

Hope for early resolution of interns' stir as Govt holds talks : CM's Advisor



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani on Tuesday said the issue related to the demand for stipend hike by MBBS interns and other students was under "active consideration" and expressed hope that it would be resolved at the earliest.

"The matter of MBBS interns and other students is under consider-

ation. Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo is pursuing it and is in talks with the concerned authorities," Wani told reporters.

"I hope the issue will be resolved at earliest, not in weeks," he added.

Trainee doctors at Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) across the Valley have been protesting for the past several days, demanding a substantial revision in their monthly stipend. The

agitating interns have threatened to intensify their stir if no written assurance is issued by the administration.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo had earlier described the demands as "genuine" and said the matter was being processed with the Finance Department. However, the interns have remained firm on their demand for a formal written order before calling off their protest. (KNS)

JKEDI concludes 4-Week Entrepreneurship, Skill Development Programme



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SRINAGAR: The valedictory function of the 4-week / 104-hour Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the RAMP scheme was held Tuesday at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

The valedictory function was presided over by Dr. Naila Khanday, Faculty JKEDI as chief guest; Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer JKEDI and other distinguished faculty members.

The chief guest held an insightful interactive

session with the participants. She spoke about the evolving entrepreneurial landscape of the region and encouraged the participants to consider entrepreneurship as a confident career choice. She emphasized the importance of skill development and staying relevant with changing times.

Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, highlighted various initiatives of JKEDI for entrepreneurship development and the government support available for new enterprises.

Nazia Shafi encouraged the trainees to leverage their training to establish competitive and sustainable enterprises.

The participants remained enthusiastic throughout the 4-week programme and showed keen interest during classroom sessions as well as field visits. The batch underwent intensive modules on GST, IPR, Working Capital Management, E-commerce, DPR Preparation, and Government-sponsored schemes including YUVA, MUDRA, Startup J&K, etc.

ADDC Shopian chairs DLRC-DCC meeting

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SHOPIAN: District Level Review Committee (DLRC)-cum-District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting of District Shopian to review the performance of financial institutions for the first quarter of FY 2026-27, ended June 30, 2026, was held Tuesday at the Meeting Hall of the District Administrative Complex, Shopian.

At the outset, the LDM apprised the meeting about the major achievements of the district in the financial sector as on June 30, 2026.

It was informed that deposits in the district registered a 13% year-on-year (YoY) growth, while witnessing a 2% decline compared to the previous quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Similarly, advances recorded a 15% YoY growth and a 4% increase over the previous quarter. Priority Sector Advances registered a 6% YoY growth and an 8% increase over the previous quarter.

The Non-Priority Sector of the district recorded a significant 29% YoY growth, though it witnessed a 3% decline compared to the previous quarter.

The meeting was also



informed that the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio of the district stood at 130% as on June 30, 2026.

Reviewing the progress under the District Credit Plan (DCP) 2026-27, it was informed that against the annual financial target of ₹2,308.18 crore and a physical target of 58,123 beneficiaries, various banks operating in the district disbursed ₹397.10 crore to 13,466 beneficiaries during the first quarter of the current financial year, with an achievement of 17% of the annual financial target and 23% of the physical target during the quarter.

Dr Nasir Lone reviewed the performance of banks and departments and stressed upon all stakeholders to further strengthen coordination and ensure timely disposal and sanctioning of eligible cases under various credit-linked schemes. He

called for focused efforts to improve financial inclusion, credit flow to priority sectors and achievement of the targets fixed under the District Credit Plan.

The ADDC also emphasised the need for regular monitoring of the implementation of various Government-sponsored schemes so that maximum eligible beneficiaries derive the intended benefits.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr Nasir Ahmad Lone, and attended by Chief Planning Officer Shopian, Mudassir Ahmad, General Manager DIC, Shopian, Surjeel Ahmad, Lead District Manager (LDM) Shopian, Farooq Ahmad, Lead District Officer (LDO), RBI, district-level officers of various Government Departments and representatives of banks.

Annual Architecture Festival 'Nairang-e-Tameer' begins at IUST

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AWANTIPORA: The Department of Architecture, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Tuesday inaugurated second edition of its Annual Architecture Festival, "Nairang-e-Tameer: Celebrating Craft, Culture and Community: Traditions in Practice," bringing together academia, practitioners, heritage professionals, entrepreneurs, craftspeople and students to explore the deep connections between architecture, traditional crafts, culture and community.

The three-day festival being organised from September 8 to 10, provides a platform for students and practitioners to showcase their work, exchange ideas, build professional networks and explore the relationship between traditional architectural knowledge and contemporary practice.

