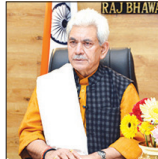


Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

Manoj Sinha
@manojsinha_



Delighted to address the IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Meet in Chicago. Highlighted the visionary legacy of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji and his monumental contributions to advancing engineering education and industrializing India. Discussed how AI will drive economic growth by combining human potential with machine intelligence.

GMK

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Abrogation Of Article 370 Transformed J&K's Destiny: LG Sinha



GMK NEWS NETWORK

CHICAGO: Six years after the scrapping of its special status, Jammu and Kashmir has moved from "despair to destiny," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday, described the region's recent development trajectory as "historic" and a complete "renaissance" that has unlocked unprecedented investment and opportunity. "Prime Minister has transformed the destiny of Jammu Kashmir with the abrogation of Article 370. On the development front, the last 6 years have been nothing short of historic. This is not just progress but a renaissance. Jammu Kashmir has moved from shadows of fear to the light of opportunity, from isolation to integration, and from despair to destiny. This transformation has opened new avenues of development, investment and opportunity," the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing the IIT (BHU)

Global Alumni Meet in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Paying tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the visionary legacy of Mahamana and his monumental contributions to advancing engineering education and industrializing India. He said that Mahamana's ideals and vision continue to inspire generations to advance technology, strengthen the economy and serve society. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor discussed how Artificial Intelligence will drive economic growth by combining human potential with machine intelligence, and called for Responsible AI. He emphasized that AI must remain anchored in ethics, core values, and strict human oversight. Technology must be proactively guided by humanity to ensure it serves the collective well-being of all people, he said. The Lieutenant

● P-06

■ Lights, Camera, Kashmir

First International Film Festival Of J&K Commences In Srinagar

CM Inaugurates 4-Day Event; Filmmakers, Cinema Personalities Join Inaugural Ceremony

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The administration on Monday rolled out the red carpet for cinema as the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) formally opened in Srinagar, bringing filmmakers, actors, directors and cinema professionals together for a four-day celebration of films and culture. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the festival at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) on the banks of Dal Lake here. As per the details obtained, the opening ceremony brought together several prominent names from the film industry, including filmmakers, actors and other members of the creative fraternity, marking a significant moment for Jammu and Kashmir's association with cinema. Earlier in the day, the festival had a ceremonial opening at INOX Srinagar, where Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Director Information and Public Relations formally set the festival in motion.



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The evening programme at SKICC featured musical and cultural performances, with the venue illuminated for the opening celebrations

● P-06

■ 'Don't Just Look For Mountains'

CM Invites Global Filmmakers To Explore J&K's Stories, Culture

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday invited filmmakers from across the world to look beyond

Jammu and Kashmir's mountains and explore its stories, culture, artisans and musical traditions, saying the government was working to build a world-class filmmaking ecosystem in the Union Territory.

Addressing the inaugural edition of the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026, Omar,

said the festival, which has brought together filmmakers from more than 40 countries and is showcasing over 130 films, marked a new chapter in the long-standing

● P-06

Autumn Session Of J&K Assembly To Be Packed Affair

650 Questions, 16-17 Bills, 50 Resolutions Submitted



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The autumn session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly is shaping up to be a packed affair, with legislators submitting 650 questions, 16-17 Private Member Bills, and around 50 resolutions, sources disclosed. Officials disclosed that the Assembly Secretariat has received around 650 questions from MLAs. Each legislator was permitted to submit eight questions: four starred and four unstarred for the upcoming session beginning September 21.

According to sources, MLAs from both treasury and opposition benches have submitted 16-17 Private Member Bills. While members are entitled to introduce bills, such proposals rarely pass due to time constraints, as only one or two days are reserved for Private Member Bills during a session. In contrast, government bills introduced by ministers are not fettered by time limits and usually pass in the House. The Secretariat has also received 50 Private Member Resolutions from MLAs. As per the Rules of

● P-06

IFFJK To Put J&K On The Global Cinematic Map: Dulloo

Annual International Festival To Showcase The Region's Landscapes, Culture

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday formally raised the curtains on the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK)-2026 here at INOX Multiplex marking a significant new chapter in the Union Territory's engagement with the world of cinema. Being held under the theme of "Rang-e-Cinema", the festival brings together filmmakers, cinema enthusiasts and creative professionals from across India and the world, providing Jammu & Kashmir a distinctive platform to strengthen its position as an emerging destination for filmmaking and film tourism. During this inaugural ceremony the Chief Secretary was



accompanied by Commissioner Secretary, Information; Commissioner Secretary, Education; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Director, Information and other senior officers in the Divisional and District administration. Addressing the inaugural

gathering here at INOX, the Chief Secretary warmly welcomed the visiting filmmakers, delegates, cinema enthusiasts and other guests to what he described as the first international film festival being hosted in Jammu & Kashmir. He observed that Jammu & Kashmir and cinema

● P-06

■ Delhi Blast

NIA Searches Residence Of Accused In Qazigund



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The NIA on Monday carried out searches at the residence of 'white-collar' terror accused Adeel Majeed Rather at Qazigund in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here. The raids were conducted in connection with the Delhi blast that took place in November last year, killing more than a dozen persons and injuring 20 others. The NIA searches lasted for nearly an hour, the officials said, adding that further details were awaited. Rather was arrested from Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh on November 7 last year for allegedly putting up threatening posters in Srinagar city. His arrest led to the police cracking a 'white-collar' terror module in which several doctors were allegedly found involved in terror activities. Rather was arrested three days before the November 10 blast near the Red Fort in Delhi.

● P-06

■ Casts Spell On Audience

Rani Hazarika Adds Kashmiri Flavour To IFFJK Evening

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The back lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) came alive with music and lights on Monday evening as playback singer Rani Hazarika took the stage during the opening celebrations of the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK).

Hazarika added a distinct Kashmiri touch to the evening with her rendition of 'Salami Wazwani', drawing applause from the gathering of filmmakers, actors, artists and cinema enthusiasts. Her voice blended with



the sounds of Kashmir and Bollywood, with the open-air venue turned into a lively musical space, with lights illuminating the lawns and guests enjoying the performances. Pertinently, the evening featured live music and band performances, creating a relaxed and festive atmosphere as the four-day film festival got underway. Hazarika's performance

brought together Kashmiri melody and Bollywood nostalgia, adding a musical warmth to the opening celebrations at SKICC—(KNO)

ning featured live music and band performances, creating a relaxed and festive atmosphere as the four-day film festival got underway. Hazarika's performance

SHE SHIFTED gears to popular Bollywood numbers, performing 'Mahi Ve Mohabbata'

'For Me, It Is Homecoming': Director Vidhu Vinod

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Acclaimed filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra on Monday described his participation in the International Film Festival of Jammu Kashmir (IFFJK) as an emotional homecoming, recalling his childhood and education in Kashmir and urging local youngsters to believe in their talent. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of IFFJK 2026, Chopra, said Kashmir was home to him and recalled studying at SP College. "I am from Kashmir, as you know. I studied at SP College and for me, it is a homecoming," he said. Recalling his father's reaction when he told him about studying at SP College, Chopra said, "When I told my father that I used to study at SP College, my father slapped me." Chopra urged Kashmiris not to underestimate themselves, saying he could see immense talent in the region. "I want to tell Kashmir: don't let yourself down. I see such talent here. My request is, show the world what you can do. The film festival is a great appreciation of that talent," he said. Describing his participation in the festival as an emotional moment, Chopra recalled his journey from Amira Kadal to where he is today in the film industry. "For me, this is an emotional moment. I travelled from Amira Kadal to where I am sitting here," he said. Chopra said the festival could provide

● P-06

■ 'Highly Recommend Kashmir'

First-Time US Tourists Hail Valley's Hospitality, Safety



WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's tourism sector is showing signs of revival, with foreign tourists returning to the Valley alongside local and domestic visitors following the Pahalgam attack. The tourists spoke during their visit to Wular Lake, located between Bandipora and Sopore in north Kashmir. They praised the region's natural beauty, hospitality, food and tourism infrastructure, while also recommending Kashmir to international travellers. Dan Richardson from West Virginia, USA, who was

visiting the Valley for the first time, said he found the experience highly enjoyable, praising both the country and its people. "I'm going to recommend Kashmir to international people highly," Richardson said. He praised the tourism infrastructure and hospitality, saying the people were among the most appealing aspects of his visit. "Tourism infrastructure and hospitality are awesome, and people too are very comfortable. That's what is most lovable," he said. Richardson said he did not face any concerns during his visit. "I didn't find

● P-06

KU hosts international conference on plant resilience, climate change

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Botany, University of Kashmir (KU), Monday inaugurated a two-day international conference on “Plant Resilience in a Changing Climate: From Molecules to Ecosystem”, bringing together scientists, academicians, researchers and young scholars to deliberate on the growing challenges posed by climate change to plants, agriculture and natural ecosystems, particularly in ecologically fragile regions such as the Himalayas.

The conference, organised by the Department of Botany, KU, with academic collaboration from Penn State University, USA, is being sponsored under the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the Ministry of Education, GoI and Co-sponsored by ANRF, DBT, GoI.

The conference seeks to strengthen scientific and academic collaboration and provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and emerging research on plant resilience under changing climatic conditions.

Addressing the inaugural session, KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer



Khan said in her presidential remarks the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly evident across the globe and require concerted scientific and societal responses. She said universities and research institutions have a crucial responsibility to generate knowledge that can help communities and ecosystems adapt to rapidly changing environmental conditions.

Prof Khan said “The Himalayan region, owing to its ecological sensitivity, is particularly vulnerable to climate change, making focused research on plant resilience and ecosystem stability extremely important. There is need to translate scientific knowledge into effective interventions, from seed improvement and appropriate plant cultivation to broader sustainable practices, while also strengthening

national and international research collaborations.”

In his special remarks Dean Research KU Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai said climate change has implications extending beyond the natural environment and needs to be understood in its wider social and developmental context. He underlined the importance of examining changes in natural systems and environmental variations through rigorous scientific research to develop a comprehensive understanding of their consequences.

Director Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar, Dr Mahendra Kumar Verma, said visible changes are already occurring in the biological calendar of crops and are directly linked to changing climatic conditions.

Referring to shifts in

harvesting periods and their implications for the storage life and quality of produce, he called for a change in existing approaches and practices and greater application of technology and predictive modelling to prepare agriculture and horticulture for emerging climate realities.

In his opening remarks Head, Department of Botany, KU, and Conference Convener Prof Manzoor Ahmad Shah said the conference connects plant resilience research across different levels of biological organisation, from molecules and genes to populations, communities and ecosystems. He said understanding these connections is fundamental to addressing the complexity and dynamics of climate change and developing meaningful scientific responses.

Earlier, organiser of the conference Dr Riffat John welcomed the guests and participants and outlined the objectives and broader contours of the conference. She said the event has been conceived as a platform for researchers and students to engage with experts, exchange scientific ideas and explore interdisciplinary approaches to plant resilience and climate sustainability.

NIT, IIM, J&K Govt. sign tripartite MoU to boost startup ecosystem under Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: NIT Srinagar, IIM Jammu's YUVA Innovation Hub and Directorate of Employment (Department of Labour & Employment), Government of J&K through Mission YUVA have entered into a tripartite MoU to strengthen the startup and innovation ecosystem across the UT.

The five-year MoU, executed at NIT Srinagar, brings Greenovator Incubation Foundation (GIF), NIT Srinagar, into the YUVA incubation ecosystem as a regional incubation node for supporting Neo-Innovative Enterprises in Kashmir.

The agreement was signed by Director, NIT Srinagar and Chairman, Greenovator Incubation Foundation; Prof. Anurag Misra, Chairperson, Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Skill Development (CEISD), IIM Jammu/Srinagar Campus Dr Muqbil Burhan, and acknowledged by Director Employment and Mission Director, Mission YUVA, Harvinder Singh (IAS), J&K, on behalf of the Government.

The MoU is part of the Government of J&K's Mission YUVA—Neo-Innovative Enterprises, a flagship entrepreneurship development initiative aimed at establishing a vibrant startup and innovation ecosystem across the Union Territory.



