshi River rose, the Associated Press reported. The latest

warnings came after Chinese authorities informed their Nepalese counterparts of increased water flow upstream. Officials also flagged a "high risk of flash floods" in Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts.

Many countries, including India, China and the Republic of Korea, have sent tunnel rescue teams to evacuate and rescue those trapped inside tunnels. Nepal's foreign ministry said its immediate national priority remains clear: to save lives, locate missing persons, rescue those trapped, provide urgent relief to survivors, and ensure

Preparations reviewed for 1st International Film Festival J&K at Gulmarg



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Tariq Hussain Monday chaired meeting at the Convention Centre, Gulmarg to review the arrangements for the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir, 2026.

The meeting was attended by the District Information Officer (DIO) Baramulla, Iftakhar Naseem, Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Tangmarg, Station House Officer Gulmarg, Block Medical Officer (BMO), Executive Officer Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg, Manager J&K Cable Car Corporation, representatives of Hoteliers Association Gulmarg, Traders Association Gulmarg and ATV Operators Association Gulmarg, besides other concerned representatives.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the overall preparations in Gulmarg and ensuring that Gulmarg presents itself as a world-class destination before film-makers, creative professionals and visitors from India and abroad.

A roadmap for a one-day itinerary for visiting delegates and guests was comprehensively discussed, with emphasis on showcasing Gulmarg's scenic beauty, adventure activities, hospitality, local culture and other tourism attractions. The participants deliberated on how the itinerary could provide visitors with a comprehensive experience of the destination.

A major focus of the meeting was on branding and beautification of the entire stretch from Narbal to Gulmarg, including prominent touch points, important venues and locations within the Gulmarg bowl. The participants were directed to

ensure that the route and key public spaces appropriately reflect the spirit of the festival while simultaneously showcasing the natural beauty, tourism infrastructure and cultural richness of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements related to sanitation, cleanliness, healthcare and emergency health facilities, with emphasis on maintaining high standards throughout the visit of dignitaries. The concerned agencies were asked to ensure adequate manpower, facilities and prompt response mechanisms at important locations.

The CEO GDA called for close coordination between the administration, police, tourism stakeholders, health authorities, municipal bodies, hotel industry, cable car operators and other service providers so that all arrangements are in place well before the event.

NIT Srinagar climbs to 19th rank among top technical universities

Director hails collective commitment to institutional excellence

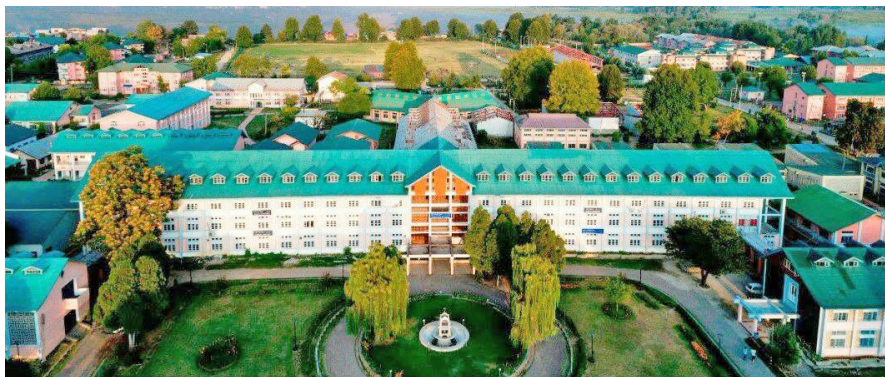
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has registered a significant improvement in the India Today Rankings 2026, securing 19th rank among the Top Technical Universities in India, compared to 22nd rank in 2025.

The three-position rise marks another milestone in the Institute's ongoing journey towards academic and institutional excellence and reflects its continued progress in academics, research, innovation and overall institutional development.

The achievement has been welcomed by the NIT Srinagar administration, which attributed the improved national standing to the sustained and collective efforts of its faculty, students, researchers, non-teaching staff, alumni and other stakeholders.

Director, NIT Srinagar,



Prof. Anurag Misra, congratulated the entire Institute fraternity on the achievement and said the improved ranking reflects the collective commitment of the Institute towards excellence.

He said NIT Srinagar would continue to focus on quality education, cutting-edge research, innovation and stronger industry-academia collaboration while further strengthening its academic ecosystem and

national standing.

Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, also congratulated the faculty, students, researchers and staff, saying the improved ranking is a recognition of the consistent efforts being made to strengthen the Institute's academic and research environment.

He said the Institute remains committed to improving infrastructure, research, student support and academic quality to

achieve greater milestones in the years ahead.

Chairman NIRF, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Babar Ahmad, termed the improved ranking a significant achievement for the Institute. He said NIT Srinagar's rise from 22nd rank in 2025 to 19th rank in 2026 reflects its steady progress and growing academic standing.

Prof. Babar credited the achievement to the collective efforts of the faculty, students, researchers,

non-teaching staff, alumni and other stakeholders, saying their contribution has helped strengthen NIT Srinagar's position at the national level.

Nodal Officer, NIRF, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, said the improvement in the India Today Rankings reflects NIT Srinagar's sustained efforts towards academic excellence, quality education, research and innovation.

Dr. Vijay also appreciated the dedicated efforts of Ajay Kumar, Junior Assistant, NBA/NIRF Office, NIT Srinagar, for his contribution and support in the Institute's ranking-related work.

The latest ranking marks a steady upward trajectory for NIT Srinagar, with the Institute improving from 22nd position in 2025 to 19th position in 2026 among the Top Technical Universities in India.

DC Srinagar reviews Rollout of Drug Abuse Rehabilitation at IMHANS



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday visited the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) to review the preparedness for implementation of the Phase-I rollout/Pilot of the Rehabilitation & Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026.

The pilot programme is being coordinated by the Social Welfare Department aimed at testing the rehabilitation model on the ground, identify operational gaps, refine the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and generate necessary learnings for its subsequent expansion across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took detailed stock of the arrangements for implementation of the pilot phase in Srinagar District and reviewed the availability of rehabilitation services, coordination mechanisms among the

concerned Departments and institutions and other necessary arrangements to ensure effective implementation of the programme and its successful execution in the District.

The DC emphasised the need for a holistic, coordinated and outcome-oriented approach towards rehabilitation of drug abuse victims, with focused attention on their recovery, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration into mainstream society. He stressed that all concerned Departments and Institutions must work in close coordination to ensure seamless delivery of services to beneficiaries. He also underscored the importance of registration of the affected persons of the drug abuse, proper documentation of field experiences, identification of implementation challenges and timely corrective measures so that the learnings from the pilot can contribute towards strengthening the programme before its wider rollout.

The DC further called for effective monitoring

and regular assessment of the rehabilitation interventions to ensure that the intended objectives of the scheme are achieved and beneficiaries receive sustained support throughout the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

The visit was a part of the Government initiative and the District Administration's ongoing efforts to ensure effective preparedness and coordinated implementation of initiatives aimed at addressing drug abuse and strengthening rehabilitation and reintegration services in the District.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Prof (Dr) Arshid Hussain Head of Department , Dr Ajaz, Medical Superintendent SMHS Hospital, Dr Andleeb, In-charge Drug De-Addiction Centre, SMHS Hospital, Dr. Yasir Hassan Rather and other concerned Officers and Officials.

SKUAST-K showcases eight decades of rice research at MRCFC Khudwani

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) showcased its rich legacy of rice research, biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient crop technologies through a live exhibition of Temperate Rice Biodiversity at the Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops (MRCFC), Khudwani.

Established in 1942, MRCFC has over eight decades of experience in developing rice, rapeseed and wheat varieties suited to Kashmir's diverse agro-climatic conditions, ranging from temperate valley floors to cold high-altitude areas exceeding 2,000 metres. The exhibition showcased high-yielding rice varieties alongside the latest production and crop-protection technologies.

A key highlight of the centre's work is its germplasm conservation programme, which maintains a rich collection of indigenous landraces and exotic introductions, preserving an important living repository of Kashmir's rice biodiversity. MRCFC also holds national signifi-



cance as the Nodal Centre for Rice Blast Screening in India, making its crop-protection research relevant beyond the Kashmir Valley.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, attended the exhibition as Chief Guest. He was accompanied by Director Extension, Chief Agriculture Officers of Kulgam and Anantnag, officers and scientists of SKUAST-Kashmir and other dignitaries.

During the field visit, Prof. Ganie reviewed the ongoing research trials and appreciated the centre's comprehensive research programme, particularly its efforts in germplasm conservation. Describing MRCFC as a role model for the University, he said its work had earned recognition at national and international platforms. He also highlighted its role

as India's Nodal Centre for Rice Blast Screening, underscoring its national importance in crop-protection research.

Prof. Ganie appreciated the scientists for their contributions, encouraged them to continue their research efforts and reaffirmed the University's commitment to supporting the farming community. He also emphasised the importance of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Resource Use Efficiency as key priorities for the region's future agricultural development.

The Vice Chancellor further announced that the South Campus, Faculty of Agriculture, SKUAST-Kashmir, will be operationalised from the current season, marking an important step towards strengthening agricultural education, research and extension in the region.

Dir Agri kick-starts Rabi seed sowing at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Monday kick-started the sowing of Rabi season seeds at the Kitchen Garden, Lalmandi Srinagar, marking the commencement of the depart-

ment's Rabi cultivation activities for the season. Deputy Director, Central Kashmir, Qazi Showkat, Seed Production Officer Showkat Mughal and Deputy Director Planning, Javid Ahmad Shah accompanied the Director Agriculture Kashmir during the programme.



During the programme, the Director participated in the sowing of Rabi crops and took stock of the preparations being undertaken at the Kitchen Garden for the upcoming season. He emphasized the importance of timely sowing, use of quality seed and adoption of recommended agronomic practices to ensure healthy crop growth and better productivity.

The Director stressed that Kitchen Gardens play an important role in demonstrating improved cultivation practices and encouraging farmers and the general public to adopt vegetable cultivation for nutritional security as well as additional income generation. He directed the concerned officers and field functionaries to ensure that

all necessary arrangements for Rabi cultivation are put in place well in advance and that farmers are adequately sensitized about suitable varieties, sowing schedules and scientific crop management practices.

Seed Production Officer Srinagar briefed the Director regarding various initiatives taken by the Department for the effective utilization of the different resources at Seed Multiplication Farms across Kashmir, for optimum production of seed and seedlings.

The Director appreciated the efforts of the concerned staff and called for continued focus on demonstration-based extension activities so that the latest agricultural technologies and best practices reach farmers effectively.

JKEDI organises Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 at GDC Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) under the overall supervision of Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, JKEDI, organised the Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 in collaboration with Government Degree College for Boys, Pulwama.

The programme forms part of JKEDI's ongoing initiatives under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and youth-led startups across the Union Territory.