While welcoming the participants, Mehraan Qureshi, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, described Nairang-e-Tameer as a platform, where students and archi-



ects can come together to share their work and learn from one another.

In his presidential address, Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, emphasised the need to preserve the character of Kashmiri architecture while responding to contemporary challenges.

"There is a growing homogenisation of architectural forms including the proliferation of

similar building types and hence a need to integrate modernity with traditional practices," he said. He also stressed on taking greater account of disaster resilience too.

Prof. Romshoo called for architecture students to be exposed to emerging technologies, so that modern technological tools can be meaningfully blended with traditional architecture. He emphasised on the need to

make such initiatives more student-centric.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kuldeep, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Government of J&K, highlighted ongoing efforts towards developing an ethnographic gallery documenting artefacts and cultural materials. Dr Kuldeep also pointed out that J&K currently has only two schools of architecture, at IUST and Shri

Mata Vaishno Devi University, underscoring the importance of strengthening opportunities for students and professionals in the field.

Earlier, Qazi Qammer Iqbal, Dean, School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, in his opening remarks, reflected on the significance of the festival's Persian derived name. He noted that both Nairang, associated with deception and magic and Tameer, meaning construction, hold a particular relevance to architecture. He said that architecture too involves an element of "deception" through the ways in which spaces, forms and perceptions are created.

While delivering her address, Dr Ruheela Hassan, Dean Outreach, IUST, congratulated the Department of Architecture, participants and organisers for the initiative and appreciated the theme of the festival. Emphasising the wider social role of architecture, she quoted that meaningful work emerges, when knowledge meets society. She remarked that architects do not merely construct buildings but also "give us hope."

RCFC NR-II conducts Pre-Programme Activities ahead of Ayurveda Day

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Regional-cum-Facilitation Centre, Northern Region-II (RCFC NR-II), National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, SKUAST-Kashmir, conducted pre-programme activities at SRM Welkin School, Sopore, Tuesday ahead of the 11th Ayurveda Day celebrations scheduled to be held on September 22 and 23, 2026, under the theme "Ayurveda for Healthier Tomorrow."

The programme focused on promoting awareness about medicinal plants, their conservation, scientific cultivation and sustainable utilization in the context of Ayurveda.

As part of the programme, the technical team of RCFC NR-II conducted an awareness session on "Sustainable Cultivation and Harvesting of Medicinal Plants." Dr. Sofi Imtiyaz Ali, Project Manager, RCFC NR-II, sensitized the participants about the importance of conserving medicinal



plant resources and adopting scientific cultivation and sustainable harvesting practices to ensure their long-term availability.

Dr. Sofi also highlighted the need to integrate the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda with scientific, sustainable and evidence-based practices for promoting the responsible utilization of medicinal plants.

A Green Ayurveda Plantation Drive was also organised within the school premises, during which medicinal plant saplings were planted to encourage students to actively participate in the conservation of valuable medicinal plant resources. The programme wit-

nessed enthusiastic participation from the students and teaching staff of SRM Welkin School, Sopore, along with the technical team of RCFC NR-II. The participants were encouraged to adopt scientific cultivation practices, conserve medicinal plants and explore entrepreneurial and livelihood opportunities in the medicinal plants sector with technical guidance and institutional support from RCFC NR-II.

The programme concluded with a call to carry forward the vision of "Ayurveda for Healthier Tomorrow" through greater awareness, conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants.

J&K, Ladakh Agencies Step Up Coordination To Tackle Drug Networks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Senior enforcement and security agencies from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh reviewed drug trafficking trends, illicit cultivation and financial networks linked to narcotics during a joint coordination meeting here.

The second Union Territory-level Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting on narcotics control was held at the Police Control Room, Srinagar, under the chairpersonship of DDG (NWR), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), and IG Crime/Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of J&K

Police. Officials from the Enforcement Directorate, Border Security Force, State Drug Controller, Intelligence Bureau, Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Income Tax Department and National Investigation Agency, besides SSPs of Jammu, Srinagar and Ganderbal, attended the meeting.

The agencies discussed emerging patterns in drug trafficking, inter-state linkages, illicit cultivation, information sharing, joint investigations, financial probes and prosecution of narcotics cases.

The meeting also discussed implementation of

the Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029), which was unveiled by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the 10th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre in New Delhi on June 26.

Officials stressed the need for closer coordination between agencies, joint interrogation of suspects, financial investigations and greater use of existing information-sharing mechanisms to track drug networks.