Under the mission, the Government seeks to train, incubate and support 500 Neo-Innovative Enterprises over five years from 2025 to 2030, through YUVA Innovation Hubs anchored at IIM Jammu and a network of YUVA Incubation Centres across J&K.

The YUVA Innovation Hub, operationalised at IIM Jammu's Jammu and Srinagar campuses under CEISD, will serve as the nodal body for the Mission YUVA ecosystem, providing strategic direction, coordination, training, mentorship and investor linkages.

Speaking on the occasion, Harvinder Singh, IAS, Director Employment and MD, Mission YUVA, said the partnership would strengthen the institutional mechanism being created under Mission YUVA for nurturing innovative enterprises in the Union Territory.

“Mission YUVA is aimed at creating a sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem across the Union Territory. Under the mission, the Government seeks to train, incubate and support 500 Neo-Innovative Enterprises over five years from 2025 to 2030, through YUVA Innovation Hubs anchored at IIM Jammu and a network of YUVA Incubation Centres across J&K.

focus areas include nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, cybersecurity and robotics.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Anurag Misra said the MoU would leverage the institute's technical expertise, laboratories and research ecosystem to support technology-driven entrepreneurship.

“NIT Srinagar has a strong ecosystem of research, innovation and technological expertise. Through Greenovator Incubation Foundation, we want to ensure that this ecosystem translates into opportunities for young innovators and entrepreneurs,” he said.

Prof. Misra said this MoU will help us connect ideas with mentorship, infrastructure, industry and markets, while contributing to the creation of technology-based enterprises in UT.

Dr Saad Parvez, Director, GIF, NIT Srinagar, said the partnership would help bridge the gap between research, innovation and commercialisation.

“With NIT Srinagar's technical infrastructure and the support available through Mission YUVA and the YUVA Innovation Hub, we can provide entrepreneurs with a more complete ecosystem covering technology, mentorship, funding and market access,” Dr Parvez said.

SKUAST-K, Bio-Enzyme Academy join Hands to turn Waste into Wealth in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) has joined hands with the Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India, Bengaluru, to promote bio-enzyme entrepreneurship as a waste-to-wealth opportunity and create avenues for self-employment among students, farmers and rural entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

A one-week Certificate Course on “Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurship” was inaugurated today at the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, Shalimar Main Campus. Organised by the SKUAST-K Innovation and Incubation Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIE) in collaboration with the Academy, the programme focuses on hands-on training in bio-enzyme production, value addition and marketing, with an emphasis on developing sustainable micro-enterprises.

The inaugural function was attended by senior officers and faculty members of the University, along with academicians, scientists, entrepreneurs and trainee participants. Guests of Honour included Priti Rao, President, Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India; Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension; Prof. M. Altaf Bhat, Direc-



tor Education; Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar; Er. Ab Rashid Bhat; Mahendra Pyati, and B.C. Kiran.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor appreciated SKIE for introducing the innovative programme and stressed the potential of converting agricultural and kitchen waste into value-added, eco-friendly products. He said such initiatives align with the University's mandate of translating research and knowledge into entrepreneurship and self-reliance, and encouraged participants to use the training to establish enterprises and contribute to the green economy.

Priti Rao highlighted the national scope of bio-enzyme-based enterprises and apprised participants of the technical and market support available through the Academy.

During the event, the University and the Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collabora-

tion in the field. A booklet titled “A Genuine Startup Dosage: Hazrat Sheikh ul Alam (RA) Entrepreneurship Model,” authored by Naveed Hamid, CEO, SKIE Centre, was also launched.

The event further witnessed the launch of startup products of M/s XYVA Naturals Pvt. Ltd. and the SKUAST-K SAFART Passport, conceptualised by Naveed Hamid and developed by Muaoim, B.Tech Biotechnology student.

The week-long training will cover bio-enzyme preparation, quality control, packaging, branding, business planning and marketing, besides on-site visits to landfills, waste areas and fruit mandis. The programme combines classroom sessions, hands-on demonstrations and interactions with resource persons and industry experts.

The inaugural session concluded with a pledge ceremony led by the CEO, SKIE Centre, with participants committing to responsible and sustainable entrepreneurial practices.

DC Shopian inaugurates Spring Shed Development Programme for CAP at Zainapora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Monday inaugurated the Spring Shed Development Programme for Climate Change Adaptation at Cluster Zainapora, a project funded by NABARD, aimed at rejuvenating and sustainably managing local springs and strengthening water security in the area.

The inauguration was held in the presence of Vikas Mittal, OIC NABARD J&K UT; Nasir Ahmad Lone, ADDC Shopian, Bilal Ahmad, SDM Zainapora; and Zubair Wasil, DDM NABARD Shopian, besides representatives of the Village Springshed Committee, Zainapora, with VOESOP serving as the facilitating NGO.

The project has a total financial outlay of ₹87.38 lakh, comprising NABARD contribution of ₹81.33 lakh and community contribution of ₹6.05 lakh. The project will be executed by the Village Springshed Committee, Zainapora, with VOESOP serving as the facilitating NGO.

Under the three-year implementation programme, 12 springs will be treated, covering a total area of approximately 300 hectares in eleven villages across the Zainapora Block. The initiative is based on the core principles of climate adaptation—conservation of natural resources, groundwater recharge, ecological restoration, community participation and building resilience of vulnerable communities to climate variability.



Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated NABARD and the implementing agencies for taking up the important initiative in Zainapora. He stressed the need for community participation and scientific management of spring sources to ensure their sustainability and availability of water for future generations.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the project will have a direct impact on livelihood security in the cluster. With rejuvenation of springs and improved moisture regime, irrigation facilities will be augmented, ensuring assured water for agriculture even during lean periods. This will enable diversification of crops, promotion of high-value and climate-resilient crops and increase in cropping intensity, thereby enhancing farm incomes.

He further added that the project will ensure sustainable drinking water availability for local habitations, reduce drudgery of women, and create livelihood opportunities through watershed works, nursery raising and afforestation. The works will be converged with VB-G RAM G and other schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Development departments for asset creation and income generation.

He emphasized on public ownership and Jan Bhagidari to take the project ahead, so that the created assets are protected and maintained by the community itself for long-term sustainability and climate adaptability of the agrarian economy of Zainapora.

ADC Anantnag reviews progress on JK SAMADHAN Grievances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, Monday chaired a review meeting at DC Office to assess the progress of grievances and complaints received through the JK SAMADHAN Portal.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed the status of pending grievances and sought detailed feedback from officers on the action taken on complaints registered through the portal. Special focus was laid on quality grievance redressal and citizen satisfaction besides resolution of complaints pending for more than 28 days and above 60 days. The public must get the benefits of responsive governance which focuses on expeditious and quality grievance redressal, he remarked.

Ahlawat directed all concerned officers to furnish updated status reports and ensure timely disposal of pending grievances. He stressed the need for prompt, effective and citizen-centric grievance redressal, directing departments to resolve complaints within the stipulated timelines. He further emphasized that JK SAMADHAN serves as an important mechanism for strengthening citizen-centric governance and ensuring that public grievances are addressed efficiently and transparently.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulics, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, CAO, CAHO, CHO, DySP HQ, ARTO, Tehsildars, AD Tourism, Exens of various engineering wings, DYSSO, Tehsildars and officials from various concerned departments.

JKEDI conducts Junior Level Idea Challenge



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: JKEDI Srinagar in Collaboration with S.P. Higher Secondary School (SP HSS) Srinagar, Conducts Junior Level Idea Challenge.

Under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Srinagar, in collaboration with S.P. Higher Secondary School, Srinagar, organised the Junior Level Idea Challenge. The programme is part of JKEDI's broader efforts to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and youth-led startups across the Union Territory.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing seven different schools of Srinagar, who presented a diverse range of innovative ideas before the selection committee.

Ajaz Ahmad Reshi, Principal, SP Higher Secondary School, Srinagar, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He appreciated the innovative concepts presented by the participants and congratulated them for taking their first step towards innovation and emerging as the startups of tomorrow.

The event was attended by distinguished experts and faculty members from various domains, including:

District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar, briefed the participants about the J&K Startup Policy and the support ecosystem being provided by JKEDI.

The Junior Idea Challenge provides a platform for students at the School and Higher Secondary levels to present their ideas along with mentorship and incubation support, helping transform promising ideas into viable entrepreneurial ventures.

Directorate of Colleges releases JK-SIGMA application for students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Colleges, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Monday released JK SIGMA, the mobile application of the Students Integrated Grievance and Messaging Application (SIGMA), developed in-house.

The release extends to smartphones a platform that has, since June 2025, been serving students of Government Degree Colleges across the Union Territory through the Directorate of Colleges website.

SIGMA was launched by the Higher Education Department in June 2025 as part of a set of ICT initiatives centred on the Directorate's policy planning and development portal, www.directorcollegesjk.in. This initiative was necessitated for Higher Education towards student empowerment by giving them a confidential and dependable channel to raise concerns that remain unresolved at the college level, and ensuring that official information reach-



es every student directly. Since its launch, a substantial number of grievances have been received and resolved on the platform, where around 1.6 Lakh students across 142 colleges are presently registered on the platform.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Colleges said that the move to a mobile application removes the last barrier between a student and the department. The application is available free of charge on the Google Play Store and can

be accessed by visiting https://directorcollegesjk.in/sigma/app. The application allows a student to receive official bulletins from the Department as well as from his or her own college, to submit a grievance and follow its

progress through to resolution, and to rate the quality of the response received—a feedback loop that allows the Directorate to monitor institutional responsiveness rather than merely count complaints. Bulletins remain available on the device even without an active internet connection.

On the administrative side, the application provides role-based access to college and Directorate functionaries, with statistical dashboards and alerts flagging grievances that have remained pending beyond the prescribed period. Access is restricted to students already enrolled on the SIGMA Portal, and the identity of a student raising a grievance is not disclosed to the college except with the student's consent.

Cultural festivals bring people together: Actor Fatima Sana at IFFJK

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh, who played wrestler Geeta Phogat in the Bollywood biopic Dangal, on Monday said cultural festivals are important platforms that bring people together, provide opportunities to youth and promote regional cinema.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026, Fatma, said she is excited to attend the festival after a long time.

"It has been a long time since I attended a festival like this, so I am very excited. There are so many things happening. Cultural events like this are very important because they bring people together," she said.

She said such platforms are particularly important for the youth, giving them opportunities to participate in cultural activities and showcase their talent.

"It is very important for the youth. People come from outside and they deserve these opportunities. People often look at things from the wrong perspective,



but I am so proud that this is happening, that the youth are moving forward and participating in cultural activities. It makes me very happy to see people progressing," she said.

On regional cinema, Fatima said cinema can help showcase the culture, poetry and artistry of different regions. "Regional cinema is important. Through cinema, poetry, culture and artistry can be showcased. These things have existed for centuries. Spoken words, artistry and all of this are part of our heritage," she said.

Fatima also said an international film festival could open doors for international filmmakers and create more opportunities for film shoots in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It will open doors for international filmmak-

ers. Film shootings happened here earlier and they are happening now as well. It depends. With an international festival taking place, they will also understand what can be done here and what the people are like," she said.

Asked about her Dangal co-star Zaira Wasim, Shaikh said they had not been in touch for several years, while recalling her experience of working with her.

"No, I haven't spoken to her for several years. I really enjoyed working with her. It is nice to see people find their own path," she said.

Speaking about Kashmir, Shaikh also reflected on the region's natural beauty and water. "There is water everywhere here. What is it about the water here that makes it different?" she said—

(KNO)

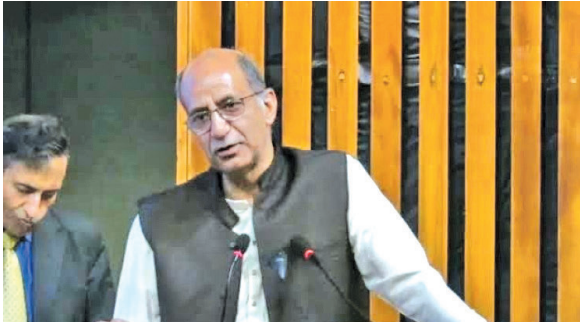
IFFJK to revive Bollywood's old association with Kashmir: CM's Advisor

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani on Monday said the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) would help revive the region's long-standing association with Bollywood while providing a platform to local filmmakers and artists.