Professor Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, Principal of Government Degree College for Boys, Pulwama, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Distinguished guests and faculty members present included



Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Dr. Tariq H. Ganai, Associate Professor and former Head, Department of Food Technology, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST); Engineer G. N. Shah, Superintendent, ITI Pulwama, Zahoar Ah Basu, successful entrepreneur and proprietor of Gulab Enterprises; and Senior Faculty members from the college.

Students participated

with enthusiasm and presented a diverse range of innovative ideas before the selection committee. The shortlisted concepts will represent District Pulwama at the forthcoming state-level competition.

The Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 offers selected innovators mentorship, incubation support, access to seed funding and co-working facilities at JKEDI hubs, enabling promising ideas to develop into viable entrepreneurial ventures.

DC G'bal reviews preparations for Census 2027 in Snow Bound areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, who is also the Principal Census Officer for the district, Monday convened a meeting to review the preparedness for Census 2027 in Snow-Bound Areas of District Ganderbal.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness of the concerned Census Charge Officers for the commencement and timely completion of Census related activities in the snow bound areas of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all Charge Officers to ensure that appointment orders of enumerators are issued in a timely manner and comprehensive training of all appointed enumerators is completed before commencement of the field exercise. He stressed that the enumerators must be adequately trained in the prescribed procedures and use of the Census application before undertaking household enumeration.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed that mobile devices used



by each enumerator must conform to the prescribed specifications and be properly configured to facilitate smooth and uninterrupted updation of Census data.

Emphasising the importance of accuracy, the Deputy Commissioner directed the enumerators and supervisory staff to ensure that correct and complete information is captured and updated for every household, with due care to avoid errors, omissions or duplication.

He stressed that each and every household in the identified snow-bound areas must be covered in a time-bound manner, and directed the Charge Officers to closely monitor field progress and ensure that the scheduled commencement and completion of the Census exercise is adhered to strictly.

The Deputy Commissioner also called for reg-

ular monitoring of field-level progress, prompt resolution of technical or operational issues and close coordination among all Census functionaries to ensure smooth conduct of the exercise in the challenging snow bound areas.

He directed the concerned officers to maintain proper coordination with the District Census Cell and ensure timely reporting and updation of progress, so that any gaps in coverage are identified and addressed without delay.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer Ganderbal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, all Charge Officers, District Coordinator Census 2027, District Master Trainer Census 2027 and officials of the District Census Cell, besides other concerned officials.

NEWS

'Rumours only for TRP'

Javed Dar rejects reports of discord in NC



WARIS FAYAZ

RAFIABAD: Jammu and Kashmir Minister and National Conference senior leader Javed Ahmed Dar rejected reports of differences within the party, terming the speculation as rumours being spread for TRP.

Speaking with reporters, Dar said there was

no disappointment within the party "Media should avoid speculation and rumours. There is no such thing. No one is disappointed. Our leader is strong and so is his team," he said.

He said the party would accept any decision taken by its leadership, citing the example of 2012 when eight min-

isters were asked to take care of party affairs.

"Whatever our leader decides, we are ready to accept it and we should. We have seen this earlier in 2012. Eight ministers were asked to take care of the party and everyone except a few from Jammu are still in the party," he said.

He described the National Conference as a "premium and disciplined party". "These are just rumours and speculation for TRP and nothing else. The party is intact," he said.

On remarks by Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, the minister said he had a cordial relationship with him and described him as a colleague and brother—(KNO)

Div Com urges fruit growers to leverage railway freight services for economical transportation

Advises fruit truck drivers to strictly adhere to prescribed load limits on National Highway

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant move aimed at facilitating the economical and hassle-free transportation of horticulture produce, particularly apples, to various domestic mandis and international destinations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg Monday urged fruit growers, traders and other stakeholders to make greater use of railway goods and freight services.

The Divisional Commissioner was chairing a meeting convened to review the utilization of railway freight services for the transportation of horticulture produce from Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by IGP Traffic, Kashmir, M. Soleman Choudhary; Deputy Commissioners, Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar; officers of Northern Railway, Indus-



tries & Commerce and Information Departments, besides representatives of various fruit associations.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners and the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing to hold consultations with fruit growers, traders, associations and aggregators to encourage wider and more economical utilization of railway freight services.

He stressed that railway transportation should be increasingly utilized for long-distance destinations, as it can provide a

cost-effective and efficient alternative for transporting large quantities of horticulture produce. He also directed the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing to ensure effective coordination among fruit growers, traders, associations and railway authorities for the smooth movement of produce.

The Div Com laid special emphasis on maximizing transportation of horticulture produce from Jablipora Mandi Anantnag. He further directed all Deputy Commissioners to explore and facilitate the transportation of a certain percentage of

fruit consignments through railway services from their respective districts.

Discussing the Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) service, the Divisional Commissioner directed Northern Railway officials to share an informational video with fruit associations highlighting the prescribed technical parameters for trucks, including permissible load height and other requirements, to facilitate its effective utilization.

With regard to transportation of fruit by road, both Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and IGP Traffic Kashmir directed fruit associations to undertake extensive sensitization of truck drivers regarding adherence to the permissible load limits on the National Highway.

They emphasized that overloading not only violates prescribed norms but also poses serious risks to road safety and traffic management. The officers cautioned

that strict punitive action would be taken against vehicles found violating the prescribed load limits.

Representatives of various fruit associations put forth their suggestions and sought long-term solutions for strengthening the transportation infrastructure for the horticulture sector, including improved connectivity of fruit mandis with the railway network.

The representatives also expressed appreciation to the administration for its continued support and facilitation of the fruit industry.

Earlier, the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing made a detailed presentation on apple production in Kashmir, existing transportation arrangements and the economic advantages of utilizing railway goods and freight services for the movement of horticulture produce.

CM Omar meets several individuals, deputations at Raabita

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday met several individuals and deputations at Raabita, Srinagar, and discussed issues related to sustainable mountain development, tourism promotion and sports.

A delegation from the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), comprising its President Dr. Ramesh Negi, LEAD Strategist Dr. Rajan Kumar Kotru and Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Gana, called on the Chief Minister and discussed strategies for promoting sustainable mountain development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amitash Ojha, Associate Professor of Cognitive Science at IIT Jammu,



also met the Chief Minister and briefed him about a proposed nudge-based initiative for tourism development in Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative seeks to leverage behavioural insights to encourage sustainable tourism practices, enhance visitor experience

and support local tourism stakeholders.

The Chief Minister also met J&K fencer Vishal Thapar, who has been selected to represent India at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, scheduled to be held from September 19 to October 4, 2026.

'Verbal assurances not enough'

Protesting MBBS interns demand written order for stipend revision

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday launched a coordinated protest demanding enhancement of their monthly stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000, asserting that they would not withdraw the agitation until a formal government order is issued.

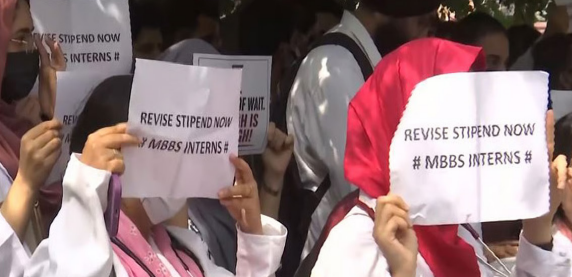
Protests were held at several government medical institutions, including GMC Srinagar, GMC Baramulla, GMC Handwara, GMC Anantnag and SKIMS Bemina in Kashmir, besides GMC Jammu, GMC Udhampur, GMC Rajouri and GMC Doda.

The protesting interns, said they have been compelled to take the protest route after their demand for a revision of the stipend remained unresolved despite repeated assurances.

"We have been hearing the same assurances for the last two years that we heard today from the concerned minister. The issue is always said to be under process, but there has been no concrete decision. This time, we will not call off the protest merely on verbal assurances," an intern said.

Another intern said the existing stipend was disproportionate to the responsibilities being shouldered by MBBS interns in government hospitals. "We work in emergency departments, wards, ICUs and operation theatres and remain involved in patient care for long hours. Rs 12,300 a month is not adequate considering the workload, responsibilities and rising cost of living," the intern said.

The interns said they



would refrain from routine duties as part of the agitation, while stressing that their demand had been raised after exhausting other avenues.

Meanwhile, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo said the government had taken cognisance of the interns' demand and that the proposal for increasing the monthly stipend from around Rs 12,000 to Rs 30,000 was under process with the Finance Department.

"Their demand is genuine. We are not saying that it is wrong because there is a lot of inflation these days. There is a need to increase the stipend, and we also acknowledge it. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also said so," she said.

The minister, however, said that since the matter was already under consideration, resorting to a strike was not appropriate as it could affect patient care.

The interns, however, said they wanted a time-bound and formal resolution rather than another assurance. "We respect the minister and appreciate that she has acknowledged our demand, but we have heard such statements before. What we need now is a government order. Once the order is issued, there will be no reason for us to continue the protest," an intern said.

Amid the protest, Jammu and Kashmir

Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene urgently and ensure an early resolution of the interns' demand.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Karra described the demand for enhancement of stipend as genuine and deserving of immediate consideration. He highlighted that interns routinely work long and demanding hours, including extended shifts, while attending to patients and assisting in hospital services.

The J&K Congress Chief further said that the stipend being paid to medical interns in J&K is considerably lower than that offered in several other parts of the country.

"I would therefore urge your good self to kindly direct the concerned authorities to engage with the protesting interns, listen to their grievances and work towards an early and satisfactory resolution of the issue," Karra said.

The interns said they would continue their agitation until a formal decision is communicated by the government. "We have performed our duties throughout the internship despite long hours and heavy workload. We only want a fair and dignified stipend. Until there is a written order, the protest will continue," an intern said—(KNO)

Cabinet expansion

G A Mir meets Rahul, AICC Gen Secy says High command to take final call

UMAISAR GUL

SRINAGAR: Senior Congress leader and MLA Dooru Ghulam Ahmad Mir met Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday evening and is understood to have discussed the issue of joining the council of ministers in J&K with him.

Sources disclosed that the issue of joining the Cabinet in Jammu & Kashmir

ment ruling out the option of joining the Cabinet when the High Command was yet to take a final call on the matter.

Talking to KNO over phone, All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain, said on Monday that the Congress has taken a stand that it will not join



also came up for discussion during the meeting, besides other political and organisational matters.

In a post on X, Mir said they discussed various organisational and political matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

"Had a productive meeting with Rahul Gandhi and discussed important organisational and political matters concerning Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. We discussed ways to further strengthen the Congress organisation and advance our political and organisational agenda with renewed focus and determination," he said.

Mir is reportedly miffed over Tariq Karra's state-

the Cabinet until statehood is restored. He, however, added that any decision on altering the position rests with the party High Command. "The High Command will take a decision," he said when asked whether the party would join the government.

He reiterated that the party's position is not to join the Cabinet until statehood is restored. "Any alteration in that has to be decided by the party High Command," he added.