The meeting concluded with a focus on coordinated action to detect and disrupt drug trafficking networks operating across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Tuesday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Lasipora-Landoor line will be observed due to which power supply to Dangam, Wangam, DK Pora, Land-oora, Watchi, Babpora, Momen, Hermain, Hajipora, Chakoora, Frisal, Mantribugh and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 10, 13 & 16 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Habak-Zakura will be observed due to which power supply to Inderhama, Burzhama, Danihama, Rahbagh, Gasoo and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 10 September 2026.

Likewise shutdown of 33 kV Wanganpora-Takanwari line will be observed due to which power supply to Sangam, Shanglipora,

EV Charging Zoonimar and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 09 & 12 September 2026.

SWD organizes PMMVY awareness, enrolment drive at JLNH Hospital

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) awareness and enrolment drive at Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNH) Hospital, Rainawari, Srinagar, Tuesday.

The drive was aimed at creating awareness among expectant and lactating mothers about the benefits available under PMMVY and facilitating eligible beneficiaries in accessing the scheme.

During the programme, the officials of SANKALP HEW Srinagar interacted with beneficiaries and provided information regarding the eligibility criteria, application process and benefits under the scheme. During the drive, 22 beneficiaries were successfully linked with PMMVY scheme enabling them to avail the benefits as per the prescribed guidelines.

The participants were sensitized about the importance of timely registration and availing maternity-related entitlements through the designated process. The officials also encouraged eligible women to come forward and register under the scheme so that the intended benefits reach the beneficiaries in a timely manner.

The initiative reflects the Department's continued efforts towards ensuring effective implementation of welfare schemes and improving awareness and accessibility of government benefits among eligible beneficiaries.

The Department urged eligible beneficiaries to come forward and avail the benefits of PMMVY and other welfare schemes being implemented for their social and economic empowerment.

Woodlands House School Celebrates 60 Years of Excellence

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Woodlands House School celebrated 60 years of excellence and a glorious legacy of education on the eve of Founder's Day. The occasion was marked by a series of vibrant programmes showcasing the school's rich heritage, achievements and cultural spirit.

The celebrations were graced by Former Chief Minister & National Con-



frenc President, Dr Farooq Abdullah, Advisor to CM, Nasir Aslam Wani & Director Educa-

tion, Naseer Ahmad Wani, along with other distinguished guests. The event was also attended by the

school's Management, Riki Singh, Chairman; Amteshwari Singh, Chairperson; and Directors, Farid Singh

and Viraj Singh.

A special highlight was the presence of several alumni, who returned to their alma mater and shared cherished memories of their school days.

The landmark celebration paid tribute to the vision of the Founder, Mrs Rup SP Singh and reaffirmed the school's commitment to nurturing generations of students with knowledge, values and excellence.

Kashmir has many stories waiting to be told: Imtiaz Ali

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Renowned filmmaker Imtiaz Ali on Tuesday said Kashmir has many untold stories, characters and cultural traditions that can provide rich material for filmmakers, while expressing hope that the region's growing connection with cinema would create more opportunities for local talent.

Interacting with the media on the sidelines of the second day of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) at SKICC Srinagar, Ali, said he always hopes to return to the region whenever he shoots a film. "We always hope that whenever we shoot, we come back to Kashmir. There is perhaps no other place in the world that is so cinematic," he said.

On Laila Majnu, he said the film was deeply rooted in Kashmir, with its characters and setting closely connected to the region. "Laila Majnu is a film based in Kashmir. The characters are from Kashmir, and the whole setting and feel of the film are Kashmiri," he said.

Ali said he was happy that the film continued to remain popular in Kashmir even years after its release. "Eight years later, it is still popular here. This is Kashmir. I am very happy and I thank Kashmir for Laila Majnu," he said.

Asked about other sto-



ries from Kashmir that fascinate him, Ali said there were several historical and cultural personalities he would like to explore through cinema.

"There are many characters in Kashmir that fascinate me. I am fascinated by Habba Khatoun and many other artists and Sufi saints of Kashmir. I think about them and, if I get an opportunity, I would definitely like to make something on them," he said.

He said many aspects of ordinary Kashmiri life and culture had not received enough attention through cinema. "There are many things that have not come up. Kashmir is normally famous for its landscape, but I find Kashmiri humour very interesting too," he said.

Ali said the film festival could help people from outside Jammu and Kashmir experience the region beyond what they had seen or heard about it. "I think the biggest benefit of a film festival

is that people will come here from outside and see Kashmir with their own eyes. They will understand what they see here and perhaps make films based on that," he said.

He added that people were creative enough to understand the region in their own way once they experienced it directly.