"Bollywood has had a very old association with Jammu and Kashmir, with several films showcasing different parts of the region and filmmakers regularly visiting the region for shooting during summer and winter," Wani said. "Even today, we want to rebuild that connection."

Wani said the maiden edition of the film festival provides an opportunity to showcase films made by local artists and also



gives people in Jammu and Kashmir a chance to watch renowned films from outside the region on a competitive platform.

"The festival would bring greater visibility and publicity to Jammu and Kashmir and provide an opportunity to promote the region's rich cultural and creative potential," he said.

On regional cinema, the CM's Advisor said further steps were needed to pro-

mote local talent. He said the existing film policy needed to be modified and further improved to provide greater opportunities to aspiring filmmakers and artists.

"Our effort is to ensure that the talent we have gets an opportunity to come forward, make films, showcase them to the world, earn recognition and bring glory to the name of Jammu and Kashmir," Wani said—(KNO)

MBBS, BDS interns intensify stipend protest, begin hunger strike

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The agitation by MBBS and BDS intern doctors across Jammu and Kashmir intensified on Monday as protesting interns launched a 48-hour hunger strike, reiterating their demand for an enhancement in the monthly stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000.

The interns, who have been on strike for over a week, said the hunger strike was initiated after repeated rounds of discussions with the government failed to yield a formal written order on the proposed stipend enhancement.

The protesting doctors said the agitation was completely apolitical, asserting that they were neither affiliated with nor acting at the behest of any political party. They said their sole objective was to secure a fair and long-pending revision of the stipend, citing extended working hours, emergency duties, workload and increasing living expenses.

"We are not against anyone, and this protest has nothing to do with politics. Our only demand is a written government order regarding the stipend hike," an intern representative said.

The interns have sought issuance of a formal and prospective government order by September 15, saying that verbal assurances are no longer sufficient after the issue has remained pending for several years.

One of the protesting interns, Dr Faraz, said the interns had already waited for a considerable period



for the government to act on the matter. "Our strike is indefinite. It will not stop until we receive an official order. More than a week has passed since the strike began, and if the government takes an issue seriously, it should not take this long to issue an order," he said.

Dr Faraz said two to three interns from each participating college had volunteered to sit on the hunger strike as a means of mounting sustained but peaceful pressure on the authorities. "The recommendation was made in 2023. Even if we assume that the government started taking the matter seriously only after the strike began, several days have passed, and there is still no order," he said, adding that assurances of resolving the matter in another month or two were unlikely to satisfy the protesting interns.

The interns also alleged that some college administrations had attempted to intimidate or pressure them against continuing their agitation. They maintained that they would not be deterred from pursuing what they described as their legitimate demand.

Another intern, Dr Musharaf, said that although negotiations with the government had not completely failed, a final solution was yet to emerge.

"Our subsequent dialogue will continue moving forward, so we will not say that it has entirely failed," he said, adding that the interns had decided to undertake a 48-hour hunger strike for now and would decide their subsequent course of action depending on developments.

The interns appealed to political parties and other stakeholders to refrain from politicising their agitation. They urged the government to avoid any pressure tactics and instead engage with the representatives through constructive dialogue.

The interns said they remained open to negotiations and hoped the issue could be resolved amicably through the issuance of a written executive order.

Health activist and AIMS President J&K Dr Mohammad Momin Khan urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to personally intervene in the matter and facilitate an early resolution, amid the intensification of the protest—(KNO)

ACB arrests land broker for accepting Rs 11,000 bribe in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested a land broker for allegedly accepting Rs 11,000 bribe on behalf of a Patwari for issuance of revenue extracts in the Batmaloo area of Srinagar.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the ACB received a written complaint alleging that Saleem Altaf, Patwari, Halqa Batmaloo, Srinagar, through his associate Ab. Hamid Khan, a land broker/tout, had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for issuance of revenue extracts pertaining to his house.

He said the complainant had applied online for the revenue extracts on behalf of his father for the purpose of attestation of mutation. It was alleged that the Patwari, through his associate Ab. Hamid

Khan, initially demanded Rs 20,000, which was subsequently settled at Rs 16,000.

The spokesperson said the complainant further alleged that the said tout had already compelled him to pay the first instalment of Rs 5,000 on behalf of the accused Patwari, while a second instalment of Rs 11,000 was demanded today on behalf of the accused Patwari for issuance of the revenue extracts.

"On receipt of the complaint, the allegations were verified and accordingly FIR No. 13/2026 under Section 7, 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 61(2) BNS was registered at P/S ACB Srinagar, and investigation taken up."

The spokesperson said that during the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted by ACB Srinagar. During the trap proceedings, Ab. Hamid

Khan was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting Rs 11,000 as illegal gratification on behalf of Patwari Saleem Altaf.

The accused tout was taken into custody. During his personal search, in addition to the trap amount of Rs 11,000, cash amounting to Rs 25,125, payment slips, the revenue extract in question and a sale deed pertaining to Mohammad Sidiq Sheikh, son of Gh. Mohammad Sheikh, were recovered from his possession.

The recovered articles have been taken into possession as per procedure and are being examined as part of the investigation.

The involvement of Patwari Saleem Altaf in the demand and acceptance of illegal gratification through the tout Ab. Hamid Khan is being ascertained. The investigation in the case is underway.

Govt appoints Dr Twinkle Suri as Director Colleges, J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The government on Monday appointed Dr Twinkle Suri as Director Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir for a period of two years.

The government in an order said that the appointment was made on the recommendation by the selection committee and as per approval of the competent authority.

"As recommended by the selection committee and as per approval of the Competent Authority, Dr Twinkle Suri, (Principal) Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Jammu is hereby transferred and posted as Director Colleges, J&K with immediate effect relieving Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Professor, Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, IUST from the additional charge of the post," it reads.

Stating the terms and conditions, the government said that the term of Director Colleges shall be for a period of two years extendable by one year, subject to the satisfactory performance and the work and conduct or the department may conduct a fresh selection for the said post.

"The administrative department shall reserve the right to terminate the term of director colleges, prior to the completion of the tenure, in case, the performance or work and conduct of the incumbent is not satisfactory, after according an opportunity of being heard," reads



the order.

Pertinently, Dr Twinkle in the year 2025 was appointed as Dean, Academic Affairs for Cluster University of Jammu for a period of one year.

She has an enriching teaching and administrative experience of 31 years. She has served as Founding Dean Students Welfare and Head of Department, English, Cluster University of Jammu for 7 years and has served as Principal, Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba for more than 2 years.

Dr Twinkle has also served as Deputy Director, Academics at the J&K Board of School Education.

An Eng. Hons Graduate from Sophia College, Ajmer Dr Twinkle is one of the first scholars to research on Black Women's Writing with special focus on African women.

Her book entitled 'A Room of Her Own: Women's Voices in Africa' has been appreciated in literary circle at international level.

Dr Twinkle is currently working on a comparative study of the 'Afro-Indian Women's Writing' and also on a few case studies depicting the fearless stories of 'Women Crusaders in Conflict Zone'—(KNO)

Body Recovered From Jhelum In Awantipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

AWANTIPORA: An unidentified body was recovered from the Jhelum River at Lethpora Barsoo area of Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the body was spotted in the river, following which police were informed.

A police team reached the spot and initiated legal formalities in connection with the recovery. The identity of the deceased and further details were awaited, he added—(KNO)

Bodies of duo recovered from power canal in Ganderbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The bodies of a boy and a girl were recovered from a power canal in the Thune area of Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Monday, officials said.

An official said that the bodies were retrieved after hectic efforts by teams of the SHO Kangan, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) from Ganderbal and Gund

The duo had reportedly jumped into the hydropower canal earlier in the day, following which a search operation was launched by police and SDRF teams, with locals also joining the rescue efforts. The circumstances surrounding the incident are being ascertained, while further investigation is underway—(KNO)

Man found hanging in apple orchard in Shopian, probe initiated

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: A 28-year-old man was found hanging in an apple orchard in the Sugoo Handhama area of Zainapora in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Monday, officials said. An official said that the man was first spotted by locals, who subsequently informed the police.

He said police soon reached the spot and took cognizance of the incident.

Police have initiated an investigation into the incident—(KNO)

DIPR Jammu organises grand cultural evening to mark launch of 1st IFFJK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu on Monday organised a special and grand cultural event here at Wave Mall to generate public awareness and mark the commencement of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), inaugurated at Srinagar Monday.

The three-hour long event featured a series of cultural performances, including folk songs, ghazals and theme-based songs, presented by artists from Culture Wing DIPR Jammu and renowned artists of Jammu and Kashmir. The event was designed to highlight the significance of the festival for the region.

The event attracted audiences from all walks of life and age groups, successfully highlighting the significance of the rare event and the opportunity the film festival is going to offer to local stakeholders.

Earlier, Deputy Director Information (PR) Moksha Dogra along with Deputy Director (HQ) Ashu Kumari reviewed the arrangements put in place at the Wave Cinemas for the film festival, during which the Information Department is screening acclaimed shorts films and movies for the general public.

Culture Officer Rajinder Kumar Digra, Field Publicity Officer Mohit Sharma, District Information Officer, Poonch Hardeep Singh Choudhary, along with other officials of the department also attended the event.

Bali Welcomes IFFJK, Calls for Revival of Kashmir's Film Heritage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (BSP) Jammu & Kashmir, State President, Vivek Bali Monday welcomed the government's initiative to organize its first International Film Festival in Jammu & Kashmir, describing it as a positive development with significant potential for the region's cultural and economic growth.

Bali said that Kashmir has a long and distinguished association with cinema and filmmaking and expressed hope that the festival would help revive the Valley's connection with the film industry.

It is a positive development. The government is organizing its first international film festival. We are also trying to remind the country's film industry that films used to be made in Kashmir long before places like Paris, London, or Switzerland

became popular shooting locations. We would like to see that tradition revived," Bali said.

Vivek Bali further



appealed to filmmakers, producers, actors and other professionals from across the country and abroad to explore Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred destination for film production.

He said that greater engagement with the film industry would not only showcase the region's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage but also

create new opportunities for local artists, actors, technicians and young creative talent.

We welcome people from the film industry to come here, shoot their movies, discover local Kashmiri talent and provide them with meaningful opportunities. Jammu & Kashmir has immense potential to become a major destination for cinema and creative industries," he added.

Bali said that the revival of filmmaking in Kashmir could contribute to employment generation, tourism promotion and the development of the local creative economy while providing a platform for Kashmiri talent to reach national and international audiences.

He expressed hope that the International Film Festival would mark the beginning of a renewed and sustained relationship between Jammu & Kashmir and the Indian and global film fraternity.

33 Entrepreneurs Trained JKBRSETI Anantnag Concludes EDP Batch in Collaboration with Handicrafts Deptt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: The J&K Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Anantnag, in collaboration with the Department of Handicrafts, successfully concluded an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) batch, with a valedictory function held at JKBRSETI Anantnag.

A total of 33 candidates completed the training pro-

gramme, aimed at equipping local entrepreneurs with the skills needed to establish and sustain self-employment ventures.

Fayaz Ahmad Khaki, Assistant Registrar, INDUSCOS Handicrafts, Anantnag, attended the valedictory function as Chief Guest and distributed certificates among the trained candidates.

Speaking on the occasion, Khaki commended the collaborative effort

between RSETI and the Handicrafts Department and encouraged the newly trained entrepreneurs to make optimal use of the skills acquired during the programme.

Mushtaq Ahmad, Director, JKBRSETI Anantnag, was present on the occasion and highlighted the institute's continued commitment to promoting rural entrepreneurship and self-employment across the district

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

When Cinema Returns To Kashmir

For Jammu and Kashmir, the opening of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir is far more than a celebration of films. It is a moment of cultural reclamation, a reminder that Kashmir has always had a deep and intimate relationship with art, storytelling, music and the performing arts.