Sources disclosed that the High Command is weighing the pros and cons of joining the Council of Ministers and is expected to convey its final decision on the matter to the National Conference soon—(KNO)

45-year-old woman mauled to death by bear in Kulgam village

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

KULGAM: A 45-year-old woman was killed after being attacked by a bear in Tarigam village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the bear attacked the woman in an orchard when she was working there.

He said that she sustained critical injuries in the attack and died on the spot. The deceased has been identified as Latifa Banoo, wife of Farooq Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Tarigam. Police have taken cognisance of the incident—(KNO)

Boy, 17, dies after being struck by truck in Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

BUDGAM: A 17-year-old boy died after being struck by a truck in the Wathwora area of Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the teenager sustained injuries after being struck by a truck in Wathwora and was immediately shifted to the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Chadoora for treatment. He said doctors at the hospital declared the boy brought dead. The deceased was identified as Mohd Faheem Teli (17), son of Mushtaq Ahmad Teli, a resident of Wathwora, Chadoora. Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation—(KNO)

Div Com Jammu hails KPs for thriving in diverse fields

Community felicitates distinguished personalities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar Monday attended the '1st Community Cash Award Function' organized by the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust in association with Helpline Humanity, here at Abhinav Theatre.

The Divisional Commissioner was the Chief Guest, while the former Director General of Police Dr. Ashok Bhan attended the function as the Special Guest and Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Arvind Karwani as the Guest of Honour.

Among others present on the occasion included former Secretary to the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Managing Trustee, Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust, Dr. C.K. Garyali; Board Member Helpline Humanity, Prof. Indu Kilam; Deputy Commissioner, Excise J&K, Sanjay Bhat and Founder, Helpline Humanity, M.K. Bhat, besides other prominent members of the community who were also present on the occasion in big numbers.

The programme was organized to recognize and honour individuals who have made significant contributions to society and brought distinction to the Kashmiri Pandit community in their respective fields.

Addressing the gathering, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the rich historical and cultural



legacy of Kashmir, describing it as a land of knowledge, intellectual excellence, art and culture. He said that members of the Kashmiri community have made their mark in diverse fields across the country and the world.

He appreciated the initiative of the Saraswathi Educational, Cultural Charitable Trust in recognizing achievers from within the community, terming such recognition an important step towards encouraging excellence, preserving cultural identity and bringing the community together.

The Divisional Commissioner also acknowledged the difficult circumstances faced by the Kashmiri community following the events of the 1990s, stating that despite being displaced from their homeland, members of the community continued to excel in different fields and made significant contributions in India and abroad.

He appreciated the efforts of the Trust and Helpline Humanity for bringing the community

together and recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions. He said that such initiatives help reconnect the younger generation with their rich heritage and inspire them to contribute towards society and nation-building.

Later, the Chief Guest presented cash awards of different categories to the distinguished Kashmiri Pandit personalities.

Ravi Garyali Cash Award was presented to Dr. Agni Shekhar and Vikram Koul. The Indra Garyali Cash Award was presented to Sandhya Dhar and Dr. Adividvadani Kaul. The Ravi Misri Cash Award was conferred to Pandit (Dr.) Abhay Rustum Sopori and Ankur Bagati.

The awardees were felicitated in recognition of their achievements and valuable contributions in their respective fields.

The programme also featured cultural performances by students and cultural groups, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of the community.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Hospitals Can Have Machines, But Without Manners They Cannot Heal

Srinagar's government health facilities, at least in terms of infrastructure, equipment and medical capabilities, have come a long way. New buildings have appeared, diagnostic facilities have improved and specialised services are increasingly available within the public healthcare system. But there is an uncomfortable truth that administrators can no longer afford to ignore, a hospital is not judged merely by its machines, buildings or doctors. It is judged by how a frightened, sick and vulnerable patient is treated at its doors.

And this is where many government health facilities in Srinagar continue to disappoint. The arrogance and indifference displayed by sections of Class IV and middle-rung employees have become a serious deterrent for patients who have little choice but to depend on government hospitals. A patient arrives already carrying pain, anxiety and uncertainty, only to encounter an employee who behaves as if the patient is doing the hospital a favour by seeking treatment there.

Simple questions are sometimes met with irritation. Directions are given reluctantly. Patients and attendants are made to move from one counter to another without proper guidance. In some cases, the tone itself becomes humiliating. This may sound like a small administrative issue. It is not.

For a poor family, a government hospital is not an alternative, it is often the only alternative. When such people are made to feel unwelcome in a public health facility, the damage goes far beyond hurt feelings. It erodes confidence in the entire healthcare system. Doctors and nurses cannot compensate for an unfriendly system at every step. A highly qualified doctor working in a modern hospital can have his or her efforts undermined by a person at the reception, registration counter, ward entrance or laboratory who treats patients with contempt.

There is also a dangerous tendency to confuse government employment with unquestionable authority. A public servant is not the owner of a government hospital. The hospital belongs to the public, and every employee working there is ultimately a servant of that public. Nobody expects Class IV employees to perform the duties of doctors. Nobody expects middle-rung staff to solve every problem. But courtesy, discipline, punctuality and basic human decency are not specialised qualifications. They are the minimum requirements of public service.

The government must therefore look beyond infrastructure statistics and service availability. Patient experience should become a measurable component of healthcare administration. Hospital administrations should establish transparent grievance mechanisms, conduct regular patient-feedback surveys and identify repeated complaints against staff. CCTV monitoring in appropriate public areas, supervisory checks and surprise inspections can help ensure that employees understand that misbehaviour is not a privilege attached to a government job.

At the same time, staff who perform their duties with compassion and professionalism deserve recognition. Accountability should not mean punishment alone; good behaviour should also be encouraged and rewarded. The irony is that the government may spend crores on buildings, sophisticated equipment and modernisation, only to lose public confidence because someone at a counter refuses to speak politely. A hospital is not merely a place where diseases are treated. It is a place where people arrive at their most vulnerable. A patient should not have to plead for basic information, tolerate humiliation or fear an employee simply to access a service that is already his or her right.

Srinagar's government healthcare system may have improved its hardware. Now it urgently needs to upgrade its humanware. Because no matter how modern the hospital becomes, a rude voice at the reception can make the entire system feel sick.

Psychology Of The Digital Loop

Why We Keep Checking, Scrolling, And Repeating



FAZILA MUSHTAQ

In today's world, digital technology has become an important part of our everyday lives. We use smartphones, social media, video platforms, online games, and messaging applications for communication, entertainment, education, and information. However, many of us have experienced something interesting: we open our phone for a few minutes, check one notification, scroll through a few posts, watch a video, and suddenly realize that much more time has passed than we expected. This repeating pattern is known as a digital loop. From a psychological perspective, the digital loop explains why our minds are repeatedly attracted to digital activities even when we initially had no intention of spending much time on them.

As a psychology student, I have often wondered why it can be so difficult to stop scrolling even when we know that we should return to our studies or other important activities. Psychology explains that digital platforms are often designed around principles of learning, motivation, attention, and reward. Every notification, new message, interesting video, or unexpected post provides a small piece of information that may encourage us to check again. This creates a cycle in which our behavior becomes repeated.

One important psychological concept behind the digital loop is reinforcement. According to learning psychology, behaviours that are followed by rewarding experiences are more likely to be repeated. Digital platforms frequently provide unpredictable rewards. Sometimes we see an interesting video, receive a message from a friend, discover something funny, or find information that we enjoy. Because we do not know exactly when the next interesting thing will appear, we may continue checking. This is sometimes described as variable reinforcement, where rewards appear at unpredictable times.

The brain's reward system also plays an important role. When we encounter something interesting or rewarding, brain systems associated with motivation and learning become active. Dopamine is one of the chemicals involved in these processes. It is important to understand that dopamine



is not simply a "pleasure chemical." It is strongly involved in motivation, learning, anticipation, and reinforcement. When a digital activity repeatedly produces rewarding experiences, the brain can learn to associate checking the device with the possibility of receiving another reward.

Another important factor is attention. Human attention is limited, but digital platforms constantly compete for it. Notifications, sounds, pop-ups, short videos, recommendations, and rapidly changing content can capture attention quickly. This can make it difficult to maintain sustained attention on activities that are slower or require more mental effort, such as studying, reading, or writing. As a result, a person may repeatedly move between important tasks and digital distractions.

The digital loop can also be understood through the concept of habit formation. A habit develops when a behaviour is repeatedly performed in a particular situation. For example, a person may feel bored, pick up their phone, open a social media application, scroll for several minutes, and experience temporary entertainment. Over time, boredom itself can become a cue for checking the phone. The cycle can be represented as: Cue –Digital Action –Reward –Repetition

The cue may be boredom, stress, loneliness, or simply seeing the phone. The action is checking or scrolling. The reward may be entertainment, social connection, information, or relief from boredom. Repeating this cycle can make the behaviour increasingly automatic.

Social media can make the digital loop even stronger because human beings naturally seek social connection and social approval. Likes, comments, messages, shares, and reactions provide feedback

about how others respond to us. This can create a desire to check again and again. Social comparison may also encourage people to repeatedly look at what others are doing, which can influence mood, self-esteem, and perception of one's own life.

The digital loop can also affect memory and learning. When attention is repeatedly interrupted by notifications or the urge to check a device, the mind may have difficulty maintaining focus on one task. Constant switching between activities can increase mental distraction. For students, this is especially important because effective learning requires attention, understanding, practice, and retrieval.

However, technology itself is not the enemy. Digital devices provide enormous benefits. They allow students to access educational material, communicate with teachers and classmates, explore new ideas, and remain connected with family and friends. The psychological problem arises when digital behaviour becomes automatic and begins interfering with sleep, studies, relationships, responsibilities, or emotional well-being.

Psychology therefore emphasises self-regulation. Self-regulation means managing our thoughts, emotions, attention, and behaviour in accordance with our goals. Instead of allowing every notification or impulse to control our attention, we can create boundaries around technology. Turning off unnecessary notifications, keeping the phone away while studying, taking intentional breaks, and deciding when to use social media can help break the automatic cycle.

From an Islamic perspective, the concept of balance is highly important. Islam encourages believers to use time wisely and avoid unnecessary excess. The Qur'an states, "By time, indeed mankind is in loss."

(Surah Al-Asr 103:1–2)

This reminds us of the value of time. Time spent endlessly scrolling cannot be recovered. Technology can be used for beneficial purposes, but excessive and purposeless use can prevent a person from giving proper attention to education, family, responsibilities, worship, and personal development.

Islam also teaches the importance of avoiding excess. The Qur'an says, "Eat and drink, but do not be excessive." (Surah Al-A'raf 7:31)

Although this verse specifically discusses eating and drinking, the broader principle of avoiding excess can also remind us to maintain balance in our habits. Digital technology should remain a useful tool rather than becoming something that controls our attention and daily routine. Psychology and Islam, therefore, offer complementary perspectives on digital behaviour: Psychology explains why digital platforms can create repeated behavioural loops through reinforcement, attention, motivation, habits, and reward systems. Islam provides guidance about how we should use our time and control our desires, emphasising balance, responsibility, and purposeful living.