The inauguration of the four-day festival in Srinagar, under the evocative theme "Rang-e-Cinema," has placed Kashmir at the centre of an international creative conversation. With filmmakers, actors, directors, cinematographers and cinema professionals converging on the banks of Dal Lake, the Valley is once again opening its doors to the world, not merely as a tourist destination, but as a place where stories can be imagined, created and celebrated.

The choice of Srinagar for such an event is itself significant. For decades, Kashmir existed in the imagination of Indian cinema as a spectacular outdoor location. Its mountains, lakes, gardens and landscapes became the backdrop for countless films. But Kashmir was often reduced to scenery while its people, culture and complexity remained largely outside the frame.

This festival can change that equation. Cinema is not merely entertainment. It is a powerful instrument of cultural diplomacy. It crosses borders without passports, introduces societies to one another and allows audiences to understand places through human stories rather than stereotypes. A successful international film festival can therefore do much more for Jammu and Kashmir than a conventional publicity campaign ever could.

The administration deserves credit for creating this platform. The collaboration between the Directorate of Information and Public Relations and the National Film Development Corporation gives the festival an institutional foundation that can help it grow into a major annual cultural event.

But the real test begins after the curtains fall on September 10. A film festival should not become a four-day spectacle that disappears with the last screening. It should become the beginning of a sustained cinematic ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. The government must use the momentum to encourage local filmmakers, writers, actors, technicians and young storytellers. Film schools, workshops, script-development programmes, grants and production support can give the Valley's creative talent the opportunity to tell its own stories.

Kashmir has no shortage of stories. It has centuries of history, folklore, poetry, music, crafts, traditions and human experiences waiting to be translated onto the screen. What it needs is an ecosystem that allows those stories to travel.

The festival also offers an opportunity to restore Kashmir's legitimate place on the cinematic map. If international filmmakers feel welcome, safe and supported here, Jammu and Kashmir can emerge not merely as a shooting location but as a destination for film production, post-production, festivals and creative collaborations.

The presence of eminent personalities from the world of cinema sends an encouraging signal. Their participation can help build bridges between the local creative community and the wider film industry. Yet Kashmir must not remain merely a beautiful frame in somebody else's film. It must become the storyteller. The first IFFJK has opened that door. The challenge before the administration, the film fraternity and the people of Jammu and Kashmir is to keep it open.

Jhelum Is Calling

What Are We Leaving Behind For Our Future?

BHAT AFREEN

Today, I sat on the banks of the Jhelum, and for a few moments I simply watched the water flowing in front of me. The Jhelum has always been something we Kashmiris feel proud of. We have grown up hearing about it, seeing it, crossing its bridges and watching it quietly flow through our cities and villages. But today, instead of only seeing its beauty, I noticed something that disturbed me deeply, the garbage lying around its banks and the waste that has found its way into the river. Plastic bottles, wrappers and other rubbish were scattered around a place that should have been clean and peaceful.

I kept looking at it and thinking, how did we allow this to happen? How can we stand beside a river that has been a part of Kashmir for generations and still treat it like a dustbin? Perhaps the most painful part is that many of us do not even notice it anymore. We see a person throwing a bottle into the water and continue walking. Someone throws a wrapper on the riverbank and nobody says anything. Another person leaves a plastic bag behind because it is easier than finding a proper place to dispose of it.

Each action looks small when we look at it separately, but together these small actions are slowly creating a much bigger problem. We often tell ourselves that one bottle or one packet cannot make a difference, but imagine thousands of people thinking the same way every single day. That one bottle becomes thousands of bottles, that one wrapper becomes piles of waste, and eventually the river pays the price for our collective carelessness. The Jhelum is not just water flowing through Kashmir. It is connected to our history, our environment, our livelihoods and our memories. It has seen generations come and go, and yet we are treating it as though it has no value.

We proudly call Kashmir a land of natural beauty, but what happens to that beauty when our rivers become polluted and our water bodies become dumping grounds? A photograph of a beautiful Kashmir may attract tourists, but photographs cannot hide pollution forever. Nature needs protection, not just appreciation. We cannot simply admire our rivers when they look beautiful and ignore them when they need our care. Water is one of the most basic necessities of human life, yet we behave as though clean water is something that will always be available to us. It will not. Rivers can be polluted, ecosystems can be damaged and natural resources can be destroyed. Once serious damage is done, restoring a water body can take years, enormous resources and constant effort.

The consequences of water pollution are also much bigger than what we can see on the surface. Waste can harm aquatic life,



damage ecosystems, affect biodiversity and contribute to the deterioration of the environment around the river. Pollution can also create risks for communities that depend on healthy water systems. The frightening thing about environmental damage is that we do not always see the consequences immediately. Sometimes the damage begins quietly and becomes visible only when it has already reached a serious stage. This is why protecting the Jhelum cannot be postponed until tomorrow. Tomorrow is exactly what we should be protecting today. I strongly believe that people who deliberately throw garbage into rivers and other water bodies should face meaningful fines.

There should be a clear message that public spaces and natural resources are not places where we can dispose of our unwanted waste. If someone can be fined for breaking other public rules, why should deliberately polluting a river be treated as though it is nothing? But fines alone are not the answer. We cannot expect people to manage waste properly if proper waste-management facilities are not available. There should be enough dustbins near public areas, regular collection of waste, proper segregation facilities and systems for recycling wherever possible.

Riverbanks should also be monitored, especially in places where illegal dumping happens frequently. Authorities should not wait for a riverbank to become covered with waste before taking action. Prevention is always better than cleaning up a problem after it becomes enormous. At the same time, citizens cannot put all the responsibility on the government. Even if there are a hundred dustbins around us, they are useless if we choose to throw our garbage on the ground or into the river. We have to change the way we think about public places. We often behave differently inside our homes because

we consider them our own, but the street, the riverbank, the park and the public road are also part of the space we all share. Keeping them clean should not require someone to constantly tell us what to do. It should come from basic civic sense.

We should stop asking, "Who will clean this?" and start asking, "Why am I making it dirty?" This change may sound simple, but it can make a huge difference. Parents can teach children from an early age that throwing waste into a river is wrong. Schools and colleges can organise awareness programmes and river-cleaning activities, not simply for photographs or certificates but to create genuine environmental responsibility among young people. Local communities can also play an important role by keeping an eye on their surroundings and reporting repeated dumping. Businesses located near rivers should have proper waste-management responsibilities as well, because commercial waste can become a major source of pollution if it is not handled correctly. Most importantly, environmental rules need to be implemented rather than remaining words on paper.

A rule has little meaning if nobody fears its consequences. There should be strict action against repeated or deliberate pollution, while also ensuring that people have reasonable and accessible alternatives for disposing of their waste. But beyond laws, fines and government programmes, I think we need something even more important—respect for nature. We need to understand that the river is not separate from our lives. When we pollute the river, we are not polluting something that belongs to nobody. We are damaging something that belongs to all of us. The Jhelum cannot speak. It cannot stand up and tell us to stop throwing plastic into its water. It cannot ask us why we have become so careless.

It simply continues to flow, silently

carrying the consequences of our actions. Perhaps that is why I felt so uncomfortable sitting beside it today. I was not just looking at garbage; I was looking at a reflection of our attitude towards the environment. We have inherited these rivers from previous generations, but we do not own them in the true sense. We are only temporary caretakers. One day, we will leave, and another generation will take our place. The real question is what condition we will leave behind. Will our children and grandchildren be able to sit beside a clean Jhelum and enjoy its beauty, or will they look at polluted water and wonder why we did nothing when we still had the chance? We often talk about giving our future generation better education, better technology, better roads and better opportunities, and all of that matters.

But what is the meaning of progress if we leave them polluted water and a damaged environment? Development should not mean destroying the natural resources that make our lives possible. We need economic growth, but we also need environmental responsibility. We need cleaner cities, but we also need cleaner rivers. We need strict laws, but we also need responsible citizens. These things have to go together. Sitting beside the Jhelum today made me realise that protecting our rivers does not always require some extraordinary act. Sometimes it begins with something as simple as refusing to throw a bottle into the water, picking up a piece of plastic instead of walking past it, telling someone politely not to litter, using a dustbin, reducing unnecessary plastic and teaching the same values to the next generation. Small actions may look insignificant, but so does a single drop of water until thousands of drops come together to form a river.

The Jhelum has been flowing through Kashmir long before many of us were born, and hopefully it will continue to flow long after we are gone. The question is whether it will continue to flow as a healthy and beautiful river or whether our carelessness will leave behind a polluted waterway for those who come after us. We still have a choice. We can continue blaming each other, or we can accept our responsibility. We can wait for someone else to clean our rivers, or we can become part of the solution. We can treat fines and environmental rules as unnecessary restrictions, or we can understand that they exist to protect something that cannot protect itself.

The Jhelum has given us beauty, water, memories and a connection to our land. The least we can give it in return is respect. Because a river is not a place for our waste, and clean water is not a privilege—it is a responsibility we owe to ourselves, to nature and to the generations that are yet to come.

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More Than Words

Translation As Art And Intellectual Discipline

AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON

In an increasingly interconnected world, translation has become one of the most important means of communication between people, languages and cultures. People travel, study, work, conduct business and interact across linguistic boundaries every day. Scientific discoveries, educational ideas, literature, history, philosophy and cultural traditions can reach a wider audience only when they are made accessible beyond the language in which they were originally produced.

Yet, despite its growing importance, translation is often misunderstood as a simple exercise of replacing words from one language with their equivalents in another. In reality, translation is an art, an intellectual and creative process of carrying meaning, thought, emotion, culture and expression from one linguistic world into another without losing the spirit of the original.

Today, sophisticated AI tools can translate a sentence, a paragraph or even an entire document within seconds. Social media is filled with AI-generated content, translated material and digitally created voices. At first glance, this technological revolution may make translation appear almost effortless. But anyone who has a genuine understanding of language knows that translation is far more difficult than pressing a button.

Language is not merely a collection of words and grammatical rules. It carries the history, traditions, customs, values, emotions and collective experiences of the people who speak it. Every language has its own rhythm, idioms, metaphors, expressions, humour and cultural references.

This is why translating a literary writer, poet or fiction writer is particularly demanding. To transfer an author's thoughts, feelings, emotions, sensibilities, states of mind

and artistic expression into another language is not everyone's Cup of tea. It requires technical skill, literary understanding, cultural awareness and an exceptional command of the target language.

A poet may express an emotion through a metaphor that has deep cultural significance. A novelist may use a particular expression to reveal the psychology of a character. An essayist may employ an idiom whose meaning goes far beyond its literal words. The translator must understand all these layers before attempting to reproduce them.

Every language contains words and expressions. A profound example of the limits of translation can be found in the Huruf Muqatta'at—the disjointed letters appearing at the beginning of several Surahs of the Holy Qur'an, such as Alif-Lam-Mim, Ya-Sin, Ta-Ha and Ha-Mim. Their precise and definitive meaning remains unknown to us, and scholars have offered different interpretations while acknowledging that the ultimate knowledge of their intended meaning belongs to Allah. This reminds us that translation is not always about finding an equivalent word in another language. Sometimes, the challenge begins with understanding the original itself. If the definitive meaning of an expression is beyond human certainty, how can a translator claim to transfer that meaning with complete certainty into another language? The example of the Huruf Muqatta'at therefore teaches us an important lesson: a good translator must possess not only linguistic skill, but also intellectual humility—the wisdom to distinguish between what can be translated, what can be interpreted, and what must simply be left with the mystery of the original for which there may be no perfect equivalent in another language. Sometimes a single word carries a cultural or emotional weight that requires an entire phrase to explain. The real challenge is to find an appropriate expression in the



target language without allowing the original meaning, beauty or emotional intensity to diminish.

Simply replacing one word with another is therefore not translation; it is substitution. True translation seeks equivalence not merely of vocabulary, but of meaning, impact and feeling.

One of the fundamental principles of translation is that word-for-word translation does not necessarily produce a good translation. A dictionary may tell us the literal meaning of a word, but context tells us what that word actually means in a particular situation. An idiom translated literally may become meaningless or even ridiculous. A metaphor may lose its beauty if its words are mechanically transferred. A culturally rooted expression may require an entirely different expression in the target language to communicate the same idea. The finest translator therefore constantly asks: What did the writer intend to say? What emotion lies behind these words? How would a native speaker naturally express the same thought in the target language?

The limitations of technology become particularly visible when it attempts to reproduce regional languages and accents. These days, we frequently see videos on Instagram and other social media

platforms created with the help of AI tools and presented with a Kashmiri accent. While the technology may initially appear impressive, anyone familiar with the Kashmiri language can often immediately notice that the pronunciation, articulation, intonation, stress and overall delivery do not sound natural. At times, the result can sound awkward, distorted or even absurd to a native speaker.

A language has its own rhythm, pauses, pronunciation patterns and emotional expression. A machine may reproduce written words, but reproducing the instinctive linguistic habits of a native speaker is an entirely different challenge. And this problem is certainly not confined to Kashmiri. Similar difficulties can arise when AI-generated voices attempt to reproduce other regional languages, dialects and accents. Something may appear technically correct to a person unfamiliar with that language while sounding completely unnatural to someone who has spoken it all their life. This reminds us of an important truth: language is not merely spoken through the mouth; it is carried through culture, experience and instinct.

To translate the work of an adib, poet or afsana-nigar is to enter the writer's imaginative and emotional

world. One must understand not only what has been written, but also what has been felt. The translator must preserve the author's thoughts, emotions, sentiments, moods, imagery, symbolism and artistic intention. This requires mastery of the source language as well as exceptional command of the language into which the work is being translated. A translator who knows two languages but lacks literary sensitivity may produce a technically understandable translation that nevertheless fails as literature.

That is why translation is rightly regarded as both an art and a skill.

I still remember that during my Master's studies in Urdu, we had a separate book devoted specifically to "The Art of Translation." The fact that translation was taught as an independent subject was itself a lesson in how important and demanding the discipline is. It demonstrated that translation cannot be mastered simply by knowing two languages. It requires theoretical understanding, practical training, linguistic discipline and literary judgement. When one looks back at the history of translation, the same seriousness becomes evident.

Fort William College in Calcutta, established in the early nineteenth century, played an important role in the development of Indian languages and prose traditions. Translation was considered an organised intellectual activity, and the institution recognised the need for scholars and language experts capable of undertaking such demanding work. This historical emphasis tells us something important: societies have long understood that transferring knowledge and literature from one language to another requires trained minds, linguistic expertise and cultural sensitivity.

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They Raised Us, Why Do We Abandon Them?

The Psychology, Debate And Moral Responsibility Of Caring For Ageing Parents In A Changing Family System



DR FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

What happens to a society when the people who spent their youth caring for everyone else become inconvenient in old age? Our parents carried us when we could not walk, stayed awake when we were sick, sacrificed their comfort for our education and postponed their dreams for our future. They accepted the cost of raising us without asking for a return on investment.

Then they grew old. The hands that once held ours began to tremble. The feet that walked miles for us became weak. Their voices became repetitive, their stories "too long," their questions "irritating," and their needs "a burden." Slowly, we began to outsource not only their care, but our responsibility. A caregiver here. A nursing facility there. Money transferred every month. A phone call on Eid. A photograph on social media. And we tell ourselves, "We are taking care of them." But are we? Or are we merely financing their survival while withdrawing our presence?

This question is especially important in a tightly knit community where caring, sharing and living together were once central features of the joint-family system. In such families, grandparents were not strangers in a separate room. They were advisers, storytellers, guardians, teachers and emotional anchors.

Yet the joint family is changing. Privacy, employment, migration, financial pressure, marital expectations and personal independence have transformed domestic life. The challenge is not simply to preserve an old structure at any cost. The challenge is to preserve the values of care, dignity and responsibility within new realities.

Abandonment does not always look like cruelty. Modern abandonment can be polite, respectable and financially generous. It can arrive in a luxury car, transfer money electronically and still say, "I love my parents." Yet love without presence can become an administrative arrangement.

Older people need more than food, medicine and shelter. They need belonging, dignity, emotional security and the reassurance that they still matter. Retirement may remove professional identity. Physical limitations reduce independence. Friends die, social circles shrink, and memory, hearing or vision may deteriorate.

Beneath these losses lies a frightening question: "Am I still wanted?" After spending fifty years being needed, imagine spending your final years wondering whether your own children have time for you. That is more than loneliness. It is an existential wound. The first domestic debate: Should a husband restrict his wife's visits to her lonely parents? This issue is often ignored because it occurs inside marriage, behind closed doors.

A wife may have ageing or lonely parents who need her emotional presence. Her husband, however, may dislike her frequent visits. He may argue that she has responsibilities toward her husband, children and in-laws. He may fear that her parents are becoming too dependent on her, or that frequent visits will weaken the couple's own household. These concerns should not be dismissed automatically.

Marriage requires time, loyalty and shared responsibility. If one spouse is constantly absent, neglects children or leaves all domestic duties to the other, resentment can grow. A husband may reasonably ask for balance, communication and a practical arrangement. No marriage can survive if one partner's needs are treated as irrelevant.

But there is a crucial difference between requesting balance and controlling a spouse's relationship with her parents. A wife does not stop being a daughter because she becomes a wife. Marriage should expand a person's responsibilities, not erase previous bonds of love and duty. The counter-argument is often: "She belongs to her husband's home now." But does marriage mean that a woman must emotionally abandon the people who raised her? If a husband expects his wife to respect and care for his parents, how can he deny her the same right toward hers?

The principle must be mutual. If a husband can visit his parents, support them and respond to their needs, his



wife should not be treated as disloyal for doing the same. At the same time, fairness requires that neither spouse use parental care as a weapon. A wife should not deliberately neglect her husband, children or household in the name of visiting her parents. A husband should not use household duties as an excuse to isolate her from them. The solution is not prohibition. It is negotiation.

Families can establish practical

arrangements: scheduled visits, shared childcare, transport support, regular calls, medical assistance and involvement from siblings. If the parents are lonely, the answer should not be to silence the daughter. The answer should be to build a wider support system. A loving marriage does not ask, "Whose parents matter more?" It asks, "How can we protect both families without destroying our own?"

The second domestic debate: Should a wife demand a separate home? Another sensitive issue arises when a wife wants to live separately with her husband and children, while the husband feels responsible for ageing parents living in the joint family home.

Yet the joint family is changing. Privacy, employment, migration, financial pressure, marital expectations and personal independence have transformed domestic life. The challenge is not simply to preserve an old structure at any cost.

The wife may argue that she needs privacy, emotional safety, freedom from constant interference and the ability to raise her children according to her own judgment. She may feel that she is expected to serve in-laws without receiving respect, appreciation or decision-making power.

These concerns are real. A joint family can provide companionship, childcare and financial cooperation. But it can also produce conflict, surveillance, unequal domestic labour, criticism, generational clashes and emotional exhaustion. No woman should be forced into a household where she is humiliated, abused or treated as unpaid domestic labour.

The husband's parents may respond: "We sacrificed everything for our son.

Now he wants to leave us." That pain is also real. But a separate home does not automatically mean abandonment. A son can live separately and still remain deeply involved in his parents' lives. He can provide financial support, arrange healthcare, visit frequently, include them in family decisions and ensure that they are not left emotionally isolated. The real moral failure is not always physical separation.

It is emotional disappearance. However, a wife should also examine whether her demand for separation is being used to compel her husband to abandon vulnerable parents entirely. Wanting privacy is legitimate. Demanding that a husband sever his responsibilities is not. Likewise, a husband should not use his parents' age as a permanent excuse to deny his wife a safe and dignified marital life. The mature solution may include a nearby separate home, two homes within easy reach, an attached portion, rotating care among siblings, professional assistance or a carefully negotiated schedule. The question should not be, "Who wins—the wife or the parents?"

The question should be: "Can we create a family arrangement in which the wife has dignity, the husband has peace and the parents are not abandoned?" The danger of one-sided sacrifice. In many families, responsibility is distributed unfairly. One son may live abroad while another remains nearby. One daughter may provide daily emotional care while siblings contribute little. A daughter-in-law may be expected to serve elderly in-laws, while the biological children avoid difficult conversations. This creates resentment. Caregiving cannot be built on the silent exploitation of one person. The daughter-in-law is not automatically the sole caretaker of her husband's parents. The unmarried daughter is not the family's permanent nurse. The son who lives nearby should not be left alone with every responsibility.



A fair family asks:

- Who can contribute time?
- Who can contribute money?
- Who can arrange medical care?
- Who can provide transport?
- Who can offer emotional companionship?
- Who can take responsibility during emergencies?

Care must be shared according to ability, not imposed according to gender, birth order or convenience. When parents become a "burden"

Listen to the language entering our homes:

- "They are becoming difficult."
- "We have our own children."

- "We cannot sacrifice our lives."
- "They need too much attention."
- "Put them somewhere they will be properly looked after."

Sometimes these words express genuine exhaustion. Caregiving can be physically, emotionally and financially overwhelming. Families need support, respite and practical resources. But sometimes the language reveals something darker: we have begun measuring our parents by cost rather than contribution. A society obsessed with productivity may value people according to what they produce. The young person earns. The professional contributes. The entrepreneur creates wealth. But what does an eighty-year-old produce? Nothing measurable. That is precisely where the moral failure begins. Human worth must never be calculated by economic productivity.

Our parents did not measure our value when we were children. We were expensive, demanding and exhausting. We interrupted their sleep, became ill, broke things and made mistakes. Yet they never asked, "What is our return on investment?"

Defending elderly parents does not mean declaring them incapable of wrongdoing. Some parents interfere excessively in their children's marriages. Some insult daughters-in-law, demand obedience, manipulate sons through guilt or create conflict between spouses. Some refuse every reasonable adjustment while insisting that everyone else sacrifice. Age deserves respect, but respect does not mean unlimited power. Parents must also understand that their children are building new households. A daughter-in-law is not a servant. A son is not property. A married couple needs privacy. Children need stability. Decisions cannot always be made according to the preferences of the oldest generation.

The moral principle must therefore be balanced: Children must not abandon vulnerable parents, but parents must not use vulnerability to control their adult children. Care should never become domination. A joint family survives through mutual respect, not through fear, guilt or forced obedience.

We must not simplify the issue. Life has changed. Children migrate for work. Families are smaller. Housing and healthcare are expensive. Working couples struggle with childcare and demanding careers. Some people genuinely cannot provide full-time physical care. Others have survived abusive or destructive relationships with their parents, and estrangement is sometimes necessary. The argument is not that every son or daughter must abandon career, marriage or personal wellbeing to become a full-time caregiver.

The argument is this: Changing circumstances do not automatically cancel responsibility. Distance may change how we care. It should not determine whether we care. Professional elder care can be necessary, and there is no shame in seeking it. A trained caregiver or good

became. We can never repay every sleepless night or calculate the value of childhood security. The better question is not, "How much do I owe my parents?"

It is: "What kind of human being did their sacrifices help me become?" If those sacrifices produced an adult with wealth, education and status who cannot find one hour for an ageing parent, then something essential has been lost.

One day, if we live long enough, we may become the people we neglect today. The elderly person sitting silently in the corner is not merely old. He or she is a possible preview of our own future. Our children are watching how we treat our parents. They learn values through observation. If they see us treating grandparents as inconvenient, they may absorb the message that ageing makes people disposable. Decades later, we may ask, "Why doesn't my son have time for me?" Perhaps he is repeating the lesson we taught him.

Responsibility means calling, not only when you need something.

- Visiting—not only on festivals.
- Listening—not merely speaking.
- Including—not merely informing.
- Respecting—not merely providing.

It means protecting their dignity when they become physically dependent and making them feel like members of the family, not guests in a house they helped build. It also means protecting spouses from unfair expectations, sharing caregiving duties among siblings and creating arrangements that are practical rather than emotionally coercive. Sometimes responsibility means sitting beside them in silence. Old age does not always ask for solutions. Sometimes it asks for companionship.