In daily life, breaking the digital loop does not necessarily mean completely avoiding technology. Instead, it means becoming more conscious of our digital habits. Before opening an application, we can ask ourselves: "Why am I opening this?" If the answer is simply boredom or habit, we can choose another activity. A short walk, conversation with family, reading, studying, or spending time away from screens can provide healthier ways of managing attention and boredom.

The psychology of the digital loop teaches us that repeated digital behaviour is not simply a matter of weak willpower. Our brains learn from repeated experiences, and digital environments can strongly influence attention and habits. Understanding this process gives us greater control over our behaviour. Technology is one of the most powerful tools of modern life, but our attention is one of our most valuable resources. The goal is not to reject the digital world but to use it consciously. Psychology teaches us how the digital loop captures attention, while Islamic teachings remind us to value time, practice self-control, and avoid excess.

The digital loop can control our attention when we use technology without awareness, but when we understand our psychology, we can learn to control the loop instead.

The Author is columnist and psychology student at Govt Degree College Baramulla

Why Himalayas Are Becoming More Dangerous

SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

The Himalayas are often described as the "Third Pole" because they contain some of the largest concentrations of snow and ice outside the polar region. These glaciers feed major rivers and support millions of people across South Asia. But as the climate changes, the same mountains are also becoming increasingly exposed to a different kind of danger: sudden floods originating from glaciers, ice, unstable slopes, and high-altitude lakes. Recent events in Nepal's Rasuwa district have once again drawn attention to this risk. At the same time, the devastating cloudburst and flash flooding in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, in August 2025 showed how quickly extreme weather can turn into a major disaster in the Himalayan region.

What Exactly Is a GLOF? A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood, commonly called a GLOF, happens when water stored behind a natural barrier of ice, rock, sediment or moraine is suddenly released. Glacial lakes develop as glaciers retreat. Melting snow gathers in the depressions that either exist beside or before the glacier and, in most instances, the lakes have their storage capacity defined by moraines, which refer to the unconsolidated material deposited by the movement of glaciers.

Natural barriers are different from artificial barriers in that they may not be stable and may collapse in response to any external stress or even sudden weather conditions, including earthquakes. When such a dam breaks down, the resulting flood involves the movement of millions of cubic meters of water over a relatively short time. The flood may also carry with it boulders, mud, ice, trees, and other materials.

Why Is the Risk Growing? A major factor behind this is the state of the Himalayan glaciers. With global warming, the glaciers are receding and shedding their ice cover. This results in excess water and, at times, an expansion of already existing glacial lakes. In some cases, the melting of the glaciers can also result in the formation of new lakes where ice once was. More than 25,000

glacial lakes have been identified in the Hindu Kush Himalayas by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). However, the danger is not simply about the number of lakes. The surrounding landscape is also changing. Thawing permafrost and melting ice can destabilise mountain slopes, increasing the possibility of rockfalls, landslides and avalanches. If one of these suddenly enters a glacial lake, it can displace water and create a powerful flood wave.

This means a single disaster can involve several processes at once—glacier melt, slope failure, avalanche, lake displacement, and downstream flooding.

Nepal Has Seen the Danger Before. Nepal has experienced GLOFs for decades. ICIMOD records more than 90 GLOFs in Nepal since the early 1920s.

One recent example was the August 2024 flood in the Thame Valley in the Everest region. ICIMOD's subsequent study found that a rock avalanche entered a glacial lake and triggered a chain reaction involving two glacial lakes. An estimated 459,000 cubic metres of water was released, while flood debris travelled around 80 kilometres downstream. The event destroyed homes and infrastructure and displaced residents. The Thame disaster demonstrated an important point: the danger does not always come from a giant lake. A relatively smaller lake can still become extremely destructive when combined with unstable slopes, avalanches and other geological factors.

But Was Rasuwa a GLOF? The latest flooding in Nepal's Rasuwa district has brought the question of GLOFs back into focus. However, the flooding of the Bhote Koshi River system occurred on August 26, 2026, due to an incident that took place upstream of the Bhote Koshi on the Tibetan side of the border. The impact of the flood was catastrophic in locations such as Timure, Rasuwagadhi, and Syabrubesi. It is yet to be determined what the cause of this phenomenon was. So far, there are assumptions about a possible avalanche of either ice or rocks that could block a river and release a rush of water.

Therefore, it is important not to describe the Rasuwa disaster as a



confirmed GLOF before scientific investigations are complete. The available evidence points to a high-altitude, glacier-related or ice-rock-related event, but the precise chain of events remains under investigation. This distinction matters because Himalayan disasters can have multiple triggers. An ice avalanche may block a river, create a temporary lake and then cause a sudden outburst. In another situation, an avalanche entering an existing glacial lake may produce the flood. Understanding the exact mechanism is essential for improving early-warning systems.

What Happened in Kishtwar? The Himalayan risk is not limited to GLOFs. In August 2025, Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a devastating cloudburst and subsequent flooding in the Chositi area. The event caused widespread destruction and loss of life, while rescue operations were complicated by difficult terrain, damaged connectivity, and bad weather. The Union government reported that at least 53 bodies had been recovered by August 16, while officials warned that more people could still be buried or swept away. The Kishtwar disaster was reported as a cloudburst and flash-flood event, not as a confirmed GLOF. This is an important distinction.

Yet it belongs to the same broader Himalayan risk picture. Mountain communities can face several hazards at the same time: cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, avalanches, glacier-related floods and unstable slopes.

A warming climate can intensify some of these processes, while settlements, roads, bridges, pilgrimage routes and hydropower

infrastructure increasingly occupy vulnerable mountain corridors. The lesson from Kishtwar is therefore not that every Himalayan flood is a GLOF. Rather, it is that the region needs stronger preparedness for a range of rapidly developing hazards.

Glaciers are sensitive indicators of climate change. Rising temperatures accelerate ice loss and alter the amount and timing of meltwater entering mountain valleys. As glaciers retreat, they may leave behind unstable landscapes and growing lakes. ICIMOD has warned that the Hindu Kush Himalaya is experiencing rapid glacier mass loss and an expansion in glacial lakes. This does not mean that every expanding lake will eventually burst. Most glacial lakes do not cause disasters. The concern is that a small number of unstable lakes can pose serious risks to communities located downstream.

Another major concern is the nature of the barriers holding glacial lakes. Moraine dams are made from loose material such as rocks, gravel, and sediment. They can be weakened by erosion, rising water pressure, and external impacts. An avalanche or landslide falling into a lake can suddenly displace water. In other cases, seepage or erosion can weaken the natural dam until it collapses. The resulting flood can move with enormous force, carrying not only water but also large quantities of sediment and debris.

The people most exposed are often those living along river valleys. Mountain communities depend on rivers for drinking water, agriculture, tourism, transport and hydropower. Unfortunately, the same valleys provide natural pathways for sudden floods. The warning time can be

extremely short. A flood originating tens of kilometres upstream can settle before residents have enough time to understand what is happening. This is why monitoring and early-warning systems are becoming increasingly important. Satellite imagery can help scientists identify changes in glaciers and lakes. Ground-based sensors can monitor water levels and weather conditions. River gauges can detect sudden changes downstream. Communication systems can then deliver warnings to communities before the flood reaches vulnerable areas.

The Himalayan region cannot prevent every natural hazard, but it can reduce the number of lives and livelihoods placed in danger. First, potentially dangerous glacial lakes need regular monitoring. Second, valleys that are at risk must have an early warning system. Third, the people must be trained in how to react fast in case there is a warning. Fourth, the construction of roads, bridges, and hydropower stations must take into account the changing mountain risks. Disaster preparedness should also extend beyond individual countries. Rivers and mountain systems do not follow political boundaries. A flood originating in a high-altitude area can cross borders within hours, as the recent Rasuwa event has demonstrated. The Himalayas are changing, and the risks are changing with them. GLOFs are only one part of the picture. Cloudbursts, landslides, avalanches, glacier collapses and flash floods can interact in complex ways.

The experience of Nepal's Thame flood, the latest Rasuwa disaster and the devastating Kishtwar cloudburst all point towards the same broader lesson: Himalayan communities need better science, stronger early-warning systems, resilient infrastructure and greater preparedness. The goal should not be to create fear around the mountains. It should be to understand them better. The Himalayas will continue to provide water, livelihoods and natural resources to millions. Protecting the people who live among these mountains requires recognising that a changing climate is also changing the hazards they face.

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■ Toxic Supervisors

Silencing India's Next Generation Of Researchers



PROFESSOR R.K. UPPAL

India aspires to become a global knowledge superpower, an innovation-driven economy and a developed nation. Yet, behind the impressive expansion of universities, research centers and doctoral programmes lies a disturbing problem that deserves urgent national attention: toxic research supervision is crushing the intellectual freedom, confidence and critical thinking of young researchers.

A researcher is not supposed to be a silent follower. Research exists precisely because someone is willing to question established ideas, challenge conventional wisdom, test assumptions and search for better answers. But when supervisors treat doctoral scholars as subordinates rather than independent researchers, the very purpose of research education is undermined.

The relationship between a supervisor and a researcher should be based on mentorship, academic freedom, mutual respect and intellectual dialogue. Unfortunately, in some institutions, supervision has become synonymous with control. Researchers may be discouraged from questioning their supervisor's views, criticized for expressing independent opinions, pressured to follow predetermined approaches or made excessively dependent on the supervisor for every academic decision.

This culture can gradually destroy the most valuable quality a researcher possesses: the courage to think independently. Critical thinking cannot flourish in an atmosphere of fear. A young scholar who is constantly worried about criticism, delays, rejection, humiliation or retaliation may eventually stop asking difficult questions. Instead of pursuing innovative ideas, the researcher learns to produce what the supervisor wants to see.

That is not research. It is intellectual conformity. A healthy supervisor should encourage a doctoral scholar to ask, "Why?" and sometimes even, "Why not?" A toxic supervisor may



interpret such questions as disobedience or disrespect. This creates a dangerous academic culture in which obedience is rewarded while independent thinking is discouraged.

The consequences extend far beyond an individual researcher. When hundreds or thousands of young scholars pass through such environments, an entire research ecosystem can become conservative, risk-averse and dependent on established academic hierarchies. India does not suffer merely from a shortage of researchers. It also faces a serious challenge concerning the quality, originality and social relevance of research. The country needs researchers who can develop new technologies, solve economic and social problems, create patents, build enterprises and contribute to public policy. Such outcomes require intellectual freedom, not intellectual fear.

The problem becomes particularly serious when doctoral research is treated merely as a degree requirement. If the objective is simply to complete a thesis, obtain a PhD and move ahead, supervisors may focus on procedural compliance rather than genuine intellectual development. Researchers can become trapped in repetitive topics, excessive paperwork and publication pressures while losing sight of the larger purpose of scholarship. The supervisor's role should therefore be fundamentally redefined. A supervisor

is not the owner of a researcher's intellectual journey. A supervisor is a mentor, facilitator and academic guide.