There is one cruelty about ageing that no one can escape:

Regret has no medicine. One day the chair will be empty. The telephone will stop ringing. The familiar voice will disappear. The room and photographs will remain, but the person will be gone. Then the things we considered urgent—meetings, arguments, status, money and social obligations—may look painfully small.

Memory will begin its cruel accounting:

- I should have visited more.
- I should have called.
- I should have listened.
- I should have been there.
- But the dead do not answer missed calls.

The final examination of character: They raised us when we were helpless. They protected us when we were vulnerable. Now the balance of dependence has changed. Perhaps this is not an inconvenience. Perhaps it is our final examination of character. The question is not whether we can afford to care for our parents. The deeper question is whether we can afford not to care. Every generation passes through the same door: Childhood becomes adulthood. Strength becomes weakness. Independence becomes dependence.

If Allah grants us a long life, one day we too may wait for footsteps outside a door, look at the telephone and wonder whether our children are too busy. People do not fear growing old as much as they fear becoming unwanted. So before sending money, send yourself. Before arranging a caregiver, arrange your time. Before buying another luxury, ask whether your parent needs your presence. Before demanding that a wife abandon her lonely parents, remember that she was a daughter before she became a wife. Before demanding that a husband abandon his ageing parents, remember that marriage should not require him to erase the people who raised him. Before insisting on a joint family at any cost, ask whether the home offers dignity and peace. Before insisting on separation at any cost, ask whether vulnerable parents are being left without support.

And before saying, "They are becoming a burden," remember:

- You were once their burden.
- They never abandoned you.
- Why should we abandon them now?

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a distinguished clinical auditor and an expert in healthcare data analysis, with a prolific career spanning over two decades. He has served as the Director of Documentation and Research, contributing extensively to the development of evidence-based practices in healthcare. His insightful analyses and contributions to healthcare policy and practice make him a respected voice in the field. He can be mailed at drfiazfazili@gmail.com

Abrogation Of

Governor also spoke about the rise of a new India, which is stronger at home, confident abroad and prepared to contribute in shaping the new future of humanity.

“Under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is building its own place in the world and preparing to lead it. This is India’s moment. This is India’s century. I can confidently say that this is the rise of a civilisational power, which is confident, compassionate, innovative and unstoppable.

India is rapidly advancing toward technological leadership while building on unprecedented social welfare initiatives, paving the way for a great resurgence,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Amidst this revival, the Lieutenant Governor said, the story of Jammu Kashmir’s transformation will be a compelling one.

“Hon’ble Prime Minister has transformed the destiny of Jammu Kashmir with the abrogation of Article 370. On the development front, the last 6 years have been nothing short of historic.

This is not just progress but a renaissance. Jammu Kashmir has moved from shadows of fear to the light of opportunity, from isolation to integration, and from despair to destiny. This transformation has opened new avenues of development, investment and opportunity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Recalling Swami Vivekananda’s historic September 11, 1893 address in Chicago, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the significant contribution of IIT (BHU) Global Alumni and Indian Diaspora to the upliftment of global society.

He urged the IIT (BHU) Global Alumni to actively participate in India’s ongoing civilisational and economic resurgence.

The Lieutenant Governor also outlined a four-point roadmap calling on alumni to invest in India’s next-generation institutions through mentorship and capital, build strategic partnerships between American and Indian institutions, share an accurate narrative of India’s transformation, and reconnect with their roots by bringing home their wealth of experience and knowledge.

Members of IIT (BHU) Global Alumni Association, and prominent citizens from diverse fields were present on the occasion.

First International

as guests and delegates gathered for the festival.

The festival, being organised by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), is being held from September 7 to 10 under the theme “Rang-e-Cinema”.

Importantly, the inaugural edition features 135 films from 41 countries, including feature films, documentaries, shorts and regional cinema, with screenings and programmes scheduled across Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg. The festival also includes masterclasses, industry interactions and discussions aimed at connecting emerging filmmakers with established names from India and abroad.

Among the prominent cinema personalities associated with the festival are Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Ramesh Sippy, Imtiaz Ali and Pankaj Tripathi, besides actors including Fatima Sana Shaikh, Sadia Khateeb, Vedang Raina and others.

The festival is being projected as an effort to revive Jammu and Kashmir’s longstanding connection with cinema and promote the region as a destination for filmmaking, cultural exchange and film tourism—(KNO)

CM Invites Global

romance between Jammu and Kashmir and the silver screen.

"To every filmmaker in this room today, I say, when you bring your camera to Jammu and Kashmir to create, do not just look for mountains. Seek out our stories, talk to our artisans, listen to our musicians, walk through our city lanes, and let our living culture infuse your narratives," Omar said.

Recalling the long association between Kashmir and Bollywood, the Chief Minister said the region had played a defining role in shaping the visual imagination of generations of Indian cinema-goers. "In the golden era of Indian cinema, to fall in love on screen meant falling in love in Kash-

mir," he said.

He recalled Shammi Kapoor's iconic "Yaahoo" sequence, Kashmir Ki Kali with Sharmila Tagore against Dal Lake, and films by Yash Chopra that developed a visual language around the region. "From the vivid greens of spring, the golden hues of autumn and the quiet white of winter, Kashmir could mirror the entire spectrum of human emotion," he said.

Abdullah also recalled more recent films including Mission Kashmir, Haider, Rockstar, Highway and Bajrangi Bhaijaan, saying filmmakers had increasingly used the region to tell more nuanced and complex stories instead of relying only on its scenic beauty.

Omar said the true appeal of Jammu and Kashmir could not be reduced to mountains, lakes and snow. "Because cinema is more than landscapes, cinema is culture, and the true beauty of Jammu and Kashmir lies in its soul, its culture and ethos, built on Kashmiriyat, warmth, hospitality and a rich artistic tradition," he said.

He described Jammu and Kashmir as a "land of storytellers," referring to its musical traditions, including the santoor and rabab, Sufi music, oral traditions, and traditional craftsmanship such as walnut wood carving and carpet weaving. He urged filmmakers to engage with these cultural traditions rather than treating the region simply as a scenic backdrop.

Moving from cinema's history to the government's plans for the future, the Chief Minister said the administration was conscious that nostalgia alone could not create a sustainable film industry.

"As an administration and as a society, we recognise that nostalgia alone cannot build an industry. To welcome the future of filmmaking, we must build a world-class ecosystem, and that is precisely what we are doing," he said.

He said the government's comprehensive film policy was aimed at transforming Jammu and Kashmir into one of the most filmmaker-friendly destinations, with a single-window mechanism to reduce bureaucratic delays, a dedicated online portal for permissions, and financial support to filmmakers based on shooting days and local expenditure.

CM Abdullah said the government wanted productions to employ local artists, technicians and crew members. "If your film features local talent or highlights the rich heritage of J&K, additional incentives are provided," he said.

He said the objective was to create a robust local workforce of cinematographers, line producers, sound engineers and actors so that filmmakers could find the necessary talent within J&K. The government was also planning investments in modern post-production facilities, equipment banks, film studios and film education institutions.

"We are building a robust local workforce of cinematographers, line producers, sound engineers and actors, so that we can arrive at the script and find everything else right here," he said.

Omar said the four-day festival was not only an opportunity for international filmmakers to showcase their work but also a platform for young people in J&K who aspire to enter cinema.

"Look at the young boys and girls in the audience. Passionate, creative, beautiful natives whose eyes are filled with dreams of writing, directing and acting. This festival belongs to them as much as it belongs to our distinguished international guests," he said.

He urged visiting filmmakers to carry the message of J&K's openness and hospitality back to their countries. "Tell your fellow filmmakers that Jammu and Kashmir is open, safe, vibrant, and eager to welcome your crews," he said.

The Chief Minister described cinema as a universal language capable of connecting people across borders. "Let us celebrate the magic of cinema. The universal language that knows no borders, requires no translation of the heart, and reminds us of our shared humanity," he said.(KNO)

J&K Likely To

on Monday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14 degrees Celsius, with the minimum temperature 1.2 degrees below normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26.1 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 12.2 degrees Celsius, while Pahal-

gam recorded 23.9 degrees Celsius and 10.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In north Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a maximum of 28.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 12.2 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 18.6 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at 8.4 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum of 32.7 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 23.2 degrees Celsius. Kathua was the warmest among the listed stations, recording a maximum of 32.9 degrees Celsius.Kathua also received the highest rainfall in the past 24 hours, recording 21.8 mm, while Jammu received 0.2 mm and Katra 0.8 mm, according to the weather data.

The Met Centre said no major weather activity is expected during the forecast period, though brief spells of rain or thundershowers may occur at isolated or scattered places—(KNO)

Autumn Session

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Assembly, seven resolutions will be chosen through a draw of lots to be listed for introduction in the House. These resolutions will first be examined to determine whether they are admissible under the Rules—(KNO)

IFFJK To Put

share a long and special relationship, with the region having inspired filmmakers for decades and providing the setting for some of the memorable films of Indian cinema including Kashmir ki Kali, Junglee, Betaab, Kabhi Kabhi etc.

The Chief Secretary further observed that the festival represents an opportunity to take this longstanding relationship to a new level by bringing the global film fraternity to Jammu & Kashmir and creating a platform for meaningful engagement, creative exchange and collaboration.

Highlighting the international response to IFFJK-2026, the Chief Secretary noted that the festival has received entries from more than 80 countries, giving the event a distinctly international character. He maintained that the participation itself was encouraging and reflected the growing potential of Jammu & Kashmir as a destination for global cinematic engagement.

Emphasising the larger role of cinema, Dulloo reiterated that the Government sees the medium not merely as entertainment but as a powerful avenue for promoting tourism, showcasing cultural wealth and connecting audiences and cultures across the world.

He expressed hope that the festival would enable filmmakers and audiences to discover common human experiences across geographical and cultural boundaries and foster deeper understanding through storytelling.

He expressed that the Cinema can become a bridge that connects audiences and cultures across the world, stressing the need to harness the immense potential of young people in the creative field and provide them opportunities to tell their stories through the medium of cinema.

The Chief Secretary also underscored the rich pool of creative talent in Jammu & Kashmir, observing that the region is home to aspiring and talented writers, actors, singers, composers and musicians who are looking for opportunities to showcase their abilities.

He expressed confidence that IFFJK would help open new avenues for young and emerging talent by bringing them into interaction with established filmmakers and creative professionals from India and abroad. The festival, he said, could become a platform for new ideas, meaningful conversations and lasting creative collaborations.

The cinematic proceedings of IFFJK-2026 commenced with the screening of “Dead Dog”, directed by Sarah Francis of Lebanon, as the opening film under the International Competition category.

The opening screening set the tone for four days of cinematic engagement, bringing together stories and perspectives from different parts of the world with 135 films shortlisted for showcasing over several venues across J&K.

The festival is expected to provide visiting filmmakers an opportunity to experience the region first-hand while simultaneously creating greater visibility for its landscapes, cultural heritage and creative potential.

The Chief Secretary expressed hope that the coming days would generate meaningful conversations, new friend-

ships and lasting creative collaborations, adding that the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

With the ceremonial opening completed and the first film screened, IFFJK-2026 now enters four days of screenings, conversations and cinematic exchange under the colours of “Rang-e-Cinema” in the days to come.

'For Me, It Is

a major opportunity for young filmmakers and help bring films and filmmakers from across the world to Kashmir. "It is an opportunity for youngsters. I see this festival as an opportunity. So many films and filmmakers can come here," he said.

Reflecting on his own journey, Chopra said his education in Kashmir helped shape him and noted that he learnt English in school in the Valley. "There is such talent here. Please understand, I am speaking English and I learnt it in school in Kashmir. And here I am. This is an opportunity for all," he said.

Asked about his return to Kashmir through cinema, Chopra said the Valley has its own stories that deserve to be told. "I am here. I have made many films. If a festival like this happens in Kashmir, then the stories of Kashmir will be told. We have our own stories," he said.