Good supervision means helping researchers identify meaningful questions, improve methodology, examine evidence critically, understand weaknesses in their arguments and develop confidence in defending their conclusions. It does not mean imposing personal opinions or controlling every academic decision.

Universities must also establish effective mechanisms through which researchers can confidentially report serious supervisory misconduct. Complaints should not automatically be treated as acts of indiscipline. There must be fair, transparent and independent systems for addressing genuine cases of harassment, intimidation, discrimination, unreasonable delays or abuse of academic authority.

At the same time, safeguards must protect supervisors from frivolous complaints. The objective should not be to create conflict between supervisors and researchers but to establish a professional relationship based on accountability and trust. Universities should periodically evaluate the quality of research supervision. The performance of supervisors should not be judged only by the number of students they supervise or the number of papers produced under their names. Greater importance should

be given to the quality of doctoral research, completion rates, innovation, patents, publications, research impact and the professional development of scholars.

Most importantly, universities must recognize that young researchers are an investment in India's future. Today's doctoral scholar could become tomorrow's professor, scientist, economist, entrepreneur, policymaker or innovation leader. Crushing that scholar's confidence today can mean losing a valuable national resource tomorrow.

India cannot simultaneously speak about becoming a knowledge economy while allowing unhealthy academic cultures to suppress curiosity. It cannot demand innovation from researchers while punishing them for thinking differently. It cannot aspire to global research leadership while tolerating environments in which young scholars are afraid to challenge established ideas. The answer is not to weaken academic authority but to make that authority more responsible.

Supervisors deserve respect, but respect cannot mean unquestioning obedience. Researchers must follow academic standards, but academic discipline cannot mean surrendering intellectual independence. Universities need hierarchy for administration, but scholarship requires dialogue and openness. The message must be clear: supervision is not dom-

This culture can gradually destroy the most valuable quality a researcher possesses: the courage to think independently. Critical thinking cannot flourish in an atmosphere of fear.

ination, mentorship is not manipulation, and academic authority is not a license to suppress independent thought.

India's research future depends on creating universities where young minds are encouraged to question, experiment, fail, learn and try again. Researchers should leave doctoral programmes not merely with a certificate but with confidence, intellectual independence and the ability to solve complex problems. The country cannot afford to crush those minds. If India wants world-class research, it must first create world-class research environments. Toxic supervision must end, critical thinking must be protected, and young researchers must be given the freedom to think, question and innovate. The future of India's knowledge economy depends on it.

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Healthcare Hell

The Long Road To Survival

RASHITA RATHER

Health is a fundamental human right and an essential pillar of socio-economic development. Public health and hospitals fall under the State List or UTs; therefore, have the primary responsibility for ensuring the health of their citizens. As far as healthcare in UT Jammu & Kashmir is concerned, it is nothing less than a nightmare for people living in remote and far-flung areas. People often travel long distances to access public health facilities in their respective districts. For minor health issues, they are not treated at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) because of a lack of facilities. Sometimes, PHCs have the infrastructure but lack essential facilities such as proper medicines, beds, doctors, etc. In many villages, even when doctors are available at PHCs, some of them are from the same village and hardly bother about punctuality or regular attendance at the Primary Health Centre. They come in the morning, mark their attendance, and go back home. They do their household chores and return later to mark their departure. This is how the system works.

There is a significant trust deficit in PHCs. People prefer to purchase medicines from nearby pharmacies rather than visit PHCs. There is also a racket involving pharmacies in villages that exploit people in the name of providing instant relief. They provide medicines without prescriptions, and the use of IV fluids is very common. For minor flu symptoms or minor injuries, patients are sometimes advised to take IV fluids with injections for so-called "jal di aaram aa jayega" to extract money from poor and underprivileged villagers. Many people from remote and border areas belong to the labour class or work as daily wagers. For them, medicines without prescriptions



are like instant noodles that provide instant gratification. As soon as they take them, they get relief and return to work. Nowadays, pharmacists have become the doctors of the poor labour-class section of our society. Our healthcare system at the grassroots level is deeply fractured and needs proper monitoring and appropriate medication at the earliest.

As far as major injuries and diseases are concerned, if someone from a village goes to the district hospital, the stark realities are revealed. If someone gets a check-up, they are likely to be deprived of one facility or another. Recently, one of my relatives fell from a height of 6-8 feet and sustained head injuries and other bodily injuries. The doctor prescribed a CT scan, which was

duly conducted, but the story did not end there. She was told to wait 10-15 days for the CT report. Can we believe that this is the condition of a so-called medical college in District Rajouri? We often hear, "Doctor chutti par hai." Is it possible that in a medical college there is only one doctor responsible for preparing reports? There appears to be little accountability when it comes to the precious lives of people in our society.

Recently, a woman died during a C-section, and her family raised serious allegations against the administration of the district hospital in Rajouri, but there has been no accountability so far. The rising number of C-section deliveries at the medical college in District Rajouri also raises concerns for an

educated and rational society. Institutional deliveries are, in themselves, a positive step, but that does not mean that every delivery should be conducted through a C-section. Our healthcare system is sicker than the people it is meant to serve. People are assets of a state; if an asset is not taken care of, it will ultimately become a liability.

One of the most striking issues in District Rajouri is the privatisation of the healthcare system. Many doctors at the medical college are running private clinics. Some doctors appear to be more inclined towards their private practices than their government duties, for which they are paid handsome salaries. There is a strong nexus between hospital administration and private clinics, which is eroding the

values of one of the most important public infrastructures: healthcare. Privatisation is not inherently bad, but excessive privatisation is like a cancerous cell that multiplies day by day and, in turn, increases out-of-pocket expenditure for citizens, especially poor and vulnerable sections of society.

Rajouri is a border district, and its proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) exposes it to periodic disruptions. Tribal and marginalised communities face difficulties in accessing regular healthcare facilities. Shortages of diagnostic equipment, ICU beds, medicines, and emergency services act as push factors for people to travel to Jammu and Srinagar to access healthcare facilities. Many precious lives have been lost during medical emergencies while travelling 4-5 hours from Rajouri to Jammu for treatment. If the healthcare system of our district hospital were better, people would not have to cover such long distances even for minor health issues.

There is an urgent need for certain measures to be taken by our elected representatives to ensure better delivery of healthcare facilities, which are a fundamental right of every individual. These measures include filling vacant posts of doctors and specialists through targeted recruitment; upgrading PHCs with modern diagnostic and emergency facilities; strengthening telemedicine and digital health services; deploying mobile medical units for tribal and remote populations; improving road and ambulance connectivity; increasing health expenditure for border and aspirational districts; and promoting community participation and preventive healthcare. "A health system is only as strong as its ability to reach the last person in the queue." This principle is particularly relevant for Rajouri's remote and vulnerable populations.

The author can be mailed at rashita86@gmail.com

Dir FCS&CA Calls For Safeguarding Customer Interest In Sale Of Gold, Silver

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, J&K Rajesh Kumar Shavan Monday chaired a meeting with the representatives of the 1 Gram Jewellery Association to review the sale and advertisement of imitation jewellery being marketed under the description of “1 Gram Gold”.

Taking serious note of advertisements and promotional material that may mislead consumers, the Director directed the representatives to remove, within 48 hours, all banners, advertisements and other promotional material making false or misleading claims regarding “1 Gram Gold.”

It was further directed that genuine gold jewellery and imitation jewellery shall not be sold or displayed from the same premises in a manner likely to mislead consumers. Separate shops/premises shall be maintained for the sale of imitation jewellery,

so that consumers can clearly distinguish between genuine gold and imitation jewellery.

The Director further directed that if any trader makes a claim that a product is “1 Gram Gold”, the trader shall be required to produce the requisite BIS certification/hallmarking credentials, wherever applicable, in support of such claim and the Gold melting Jewellery should be 100% recoverable, otherwise it is straitening a misleading claim. Traders were directed to ensure complete transparency in the description, nature and certification of the products being offered for sale.

The concerned field officers of Consumer Affair Department / BIS were directed to conduct necessary inspections and take action under the applicable provisions of law against any trader found indulging in false, misleading or deceptive advertisements or trade practices.

Director FCS&CA reviews ration distribution for Kashmiri Migrants

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, J&K Rajesh Kumar Shavan Monday chaired a meeting to review the status of ration distribution to Kashmiri Migrants under the Special Relief Ration Scheme.

The meeting was attended by Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, Deputy Director F&R, Sham Abrol, Assistant Directors, FCS&CA, senior officers of the Relief & Rehabilitation Organization, representatives

of NIC through virtual mode besides concerned Area Inspectors and other field functionaries.

The meeting held a detailed review of E-KYC of migrant beneficiaries, ration distribution, three-month advance distribution, lifting and availability of foodgrains, and other issues related to the smooth and timely delivery of ration to eligible migrant beneficiaries.

The Director asked the concerned officers to ensure timely and hassle-free distribution of ration as per entitlement and to closely monitor the process at the field level.

The NIC authorities were specifically directed to ensure that all issues/technical problems flagged by migrant beneficiaries are attended to and redressed timely, so that beneficiaries do not face any inconvenience in availing their entitled ration.

The officers of the Relief & Rehabilitation Organization and FCS&CA were directed to maintain close coordination and ensure that grievances raised by migrant beneficiaries are promptly taken up with the concerned authorities and redressed in a time-bound manner.

Kumar Abhishek Calls For Intensive Surveillance, Awareness Against Drugs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

REASI: District Magistrate Reasi Kumar Abhishek Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the National Coordination Committee for Control of Drugs (NCORD) to review the measures being taken to prevent drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Mukund Tibrewal, ADDC Krishal Lal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, GM DIC Navdeep Wazir, ACD, DFO Reasi and other concerned officers. The meeting discussed monitoring of medical shops, drug trafficking, identified hotspots, de-addiction and rehabilitation efforts, besides awareness activities.

The DM directed the Drug

Inspector to continue inspection of medical shops on regular intervals and ensure compliance with the prescribed norms. He also directed the ACD to ensure installation of CCTV cameras at identified hotspot locations to strengthen surveillance. He said that counselling of students in educational institutions should continue and awareness activities should be intensified.

He further directed SDMs and Tehsildars to hold regular meetings with members of Mahila Nigrani Samitis and continue awareness programmes under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan. BDOs were also asked to organise awareness programmes in Panchayats every month with active participation of the local community.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

'J&K Highly Vulnerable

Protocol and integration of alerts from IMD, CWC and DGRE. However, last-mile connectivity continues to pose a challenge in remote districts like Kishtwar, Kupwara and Bandipora.

The disaster response capacity is supported by SDRF battalions, NDRF deployment, and coordination with the Army. Resources are being pre-positioned and seasonal preparedness measures are being undertaken.

Community-level preparedness has been strengthened through Aapda Mitra and Aapda Sakhi initiatives, along with Disaster Management Committees at Panchayat and Block levels.

Various mitigation measures, including slope stabilisation, flood protection works and embankment construction, have been undertaken in vulnerable areas like Ramban, Baramulla and Uri. Monitoring of glacial lakes to address GLOF risks is also being carried out.

Measures to tackle urban flooding are being carried out in Srinagar and Jammu. However, encroachment along floodplains, insufficient drainage networks and gaps in enforcement continue to pose challenges.

Provisions relating to earthquake-resilient construction and floodplain zoning have been established, but implementation remains uneven, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas.

The Committee observed that J&K has made considerable progress in strengthening its disaster management framework. However, it emphasised the need to improve last-mile connectivity, ensure strict implementation of land-use regulations, mainstream disaster risk reduction across development activities, and enhance technological and institutional capabilities—(KNO)

LG Calls For

Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K; Deputy Commissioners (Presidents of District Red Cross Units), and officials of IRCS, J&K.

Intense Showers

16.7 degrees, while Kokernag recorded 26.8 degrees and 14.3 degrees.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 19.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 12.5 degrees, the lowest maximum temperature among the main weather stations in the Kashmir division.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 33.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 25.4 degrees.

Banihal recorded 28.5 degrees and 15.9 degrees, while Batote recorded 26.4 degrees and 19.9 degrees, respectively.

Katra recorded a maximum of 30.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 23.4 degrees, while Bharderwah recorded 29 degrees and 18.6 degrees.

The highest rainfall during the past 24 hours was recorded at Rajouri (ARG), which received 16.5 mm of rain.

For September 2 to 10, the Meteorological Centre has forecast generally dry weather, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers at isolated to scattered places, mainly during the early morning and afternoon hours.

The weather office said farmers may continue harvesting and other agricultural operations while exercising caution during periods of intense rainfall—(KNO)

J&K Records Zero

temperatures rose during the latter part of August, conditions remained largely hot and humid rather than developing into a sustained heatwave,” he said, adding, “Srinagar recorded a monthly maximum of around 33.5 degrees Celsius, with high humidity adding to the discomfort. The combination of moisture and cloud cover, however, helped restrict the duration and intensity of the heat.”

The official said that weather patterns during the month also saw brief but intense showers in different areas, often occurring during the morning or late afternoon. “These spells helped bring down temperatures before a prolonged build-up of heat could occur,” he added.

“The contrast highlights the importance of rainfall distribution and cloud cover in determining local heat conditions. Even when temperatures rise, sustained heatwave conditions require prolonged periods of excessive maximum temperatures, and the prevailing atmospheric moisture and rainfall over J&K repeatedly interrupted such a pattern,” the official said.

Meanwhile, the weather office has forecast further spells of rain and thunderstorms in parts of J&K in the beginning of September, with isolated intense showers also possible.

While the absence of heatwave days provided relief from extreme heat, authorities have continued to caution residents about weather-related risks associated with intense rainfall, including flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas—(KNO)

CS Reviews Roadmap

and create new opportunities for local communities.

The Chief Secretary also called for optimum utilization of tourism assets already created in Jammu city, including the Tawi Riverfront and Jambu Zoo, besides exploring additional activities and attractions that can draw visitors throughout the year.

He emphasized that Jammu should not remain primarily a transit point for pilgrims, but evolve into a vibrant, diverse and all-season tourism destination, offering religious, cultural, recreational, adventure and nature-based experiences to visitors.

On this occasion the ACS Finance, Shailendra Kumar, stressed the need to leverage the enormous pilgrim footfall at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine to expand the tourism economy of the wider Jammu region.

He suggested setting an ambitious objective of encouraging at least 20 per cent of pilgrims visiting the Shrine to stay in and around Jammu for additional tourism experiences.

He further advised the Tourism Department to package the region’s local art, culture, music and cuisine as distinctive attractions and develop experiences in and around the districts surrounding Katra to encourage longer visitor stays.

Earlier the ACS, Tourism Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma highlighted the status and proposed interventions under a comprehensive development plan encompassing major religious, adventure, border and eco-tourism destinations across the Jammu region.

With respect to Purmandal-Utterbehni Pilgrim Circuit, he divulged that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) amounting to 45.88 crore has been submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, under the PRA-SHAD Scheme. The proposed interventions include extensive landscaping, bathing ghats along the Devika River, pathway illumination, public conveniences and comprehensive solid waste management systems to strengthen the pilgrim circuit.

Regarding the Shivkhori Shrine the ACS

revealed that a project costing 5 crore has been approved under the Tourism Work Plan 2026-27 for comprehensive upgradation of the shrine along with major works for other areas too.

Giving out the detailed presentation the Director Tourism, Jammu, Dr. Vikas Gupta shared the major components of the proposal including construction of overhead shelter sheds along the track from Ram Mandir to Bhawan at a cost of 340.58 lakh, completion of a cafeteria and pre-fabricated rooms near the helipad, track repairs, additional water points and a dedicated waiting hall.

About the Aithem Mega Adventure Hub & Food Village, he highlighted that the project is being developed in two phases over 215 kanals of land. Construction of the Phase-I access road is underway with Phase II proposed to be explored through a Public-Private Partnership model for developing 16 major components, including bungee jumping, sky-cycling, skywalks, ethnic food stalls and cabin accommodation.

To strengthen border tourism infrastructure, a project costing 19.52 crore for Suchetgarh Border Outpost has also been given the administrative approval recently. The proposed upgradation will increase seating capacity from 1,400 to 3,000 persons and introduce a VIP lounge, fine-dine restaurant, museum and projector room with tendering to be carried out soon.

Moreover the Baradari River Rafting Destination in Reasi is also being prioritised under this renewed strategy. The first Phase of the White Water River Rafting destination has achieved 45 per cent physical progress under the CAPEX budget and is targeted for completion by November 2026.

The project will provide computerized ticketing, dedicated facilities for differently-abled visitors, open-terrace cafés and enhanced safety infrastructure. A 18 crore DPR for Phase-II has also been submitted for docking, launching and passenger dispersal facilities.

In addition to these the Basohli-Ranjit Sagar Lake is also given more attention for development here. The destination has been selected under the Government of India’s Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, a DPR with a tentative cost of 96.07 crore was submitted on August 10, 2026.

The integrated development plan comprises 13 major components, including a dual zipline from Chanchloo Mata Mandir to the Fort Area, architectural illumination of Atal Setu Bridge, a waterfront recreation hub at the Tourism Reception Centre with floating boarding decks, a heritage pedestrian corridor and a hop-on hop-off heritage bus service.

The comprehensive roadmap marks a concerted effort to diversify Jammu’s tourism offerings by integrating its religious heritage, natural landscapes, border attractions, adventure potential, cultural assets and modern recreational infrastructure.

The initiative is aimed at positioning Jammu as a premier all-season tourist and pilgrim destination, while generating greater local economic opportunities through increased visitor footfall, longer stays, stronger destination circuits and wider participation of local communities in the tourism economy.

India Rejects Hague

Notably, the Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960 with the World Bank’s assistance, allocates the eastern rivers -- Ravi, Beas and Sutlej -- for India’s unrestricted use, while Pakistan has rights over the western rivers -- Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague,

is an intergovernmental organisation established under the 1899 Hague Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes—(KNO)

Budgam-Katra

Anantnag, Qazigund, Banihal, Sangaldan, Reasi and Katra stations have welcomed this decision.

Passengers told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the direct rail service will not only save their time and money, but will also provide them with a comfortable and safe travel experience.

Many passengers specifically appreciated the Vistadome coach available in this train, which offers a 360-degree view of the picturesque Kashmir Valley.

On this occasion, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal said, “The resumption of the Budgam-Katra Special train is an important decision taken on the demand of passengers. Its operation has been running successfully since 29th August, and we are getting very positive feedback from passengers. Jammu Division is always committed to passenger convenience and a better travel experience.”

Jammu Division is committed to passenger convenience, Singhal said, adding that the positive response and appreciation from passengers is an encouragement for us.

The SDCM said the Division will continue to expand such passenger-friendly services in future as per passenger load and demand—(KNO)

Nepal Flash Floods

that affected Nepali and foreign nationals receive appropriate assistance and support.

As efforts continue to be made to find those missing, the ministry of external affairs on Sunday shared information of 149 Indians being rescued in Nepal.

“Furthermore, 598 Indian nationals have safely crossed into Nepal from China in the last two days, as per local government sources in China. Around 900 Indian nationals are still on the Chinese side but are safe and contactable,” an MEA release dated August 29 had said.

India’s aid to Nepal

India was among the first major nations to deliver aid to Nepal after devastating flash floods left many dead and thousands missing, and is stepping up its relief efforts.

New Delhi has now rushed more than 68 tonnes of emergency relief supplies to the neighbouring country, delivered across four military flights. The swift aid delivery is a testament to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s focus on the “Neighbourhood First” policy.

HT reported on Friday that India was the first country to physically deliver aid to Nepal after the disaster, reinforcing India’s “first responder” tag and reflecting its growing record of delivering aid and assistance to disaster-hit countries such as Türkiye and Syria to Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Venezuela.

Meanwhile, Tibetan spiritual leader 14th Dalai Lama on Sunday offered special prayers for the victims of the devastating flash floods that struck Tibet and Nepal on August 26, leaving a trail of death and destruction, news agency ANI reported.

The prayers were offered during a long-life prayer ceremony held at the Shewatsel Teaching Ground in Leh, Ladakh, where the Dalai Lama expressed deep concern over the tragedy and prayed for those who lost their lives, those still missing, and people affected by the disaster.

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Launched after Pahalgam attack, J&K CM's helpline now a lifeline for many

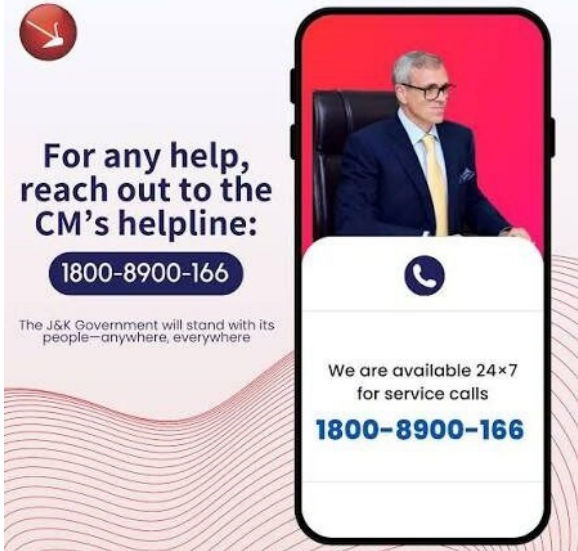
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: What began as an emergency response to a moment of fear and uncertainty has evolved into a critical support system for Jammu and Kashmir residents across the country and beyond.