Emphasising his personal connection with the region, Chopra said he remains deeply rooted in Kashmir. "I come from Amira Kadal. I am a Kashmiri. I know Kashmiri. There is hope," he said—(KNO)

First-Time US

any concern here, especially when I’m in a group, and I felt it safe all over as people are protective,” he said.

Tina Thuermer, also from Virginia, USA, said she has been visiting India for the past eight years and first visited Kashmir when she was 10 years old.

Describing her experience, Thuermer praised the people and food of Kashmir and said she would continue recommending the Valley to others.

“Wonderful people, wonderful food and I’m going to recommend it as usual,” she told KNO.

Thuermer said she particularly enjoyed observing everyday life on the streets and interacting with the surroundings. “What’s most beautiful is everybody’s life on the streets and everything can be viewed, which is lovely,” she said.

The tourist said she had never been concerned about travelling to India or Kashmir and said she planned to return soon.

“I’m going to return here soon,” she said.

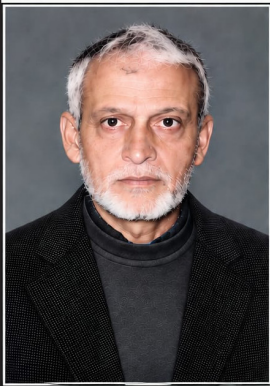
Thuermer urged tourists to look beyond the Valley’s most popular destinations, saying places such as Wular Lake are also worth visiting.

“Not only Gulmarg or Pahalgam, but other places like Wular and others are worth visiting,” she said.

For the tourism sector, the return of international visitors alongside domestic and local tourists offers a positive sign as Kashmir seeks to regain its position as a major travel destination—(KNO)

IJTIMAI FATEH KHWANI

اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی



For the late
GHULAM NABI QAZI
S/o Late Habibullah Qazi,
R/o Zirayat, Batamaloo,
near Masjid Baqa Sahab, Srinagar.

Wednesday,
9th September 2026
at 9:30 AM

Graveyard, Mominabad,
near Lower Court,
Batamaloo, Srinagar.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to remember the late **Ghulam Nabi Qazi** in your duas.

We pray to Allah (SWT) to forgive him, have mercy on him, accept his good deeds and grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus. Ameen.

NOTE:

Ladies are strictly requested not to bring fruits, juices or any other items along.

BEREAVED
(سوگوار)

* Mohammed Yaqoob Qazi

* Contact: 7006039590

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PCOS, PCOD major contributors to infertility in Kashmir: Experts

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: As fertility rates continue to decline in Jammu and Kashmir, doctors and health experts have raised concern over a growing burden of infertility, with conditions such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and Polycystic Ovary Disease (PCOD) increasingly being reported among women of reproductive age.

Health experts say the changing social and life-style patterns of the younger generation are contributing to reproductive health problems. Delayed marriages, increasing obesity, sedentary routines, unhealthy dietary habits, stress, inadequate sleep and limited awareness about reproductive health and contraception are being identified as some of the factors that may adversely affect fertility.

Dr Rakshanda Akhter, a gynaecologist at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), said infertility is influenced by several biological as well as social factors, with delayed marriage being one of the important concerns.

“Late marriage has become one of the common factors we encounter. Female fertility naturally declines with advancing age, particularly as ovarian reserve and egg quality decrease. Many women are now entering marriage in their late 30s or even after that, which can have implications for their reproductive potential,” she said.

She attributed the trend



towards delayed marriages to several socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, prolonged pursuit of government jobs, financial pressures, expensive wedding arrangements and social expectations.

Dr Akhter said PCOS is among the common hormonal disorders affecting women of reproductive age and can significantly interfere with conception when ovulation becomes irregular or absent.

“PCOS is increasingly being seen among women of reproductive age. Obesity, sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy food habits, stress and metabolic problems can aggravate the condition. Since PCOS can result in irregular or absent ovulation, it can make conception difficult,” she said.

PCOS is a hormonal and metabolic disorder in which women may experience irregular menstrual cycles, excess androgen levels and problems with ovulation. Not every woman with PCOS is infertile, doctors point out, but the condition can reduce fertility because of

irregular ovulation. With appropriate treatment and lifestyle modification, many women with PCOS are able to conceive.

Doctors say insulin resistance, excess weight, hormonal imbalance, genetic predisposition, physical inactivity, unhealthy dietary patterns, stress and inadequate sleep can all contribute to the development or worsening of PCOS.

Dr Akhter stressed the need for greater awareness about reproductive health and urged young people to adopt healthier lifestyles, including regular physical activity, balanced diets and weight management.

Another gynaecologist, Dr Shagufta from DHSK, told KNO that infertility cannot be attributed to PCOS alone and that infections and complications arising from unsafe reproductive-health practices can also have serious consequences.

She said pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), particularly when associated with untreated sexually transmitted infections

such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea, can damage the reproductive organs and affect fertility.

“Pelvic infections, if left untreated, can cause damage to the reproductive tract and may subsequently result in infertility. Unsafe abortions and procedures carried out at unregistered facilities or by untrained persons can also lead to severe complications,” she said.

Dr Shagufta said severe infections following unsafe abortions can cause damage to the uterus and fallopian tubes, potentially affecting a woman's ability to conceive in the future.

She also underlined the importance of contraception awareness, saying misconceptions and inadequate knowledge about reproductive-health services can expose couples to preventable risks.

Doctors said the reproductive health profile of the younger population has been changing amid a significant shift in lifestyle. Long working and study hours, prolonged sitting, lack of exercise, increased consumption of processed and fast foods, stress and uncertainty related to education and employment are becoming increasingly common.

They stressed that infertility is a problem affecting both men and women and should not automatically be viewed as a “women's issue”.

“Timely medical consultation, healthy lifestyle practices, regular physical activity and proper

reproductive-health education are essential. Couples facing difficulty in conceiving should seek medical advice rather than relying on misconceptions or delaying evaluation,” doctors said.

The latest National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6), covering 2023-24, has also reported the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Jammu and Kashmir at 1.8 children per woman.

Health experts, however, caution that a declining fertility rate at the population level and infertility among individuals are two different issues. While TFR reflects the average number of children women are expected to have over their reproductive years, infertility refers to difficulty in achieving pregnancy despite regular unprotected intercourse over a specified period.

Doctors say continued changes in marriage patterns, lifestyle and reproductive behaviour warrant greater public-health attention. They stressed that improved awareness, access to timely gynaecological care, prevention and treatment of reproductive-tract infections, healthier lifestyles and evidence-based fertility counselling could help address some of the preventable contributors to infertility.

They also cautioned against generalising fertility trends or attributing infertility solely to PCOS/PCOD, saying each couple requires an individual medical assessment to identify the underlying causes and issues—(KNO)

DG CRPF Reviews security of 118 Bn CRPF in Ganderbal

Commends CRPF Role in safe conduction of Amarnath Ji Yatra



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Director General, CRPF Monday visited the 118 Battalion CRPF camp at Gund, Ganderbal, and reviewed security arrangements. During the visit, DG CRPF appreciated the pivotal role played by CRPF personnel in ensuring the smooth and safe conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

He specifically acknowledged the dedication, vigilance and professional commitment displayed by the force in safeguarding pilgrims and maintaining a secure environment in the region. In a facilitation ceremony, he also conferred Director General's Discs (DG Discs) & Commendation certificates to all the deserving personnel of

CRPF in recognition of their unparalleled dedication, operational excellence and outstanding performance of duties during this year yatra.

As part of the programme, the DG CRPF held a Sainik Sammelan with the troops. He patiently listened to the concerns and problems raised by the jawans and officers. He interacted with them on various welfare and operational issues. The DG offered practical suggestions and guidance aimed at further enhancing the operational capabilities and effectiveness of CRPF units deployed in Jammu & Kashmir. He also praised the efforts put by CRPF troops on ground resulting in considerable decline in terrorist activities in J&K

along with all other security forces.

The visit underscored CRPF's continued focus on operational readiness, personnel welfare and the highest standards of professionalism in duties. He exhorted the personnel to remain mission-ready, vigilant and steadfast in their commitment to national security, while continuing to discharge their responsibilities with discipline, dedication and operational excellence. During his visit, he was accompanied by Rajesh Kumar, Spl DG, J&K Zone, Gyanendra Kumar Verma, IG Ops Dte, Vineet Brijlal, IG, Kashmir Ops Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG Srinagar Sector CRPF and other senior officers of CRPF.

Axis Bank Inaugurates Branch at Lal Bazaar Srinagar

KV NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Axis Bank on Monday inaugurated its new branch at Lal Bazar, Srinagar, marking the launch of its 61st branch in Jammu & Kashmir.

The branch was inaugurated by Shailendra Kumar, IAS, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) & Head of Finance Department, in the presence of Group Head Branch Banking & TASC business Reynold D'Souza, Cluster Head Sheikh Gowhar, Adil Shah, and Branch Head Syed Majid.

The new branch will offer a comprehensive range of banking and financial services, including Cash Credit Facility, term loan Facility, Consumer loan, gold loans, credit cards, business loans, and other retail and business banking solutions.

The inauguration marks



another significant step in Axis Bank's continued expansion across Jammu & Kashmir. The Bank is steadily increasing its footprint across the Union Territory by opening new branches and strengthening its presence in key locations, with a focus on bringing convenient, accessible and customer-centric banking services closer to individuals, entrepreneurs and businesses.

The Lal Bazar branch

will cater to the growing financial needs of customers in the area and surrounding localities, while supporting local economic activity, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

The expansion reflects Axis Bank's commitment to being a trusted banking partner for the people and businesses of Jammu & Kashmir and contributing to the region's evolving financial ecosystem.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Monday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Alasteng Nagbal (Gadoora Tapline) will be observed due to which power supply to Fethapora, Gadoora, Tulbagh, Shairpathri, Kachan and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 08 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kanipora-Keller line will be observed due to which power supply to Kellar, Gatipora, Moshward, Maspora, Kathahalan, Kanipora, Ganowpora, Nadpora, Balapora, Drabgam, Shadimarg, Sangerwani, Dompore and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 10 & 14 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam line will be observed due to which power supply to Budgam, Sabdan, Nasrullahpora, Jawalapora, Town, Ompora, SIDCO Housing Colony, Railway Station, Budgam, NIFT and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 10 September 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 kV Lisser Kokernag line will also be observed due to which

power supply to Koker-nag, Vailoo, Dandipora & adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 09 & 14 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Lisser Hillar line will be observed due to which power supply to Hiller, Shankerpora, Larkipora, Aarkashipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 12 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Lisser Dooru line will be observed due to which power supply to Dooru, Verinag, Hiller, Chowgund and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 14 & 17 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Mattan Gopalpora line will be observed due to which power supply to Gopalpora, Kheribal, Kawarigam and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 15 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Mattan Achabal line will be observed due to which power supply to Achabal, Shangus, Nowgam, Khundroo, Cherpore and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 19 September 2026.

Royal Enfield launches Himalayan 440 with focus on adventure travel, touring

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle segment (250cc-750cc), today launched the Himalayan 440 at the inaugural Himalayan Basecamp in Ladakh.

Marking a decade since the Himalayan carved out a new vocabulary for adventure motorcycling in India, the Himalayan 440 comes with an upgraded heart and an unchanged spirit. Forged by the Himalayas, the OG Himalayan was purpose-built to flow with the terrain, not conquer it. Its rugged simplicity and dependable character brought adventure within reach of many more riders, finding favour with some of the world's greatest explorers while accompanying thousands on their first ascent into adventure. In time, its influence extended into a community and culture that placed curiosity before conquest, and found as much meaning in the journey as in where it led.

In the past decade, the Himalayan brand, first through the OG Himalayan and then through its current avatar the Himalayan 450, which was launched in 2023, has sold over 320,000 units globally, as it continues to resonate with riders around the world.

Speaking about the Himalayan 440, B. Govindarajan, Managing Director - Eicher Motors Ltd. and



Chief Executive Officer - Royal Enfield, said, “Over the past decade, the Himalayan's journey has been deeply gratifying and emotional for us - one shaped by both the mountains and a global rider community that transformed a simple adventure motorcycle into an international phenomenon. One of our most cherished products, it opened the doors to adventure touring and exploration, paving the way for extraordinary journeys from Everest Base Camp to the South Pole. The Himalayan 440 marks a celebration of this incredible journey. Driven by the messages from our community and guided thoughtfully by authentic rider feedback, the Himalayan 440 delivers precisely what was asked for - a simple, accessible, and uncomplicated adventure tourer - the same essence that defined the OG Himalayan.”

To commemorate the launch, initial units of the Himalayan 440 will feature

an exclusive ten-year anniversary badge on the fuel tank.

Available in three colours namely Sela Black, Mustang Brown, and Nelong White, the motorcycle is priced at ₹ 2,29,000 (ex-showroom). Bookings will open across authorised Royal Enfield dealerships in India and on royaleenfield.com from September 4, 2026.

A decade after the launch of the original 411, the new Himalayan 440 stands as a testament to how far that initial vision has evolved. It retains the iconic design and ergonomic rider triangle that established the first model, while introducing an enhanced 443cc long-stroke engine, a new six-speed transmission, and targeted mechanical refinements for increased durability, versatility, and touring comfort. The core philosophy remains unchanged: function over frills, capability before complexity, and character above all.

SKUAST-K opens up Scholarship opportunities for First-Year Students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) organised a Counselling and Awareness Programme on Reliance Foundation Undergraduate and Postgraduate Scholarships in collaboration with the Reliance Foundation on September 7 at Nund Reshi Convention Centre, Main Campus, Shalimar.

The programme aimed

to sensitise first-year undergraduate and postgraduate students about scholarship opportunities and encourage eligible students to seek financial assistance for pursuing higher education.

The Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and urged students to work towards self-reliance by making effective use of available opportunities, including startups, innovation programmes, scholarships and other

avenues listed on Scholarliffy. He encouraged students to actively explore such opportunities for their academic, professional and personal growth and appreciated the Dean Students Welfare and her team for organising the programme.

In her welcome address, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth encouraged students to take initiative, overcome the fear of failure and remain proactive in pursuing scholarships and other developmental opportunities.

Vijay Roy, Founder, Scholarliffy, delivered a detailed presentation on scholarship opportunities available through the platform, covering eligibility criteria, application procedures and required documents. He also briefed students on the Reliance Foundation Undergraduate and Postgraduate Scholarship Programme for 2026-27, including its eligibility requirements and benefits, besides highlighting other scholarship schemes and financial

assistance opportunities for higher education.

Among others, the programme was attended by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension/Dean, Faculty of Horticulture; Prof. M. Altaf Bhat, Director Education; Prof. (Dr.) Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar; Prof. Afshan Gul, Dean Students Welfare; Prof. Rohitashw, Associate Dean, COAE&T; Prof. Farah Naz Rasool, Officer on Special Duty; besides faculty members and a large number of students.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ

With Profound Grief & Heavy Hearts

We inform you about the **4th Day** (Chahrum) congregational prayers for the departed soul,
Wife of Khawaja Abdul Rahim Wani
(Originally from Court Road, Lal Chowk, Srinagar;
Presently residing at Wazir Bagh, Srinagar),
Who has returned to the mercy of Almighty Allah.

The 4th Day congregational prayers (Chahrum) will be observed:
Tomorrow, 8th of September at 9:00 AM.
Venue: The Graveyard located at Government Quarters, **Tulsi Bagh, Srinagar.**


Friends, relatives, and well-wishers are requested
Friends, relatives, and well-wishers are requested
to join us in making collective prayers for the
eternal peace of the departed soul and strength
for the bereaved family.

May Allah (SWT) grant her the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bestow patience upon the family.

From: The Bereaved Family

Baramulla's U-17 Football Action Kicks Off



GMK SPORTS DESK

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services & Sports, District Baramulla, Monday commenced the Inter-Zonal District-Level Football Competition for Under-17 Boys at Prof. Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla, with 18 educational zonal teams participating in the championship.

The opening day witnessed five competitive encounters, with young footballers displaying impressive skill, determi-

nation and sporting spirit. Dangiwaacha defeated Wagoor 3-0, Baramulla defeated Singpora Pattan 2-0, Pattan defeated Chandanwari 3-0, Sopore defeated Rohama 2-1, while Singpora Kalan defeated Baramulla 3-0.

As per the competition schedule, six matches will be played tomorrow at the same venue. Each participating team will play three matches during the competition, providing the young players with further opportunities to demonstrate their talent and competi-

tive spirit.

Meanwhile, the Inter-Cluster District-Level Cricket Competition for Under-19 Boys also commenced in Cluster Pattan, with four educational zonal teams competing at High School Andergam, adding further excitement to the district's sporting calendar.

The Department continues to provide young athletes with competitive platforms to hone their skills while promoting discipline, teamwork, fitness and sportsmanship among school-going youth.

Inter-District Division-Level Girls Chess Competition concludes at Chanderkote



GMK SPORTS DESK

RAMBAN: The Inter-District Division-Level Chess Competition for Girls, organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, concluded today at Chanderkote with participation from young chess players from across the Jammu Division.

Around 132 girl players representing 10 districts—Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Doda, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch,

Reasi and Ramban—participated in the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories.

Kathua emerged the winner in U-14 Girls, while Jammu bagged both U-17 and U-19 titles.

During the closing ceremony, DYSSO Nazir Husain presented medals and trophies to the winners and runners-up and congratulated the participants for displaying talent, discipline, sportsmanship and competitive spirit.

He encouraged the young players to continue their efforts and excel at higher levels.

The visiting teams appreciated the arrangements made by district administration Ramban for accommodation, food and other facilities. The championship provided a valuable platform to budding chess players to gain competitive exposure and promote a culture of sports and chess among students across the Jammu Division.

Kathua hosts Inter-District Division Level Girls Kho-Kho Tourney

DC inaugurates mega sports event



GMK SPORTS DESK

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today inaugurated the Inter-District Division Level Kho-Kho Tournament (All Age Group Girls)-2026, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K UT, at Trikuta Palace, Dayala Chack, here today.

Under-17 Kho-Kho teams from various districts of Jammu Division, including Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Doda, Jammu, Kishtwar, Kathua, Poonch and Ramban, participated in the tourna-

ment along with Physical Education Teachers and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the initiative of the Department of Youth Services and Sports and said that such sporting events provide valuable exposure to young athletes besides providing them a platform to nurture and showcase their sporting talent.

He said that participation in sports inculcates qualities such as discipline, teamwork, leadership, confidence and perseverance. It also teaches players to respect others, follow

rules and accept both victory and defeat gracefully. Sports further contribute to physical fitness, mental strength, decision-making skills and a positive attitude, helping young players grow into responsible, confident and successful individuals.

Earlier, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Sunil Kumar welcomed the Chief Guest, other guests, participating players and their accompanying teachers.

All participating players and officials also took the Tournament Pledge, committing themselves to fair play, discipline and the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Champions League: PSG begin quest for three-peat, Arsenal eye continental glory

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The UEFA Champions League 2026-27 is set to kick off on Tuesday when 36 top teams around Europe will battle it out for the continental showpiece.

Reigning two-time champions Paris Saint-Germain will be looking for a famous three-peat as they bid to become the first team since Real Madrid in 2016-18 with a hat-trick of UCL titles.

Eyes will also be on the likes of Arsenal and Bayern Munich, who came close to winning the title in 2025-26, but their runs were halted by Luis Enrique's men, who seem to be favourites for another title.

PSG have the arsenal for another crown, it seems, despite the transfer window not going as they wanted. They targeted Yan Diomande, who went to Real Madrid, and they let go of their winger Bradley Barcola, who used to be behind their star attacking line. PSG have been bolstered by the arrival of Ferran Torres, Lucas Digne, Mika Godts



and Maghnes Aklouche and have the fabled pair of Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Ousmane Dembele in their ranks.

They will be up against a relatively comfortable opponent in Slovan Bratislava for their Matchday 1 at home. They will also play Barcelona, AS Roma, and Galatasaray at home, while they will be on a trip for their away league games against Man City, Aston Villa, Villarreal, and Como.

Meanwhile, Arsenal will be looking to go one

step ahead of the runners-up finish from last time as they open their campaign against Napoli away from home. The Gunners would also feel they are missing a piece or two after the transfer window, as they could not complete the famous Julian Alvarez move but have brought in Ezri Konsa (Aston Villa), midfielder Bruno Guimarães (Newcastle United) and winger Christos Tzolis (Club Brugge). They have also let Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus go.

Arsenal will face Real Madrid, Borussia Dortmund, Lille and Sabah FK at home, while their away fixtures, apart from Napoli, will be against Bayern Munich, Real Betis and Slavia Prague.

Eyes will also be on Bayern, who open their campaign against Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt at home. They were impressive last season in the UCL, and their high-scoring leg 1 semifinal against PSG was one of the most memorable and fast-moving games.

They will be led by Harry Kane, with Michael Olise and Luis Diaz providing in support. Bayern will be looking for their first European title since 2019-20.

They will play Arsenal, Real Betis, Bodo/Glimt and Slavia Prague at home, while their away fixtures are against Atletico Madrid, Man United, Lille and Viking FK.

While these three look set for a battle for the European title, the likes of Barcelona, Real Madrid, and Manchester City can't be ruled out either.

Barca have brought in 2026 World Cup Golden Ball winner Rodri and Anthony Gordon. With Jose Mourinho back, Real Madrid will be hoping for continental glory, but they will be shouldered largely by Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham.

City have done a decent job in the transfer window with their most eye-catching arrival of Enzo Fernandez from Chelsea. They have also added Elliot Anderson and young Ayyoub Bouaddi.

‘No added pressure’: Satwik-Chirag focus on fine-tuning ahead of Asian Games

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Fresh from winning the China Masters, India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are focused on making the most of the 10-day window before the Asian Games, with the reigning champions insisting there is no added pressure despite entering the continental showpiece as defending champions.

"No, not necessarily. I think we've played. This is going to be the third Asian Games. And I think we are used to the games, like playing at such big stages. So I think there's no added pressure as such of playing a big event. But I think pressure is always there. For each and every tournament that you play, this is how you are able to cope with it and handle it. And I think we just want to go like, we have 10 days of practice before we head to the Asian Games, and we

want to go out there and give it our best.

"So before we take that flight to Nagoya, we want to practise all the shortcomings and improve on things we want to improve on. And I think in the next 10 days, that would be our goal to keep our bodies fit and to work on the things that need to be worked on," Chirag Shetty told IANS in a virtual interaction.

The World No. 5 Indians were made to work hard in the China Masters final on Sunday as they came from behind to beat China's He and Ren 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 in a 70-minute thriller. The victory was especially sweet for Satwik and Chirag, who finished second in the China Masters in 2023 and 2025 and reached the semifinals in 2024. They became the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the event since its inception in 2005. Reflecting on their victory, the pair said the title has given



them a timely confidence boost ahead of the Asian Games.

"Yeah, it feels really good, obviously, to win the China Masters right before the Asian Games. It definitely gives us a huge confidence boost going into the Asian Games, especially after having a tough few months being away from the court. So it definitely gives us a boost that, yes, the thing that we are doing is actually working. And we've got some really good match practice as well. And it definitely is a good sign.

And yeah, I think we just want, as I said before, we just want to go out there and give our best at the Asian Games. It's a major event. And we've always looked up to and wanted to perform well at the Asian Games. And likewise, this time too, we want to go out there and really do well for the country."

Their win at the China Masters was the 10th BWF World Tour title of their careers and the third World Tour final of 2026. They were runners-up at the Thailand Open in May

and claimed the Singapore Open title later that month.

The Chinese pair got off to a flying start in the final, racing into a 5-0 lead and remaining in control to lead 11-5 at the interval. Satwik and Chirag could not get going and eventually lost the first game 11-21 in 18 minutes. In game two, the Indians answered emphatically. China raced to a 2-0 lead, but Satwik and Chirag rallied to level at 3-3 and 6-6 and then took charge.

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IFFJK

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KASHMIR'S STORIES ON A GLOBAL SCREEN

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), regular movie screenings will not be available on

7th
September

8th
September

9th
September

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Calendar icon

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