The dedicated toll-free helpline (1800-8900-166), launched by the Omar Abdullah-led government on April 25, 2025, has emerged as a round-the-clock bridge between the administration and people in need, handling everything from distress calls and emergency assistance to grievance redressal and coordination with authorities in other states.

The helpline was set up in the immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, when reports of intimidation, harassment and assaults on students and residents of Jammu and Kashmir studying or working outside the Union Territory began to surface.

Faced with growing anxiety among families, the Chief Minister's Office moved swiftly to establish a 24x7 control mechanism to provide immediate assistance, ensure coordination with state governments and law-enforcement agencies, and offer a direct



channel for citizens seeking help.

Officials said that the service has since grown far beyond its original mandate, transforming into a single-window support platform for Kashmiris facing difficulties across India and abroad. The helpline has been used to assist students, facilitate emergency travel, coordinate with local administrations, and address a range of public-service related issues.

One of its most notable interventions came during the Iran-Israel conflict, when scores of students

from Jammu and Kashmir found themselves stranded amid escalating tensions. The helpline played a key role in maintaining communication with affected students, coordinating with their families back home, and facilitating the flow of information between the administration and those caught in the crisis.

The service also earned widespread appreciation in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, with students and families describing it as a dependable point of contact during a period of uncertainty and fear.

Remarkably, the opera-

tion is being managed by a single officer posted at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, who monitors calls, coordinates responses and follows up with departments and authorities across jurisdictions.

Despite its lean structure, officials say the helpline has responded to thousands of calls and messages, often serving as the first point of contact for people seeking urgent intervention.

Government sources said the initiative reflects the administration's effort to remain accessible beyond traditional office channels and ensure that residents of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of where they are located, have a direct line to the government.

As the helpline completes more than a year of operations, it has increasingly come to be viewed not merely as an emergency contact number, but as a reassurance mechanism for students, workers, professionals and families from Jammu and Kashmir navigating challenges far from home.

For many, a call to 1800-8900-166 has become synonymous with the assurance that help is only a phone call away—(KNO)

Dilapidated Sangam–Lassipora road ‘haunts’ commuters

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: The vital Sangam–Lassipora road in South Kashmir's Pulwama district has virtually turned into a hazardous stretch, with deep potholes, broken patches and a severely damaged surface making daily commuting a nightmare for residents, transporters and workers.

According to the details available, the road serves as a crucial link between the Sangam National Highway and SIDCO Industrial Estate at Lassipora, connecting the industrial hub with the Srinagar–Jammu National Highway (NH-44).

Residents said, “Despite its importance the road has been allowed to deteriorate for years, with temporary patchwork repairs failing to provide any lasting relief.”

They said the condition of the road has now reached a point where motorists are forced to negotiate potholes and damaged portions throughout the stretch. “The problem is particularly serious for heavy vehicles, buses and commercial transporters that use the road regularly,” residents added.

“This road has become extremely difficult to travel on. It is full of potholes and damaged portions, and drivers have to constantly slow down or change lanes to avoid them,” residents said.

Commuters said the situation becomes more dangerous during rainfall when potholes get filled with water. “Two-wheelers and smaller vehicles are especially vulnerable to accidents on the damaged stretch.”

Transporters said the

poor surface has also increased the wear and tear of vehicles, resulting in frequent tyre, suspension and other mechanical problems.

“Every day we have to drive through this road, and the condition is so bad that vehicle maintenance has become an additional burden. Repeated filling of potholes is not enough. The entire road needs proper macadamisation,” said a local driver.

The road is also heavily used by employees, workers and traders associated with the Lassipora industrial estate, apart from residents of surrounding areas. Locals said the deteriorating connectivity is affecting the smooth movement of raw materials, finished products and other commercial consignments. They maintained that a

road connecting a major industrial area with NH-44 should be maintained on a priority basis, particularly given the volume of commercial traffic it carries.

Residents alleged that routine patchwork has failed to withstand heavy traffic and weather conditions, leaving the road damaged again after short intervals. They have urged the concerned authorities to undertake comprehensive repairs and macadamisation instead of relying on temporary measures.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer Road & Buildings Department Pulwama-Shopian Ashiq Husain assured that the road would be restored soon, providing some relief to commuters who have been demanding improvement of the stretch for a long time—(KNO)

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Khanyar line and 33 kV Baghi Ali Mardan Khan-Takanwari line will be observed due to which power supply to Miskeenbagh, Rosebal, Hazaribagh, Kondebal, Hasanabad, Joglilanker, Palpora, Sangam, JLNH Hospital and adjoining areas will be affected from 01 PM to 04 PM on 03 & 04 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 132/33 KV and 33 kV Switchyard at 100 MVA, 132/33 kV GSS Badampora will be observed due to which power supply to Kurhama, Yangpora, Baroosa, Old Dab, Checki baba salun, Sainik School, Rabitar, Kondabal, GCET Safapora, Lar, Waliwar, Watlar, Repora, Tulmulla, Dangerpora,

Theeru, Larsun, Safapora, Central University, Gratbal, Jarakobagh, Hajin, Preng, Madwan, Banyari, Hakbara, Army Camp, Chandgeer, Aloosa, Malangam, Quil, Nishat, Papchan, Ajas, SK Bala, Sadunara, Bazipora, Nadihal, Guroora, Argam, Wanpora, Dawar, NHPC, Tragbal, Peerbaba, Razdan Top and other adjoining areas will be affected from 10 AM to 02 PM on 03 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Bemina-Fateh Kadal line and 33 kV Bemina-Barbar-shah line will be observed due to which power supply to Nowpora, Bohri Kadal, BB Shah, Babademb, Bishembarnagar, Gousia Hospital, Basant Bagh, Naisarak, Barbarshah, Exchange, Basantbagh, Car Parking, Maisuma and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 02 & 05 September.

Also shutdown of 33 kV Nowbugh Chadoora line will be observed due to which power supply to Sogam, Rapora, Chadoora Town, Chadoora Hospital, Wathoora, Bugam, Dawlatpora, Hospital, Gadsathoo, Panzan, Ranger, Laalgam, Kathairgund and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 03 & 05 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Shariefabad-Wadwan Tapline and 33 kV Shariefabad Narbal line will be observed due to which power supply to Bonpora, Astanpora, Wadwan, Cheki Hathran, Hanjikipora, Dharmuna, Russu, Gotpora, Pymus, Narbal, Kawoosa, Lawaypora, Sazuth, Sanoor, Malpora, Redbugh, Railway Station Mazhama and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 05 September 2026.

BDO Harwan Reviews Ongoing Developmental Works Across Block



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Block Development Officer (BDO) Harwan, Mohammad Muqit Wani, JKAS, conducted an extensive field inspection of various ongoing developmental works across Block Harwan under the guidance and supervision of District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, IAS.

During the inspection, the BDO reviewed several important developmental projects, including the upgradation of the Health Centre at Syedpora, devel-

opmental works at Khimber, and the improvement and upgradation of irrigation channels at various locations across the block.

Mohammad Muqit Wani took detailed stock of the physical progress of the works and interacted with concerned officials and field functionaries. He directed them to ensure that all projects are executed strictly in accordance with approved specifications, with particular emphasis on quality, timely completion and effective utilisation of public funds.

The BDO said that regular field inspections and close monitoring of developmental projects are being carried out to ensure their completion within stipulated timelines and to make sure that the benefits of government interventions reach people at the grassroots level.

The Block Administration Harwan reiterated its commitment to accelerating developmental activities, strengthening public infrastructure and ensuring the effective delivery of services across all Panchayats of the block.

Dastar Bandi Ceremony Held in Markazi Idara Ruma Reshi Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: A grand Dastar Bandi ceremony took place at Markazi Idara Ruma Reshi (RA) Islamic research at Akbar Abad, Rahmoo, in the Pulwama district

on Sunday, with Maulana Mohd Rafeeq Makhdoomi, a renowned Islamic intellectual, presiding over the event.

The ceremony aimed to honor 14 dedicated individuals who successfully completed their Hifz-e-Quran journey.

During his speech, Maulana Mubarak Ahammad Makhdoomi emphasized the significance of main-

taining a strong connection with Allah and the Quran Pak. He urged the attendees to remember Allah, the creator, and appreciate the countless blessings bestowed upon them.

Furthermore, Maulana Mohd Rafeeq Makhdoomi encouraged everyone to follow the teachings of Islam.

The Dastar Bandi ceremony held at Markazi Hanfia Eidgah served as a testament to the dedication and hard work of the honored individuals. It also highlighted the importance of fostering a strong connection with Allah and the Quran Pak in the lives of the Ummah.

JKBOSE notifies dates for re-evaluation, photocopies of answer scripts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has announced opening / closing dates of the online links for submission of forms for re-evaluation and obtaining the

photocopies of answer scripts of classes 10,11 & 12 of Session Annual Private/Bi-annual 2026 Summer/Winter Zone, Jammu Division. According to a notification issued by Joint Secretary, Secrecy, Jammu Division, the desirous candidates can apply online

for re-evaluation and collection of photocopies of answer scripts with effect from September 01 on the official website of JKBOSE (jkbose.jk.gov.in). The last date for filling forms for obtaining photocopy of answer scripts is on September 06 and for fill-

ing Re-evaluation forms is on September 09.

The notification is available on the official website of JKBOSE. The candidates are advised to go through contents before availing the service and also adhere to the timelines.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION 2ND SMC SRINAGAR

DARISH KADAL SRINAGAR

E-mail Address:- exdrainage@gmail.com. 0194-2950058

Subject:- Cancellation of tender for the work: - Construction of cement concrete drain including manholes at Tahweed Abad Lane No.02 Arampora Qamarwari Srinagar Phase Ist

Due to Administrative reasons, the tender for the work Construction of cement concrete drain including manholes at Tahweed Abad Lane No.02 Arampora Qamarwari Srinagar Phase Ist invited vide this office E-NIT No. 20 of 2026-27 Dated:- 18.08.2026 issued under No S&D/II/25-26/ 3226-48 Dated:- 18.08.2026 is hereby cancelled.

No.S&D-II/nd/ 3360-67

Dated:- 27.08.2026

DIPK-5162-26

DT: 31/08/2026

SD/-

(Er Sohaib Yousuf)

Executive Engineer

Sewerage & Drainage Division IInd

SMC Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 107/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/5371-81

Dated: 27-08-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	EDUDD2627100012- Construction of Additional Accomodation at UPS Satoora.	65.27	1600/-	2% of Adv cost	150 days	District Capex Budget 2026-27	AAYClass having MoU with an Electrical Contractor/ Agency / Firm	DDCP

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No: 97/DDCP of 2026 Dated: 09.07.2026 and TS No: 162/SE/PS of 2026-27 Dated: 03.08.2026

Position of funds: Committed

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.),Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below--

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-08-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27-08-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	28-08-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	11-09-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12-09-2026 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department) (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG) (In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

3. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG) (In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG),which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period. (In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming Annexure-Z to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

Sd/-

Draftsman

Sd/-

Technical Officer

DIPK-5137-26

DT: 31/08/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Awantipora

J&K eyes ₹1,000–1,200 cr under Khelo India 2026–31 programme

CS directs districts to harness the opportunity for transforming J&K’s sports ecosystem

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has drawn up an ambitious five-year roadmap to maximise Central assistance under the Khelo India programme, with the Union Territory aspiring to secure around ₹1,000–1,200 Cr during 2026–31 for strengthening sports infrastructure, nurturing talent and building a comprehensive sports ecosystem across the UT.

The roadmap was presented today before the UT Level Coordination Committee (UTLCC) in its first meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, who called for a focused, district-driven approach to leverage the national programme for creating high-quality sports infrastructure and facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by ACS, PWD; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports Department; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Education; DG, Youth Services & Sports; DG, Budget; representatives of Planning, Rural Development Department and other concerned departments. Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing from their respective offices.

Chairing the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed all Deputy Commissioners to leverage the rechristened Khelo India 2026-31 scheme to create the best possible sports infrastructure and facilities in their respective districts, while ensuring optimal utilisation of existing assets. He called for prompt preparation of comprehensive district sports plans and directed the districts to submit the requisite plans



by September 15, 2026.

Dulloo observed that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently demonstrated remarkable sporting talent and stressed the need to provide young athletes with the right platforms, facilities, coaching and exposure to hone their abilities and compete at the highest levels.

He called upon the departments and districts to aspire for maximum admissible funding under the Khelo India programme, with particular emphasis on developing Centres of Excellence and strengthening the sports ecosystem from the grassroots to the elite level.

Presenting the roadmap, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, outlined J&K’s strategy to tap the various funding windows under the Khelo India programme and build a coordinated sports development architecture for the next five years.

He reiterated that the roadmap seeks to address the sporting requirements of athletes from grassroots participation in schools to preparation of elite sportspersons capable of contributing to India’s medal tally at the Olympic and international level.

He urged Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to be proactive and prompt in prepar-

ing district-level plans so that Jammu and Kashmir can make optimal use of the national funding opportunities available under the programme.

Dwtailing it out further, he added that the national Khelo India programme carries a total financial outlay of ₹28,489 Cr for 2026–31, including administrative expenses, with the annual allocation rising progressively from ₹3,173 Cr in 2026–27 to ₹9,198 Cr in 2030–31. The roadmap prepared by the Youth Services & Sports Department seeks to position J&K to secure the maximum admissible share from these national funding windows.

The meeting was apprised that the national outlay is structured across key intervention areas covering the entire sports development continuum. The largest window is Khelo India Training Facilities, with an allocation of ₹10,586 Cr, accounting for 37.2 per cent of the total outlay.

This is followed by Strengthening Strategic Sports Assets with ₹4,963 Cr, Sports Infrastructure for Medal Strategy with ₹4,866 Cr, Talent Identification and Development with ₹2,407 Cr, and Sports Competitions and Leagues with ₹2,358 Cr.

Other important windows include State Action Plan for Sports Infrastructure Development (Cen-

tral Share) with ₹1,400 Cr, Coach and Support Staff Development with ₹748 Cr, Sports Technology with ₹302 Cr, and the Fit India Movement with ₹300 Cr. An additional ₹559 Cr has been earmarked for administrative expenses under this programme.

The funding architecture, comprising both recurring and non-recurring components, provides opportunities ranging from creation and upgradation of sports infrastructure and training facilities to talent identification, competitions, coaching, technology and promotion of fitness.

A major thrust of the new roadmap is on grassroots talent identification and athlete development, with J&K targeting a tenfold increase in the number of supported athletes.

The strategy envisages deployment of Khel SETU as an integrated platform for mapping and identifying sporting talent across schools and universities, while addressing the existing gap in Physical Education Teachers in government schools by enhancing their capacity through trainings and other courses.

The roadmap also proposes a common four-level coaching framework, systematic skilling of local trainers, community coaches and PE/Ts through E-Khel Paathshala, and

focused development of women coaches at local, national and international levels.

Under the proposed Khelo India Training Facilities framework, the roadmap envisages development of Olympic Training Centres at the elite level, upgradation of existing facilities into National Centres of Excellence, and greater participation of accredited private academies through the PPP mode.

It also proposes expansion of Khelo India Centres, introduction of Khelo India Utkarsha Vidyalayas and Feeder Schools, and strengthening of specialised training facilities to create a structured pathway from grassroots participation to elite performance.

Three major technology interventions have been identified in collaboration with local premier technical institutions.

These include an AI-based Sports Talent Identification and Athlete Performance Analytics Platform and an AI-enabled Sports Infrastructure and Youth Services Delivery Management System through NIT Srinagar, besides a Digital Youth Health Screening and Preventive Care System through IIT Jammu.

The roadmap envisages a coordinated transformation of Jammu and Kashmir’s sports landscape by combining existing infrastructure, new investments, grassroots talent identification, professional coaching, sports science and technology, with the larger objective of creating a sustainable pipeline of athletes capable of representing the UT and the country at national and international sporting arenas.

His international jour-

Lionel Messi announces retirement from international football

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Lionel Messi on Monday announced his retirement from international football, bringing an end to a 20-year Argentina career that included a World Cup triumph, two Copa America titles and a record 207 appearances for his country, saying the decision had been on his mind since the World Cup final defeat to Spain before the death of his father further convinced him it was time to step away.

The 39-year-old revealed the decision in a statement posted on his official Instagram account, confirming that he would no longer wear the Argentina jersey after one of the most celebrated international careers in football history. "After all this time since the final, and after thinking about it a lot, I want to let everyone know that I am retiring from the national tea," Messi wrote on Instagram.

Messi said the decision had been painful, particularly because of the emotional bond he has shared with the national team and Argentina’s supporters throughout his career.

"It was a decision that hurt, and still hurts deeply, but I understand that this is the right time. I swear I always gave everything — not just during the last few years when we won everything, but before that too. I always fought and gave my all for this shirt, to bring you joy and make you feel proud to be Argentine through football."

Having made his senior Argentina debut in 2005, Messi experienced both the highest and most difficult moments of international football. He led his country to the World Cup title in 2022 after years of near misses and also helped Argentina win two Copa America crowns.

His international jour-



ney also included World Cup final defeats in 2014 and again this summer, with the loss to Spain in July proving to be a significant moment in his decision-making process. Messi revealed that the words announcing his retirement had originally been written shortly after the final before the death of his father, Jorge, made him even more certain about bringing his international career to a close.

"I wrote these words on July 21, two days after the final. Today, after what happened with my father, I am even more convinced than before," read the statement from Messi on Instagram.

The Argentine great said the passage of time and the emergence of a new generation of players also played a role in his decision to leave the national team.

"There is little time left and chapters are beginning to close, and this is one that hurts me a lot. I love, have loved and will always love being part of the national team. I gave everything I had; I have nothing more left to give. Besides, there are some great young players coming through who deserve their opportunity."

Messi thanked Argentina’s supporters for standing by him throughout two decades of international football and said he would

continue supporting the national team from outside the stadium.

"Thank you for all the love and support over these 20 years. I will miss hearing you from inside the stadium very much. Now I will be one of you, always supporting and cheering from the outside — in good times and bad, even more so in the bad times."

The former Argentina captain also paid tribute to the people who accompanied him throughout his journey, including his family, coaches, teammates and officials.

"Thank you to my family for always being there, for accompanying me on this beautiful but difficult journey. Thank you to every coach, teammate and official I had the chance to share this journey with. I am taking with me unforgettable memories and moments."

Looking back on everything Argentina achieved during his time with the national team, Messi said he was leaving with pride and satisfaction over the moments he and his teammates had created for the country.

"I leave with the peace of mind and pride of having given you, together with my teammates, moments we could only have dreamed of. It was crazy to experience it all with you. I love you!"

BCCI completes specialised U19 men’s training camps at Centre of Excellence

IAN S

BENGALURU: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said it has completed a series of targeted training camps for under-19 men’s cricketers at its Centre of Excellence (CoE) facility in Bengaluru ahead of upcoming domestic and international fixtures.

The specialised sessions catered to distinct player disciplines, bringing together emerging wicket-keepers, spinners, and fast bowlers from across the country to work alongside elite coaching staff.

"Camps and training stints for the Wicket Keepers, Spinners and Fast bowlers was conducted at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. This batch from the U19 group sharpened their basics and built on their skill sets which will aid them to be ready for the next set of opportunities that come their way," wrote the BCCI on its 'X' account on Monday.

CoE fielding coach Disant Yagnik and spin bowling coach Sunil Joshi were spotted coaching the players in images shared by the BCCI. This comes at a time when



the CoE has been a busy hub of various activities.

In addition to injured men’s and women’s players undertaking their respective rehab, the facility has conducted various targeted camps and mandated pre-season testing for its senior men’s players, who arrived at the high-performance facility in batches and completed their tests ahead of a busy season.

Regarding the India men’s U19 team, the national junior selection committee recently named leg-spinning all-rounder Aaryavir Sehwal and wicketkeeper-batter Anvay Dravid to the 15-member squad for the

upcoming three-match 50-over series against Australia U19, scheduled to be played in Rajkot on September 18, 21 and 23.

Uttarakhand batter Lakshya Raichandani will captain the one-day side, with Madhya Pradesh’s Yashvardhan Chauhan named vice-captain. The duo will swap roles for the subsequent multi-day fixtures in Rajkot and Ahmedabad. The first red-ball game will commence in Rajkot on September 27, before moving to the Narendra Modi Stadium 'B' Ground in Ahmedabad for the final match, which starts on October 5.

Trescothick sees shades of 2005 Ashes pace quartet in current England attack after Lord’s win

IAN S

LONDON: England interim head coach Marcus Trescothick has said he sees similarities between his current pace attack and the famed four-man seam quartet that secured the iconic 2005 Ashes victory over Australia on home soil.

Dominant victories over Pakistan at Headingley and Lord’s have prompted observers to draw parallels between the current lineup and the 2005 attack. Ollie Robinson has stepped into Mat-

thew Hoggard’s swing-bowling role. Jofra Archer provides the express pace of Steve Harmison, while Josh Tongue and Gus Atkinson replicate the aggressive middle-overs impact of Andrew Flintoff and Simon Jones.

Trescothick, who played as an opening batter in the epic 2005 series win, acknowledged the similarities after England’s recent performances. "I think we’ve got a good contrast in what we’re trying to do at the moment. What we do have is three guys bowling at 92 miles an hour, which is really

nice to have in your armoury, and to have the potency in what you’re trying to do.

"The more that they play together and the more experience that everyone gets together, then it sort of fits into place. We do have some real skill, and you look back to ’05 and the sort of comparisons of HARRY, FRED, SIMON and HOGGY. But I’m enjoying the fact that we’ve got four who are match-fit at the moment and we’ve a few behind it that we’re starting to get ready," he told reporters at the conclusion of the game.

TUESDAY

01

SEPTEMBER

2026

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