On Rockstar, parts of which were shot in Kashmir, Ali said the region left its own distinct imprint on cinema. "Some shooting was done in Chandanwari, but Kashmir is Kashmir. It has its own signature," he said.

Recalling his experiences of shooting in Kashmir, Ali said the support extended by locals had always made the experience memorable. "My shooting here has been wonderful and spectacular. People came out and helped us. Nobody complained. They went out of their way to help us," he said.

He recalled how local

workers involved in film production gradually became part of the filmmaking process. "We used to hire painters, carpenters and others. They were hardworking people, and gradually things started opening up," he said.

Ali said the people of Kashmir were highly creative and sensitive, qualities he believed could be a strength for the region's film industry. "I feel Kashmiris are very sensitive and creative. They feel things deeply, and that is a very good quality. There is a certain grace in Kashmiris," he said.

On the potential of Kashmir's film industry, he said there was a need to provide greater opportunities and government support to local filmmakers and artists. "We have to make films. If this festival continues to work hard, this place can become a hub for cinema. It can become a heaven for filmmakers," he said.

He added that with the right environment, even internationally acclaimed filmmakers could be encouraged to visit Kashmir. "Even Steven Spielberg could come if you give him a reason to come," he said.

Ali expressed hope that more films would emerge from Kashmir featuring local actors, actresses and stories. "InshaAllah, there will be films in which Kashmir is there, and Kashmiri actors and actresses are there. I am

looking forward to that," he said.

He also stressed the importance of involving children in cinema and filmmaking from an early age. "Children should also get involved in it," he said.

Ali said Jammu and Kashmir had not yet fully explored its cultural identity through cinema, despite its long association with filmmaking. "We have not got over the landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. It will take many more years. Gradually, what is happening is that Kashmiri culture and music are coming into the picture. I think this is another opportunity that is available," he said.

On working with Kashmiri talent, Ali said the region had several qualities that could contribute to filmmaking. "I feel Kashmiri people are very sensitive and creative. They feel very deeply and remain quiet. That sensitivity and grace is a quality of Kashmiris. They are very creative and sensitive," he said.

Ali said the emergence of local talent would depend on creating more opportunities and platforms for them.

He said the ongoing IFFJK could provide an important platform for filmmakers, artists and audiences to engage with cinema and help build a stronger film culture in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

CM reviews pace of flood relief, rehabilitation, restoration work taken up in Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday reviewed the relief, rehabilitation and restoration measures being undertaken for people affected by this year's floods and took stock of the ongoing restoration efforts across Jammu Division.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar gave a detailed presentation on the relief, rehabilitation and restoration measures being undertaken across the division.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the relief and rehabilitation measures for families affected by loss of life, injuries and damage to houses and property. He also took stock of the assistance being provided to affected families and the status of cases seeking allotment of State land, particularly for families rendered landless due to natural calamities.

The Chief Minister was briefed on the extensive damage caused to roads and bridges across several districts and the progress

made in restoring connectivity. The meeting also reviewed the restoration of damaged road stretches being undertaken by various agencies, including R&B, NHAI, NHIDCL and SAMPARK.

Omar Abdullah stressed the need for coordinated and time-bound restoration of damaged infrastructure, with priority to be accorded to restoring connectivity to affected and remote areas. He called for close monitoring of restoration works and directed the concerned departments to ensure that temporary arrangements are followed by durable and permanent restoration works wherever required.

The meeting also reviewed the damage caused to livestock, cattle sheds and crops, besides taking stock of the availability and utilisation of disaster relief funds across the districts.

The Chief Minister directed the administration and concerned departments to remain prepared to respond promptly to any further weather-related eventuality and

ensure that relief reaches affected people without delay. He emphasised the need for continued inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring of relief, rehabilitation and restoration measures.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana and Javid Dar, and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaheen Kabra, ACS to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, ACS PDD, ACS PWD, Principal Secretary Home, Commandant General SDRF, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Administrative Secretaries of Health & Medical Education and School Education, IGP Traffic J&K, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division, HoDs of several departments, representatives of BRO, SAMPARK, NHAI, NHIDCL and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

Jammu-based officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

J&K MBBS Interns Put Strike on Hold for One Month

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MBBS interns across Jammu and Kashmir have put their ongoing strike on hold for one month following an assurance from Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo that the issue of stipend enhancement would be finalized within the given timeframe, All India Medical Students' Association (AIMSA) J&K President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan said on Tuesday.

Dr Khan expressed gratitude to Sakina Itoo for giving the interns one month's time to finalise the stipend hike issue and thanked all those who supported the protesting intern doctors during the agitation.

The development comes after the interns had remained on strike since August 31, demanding enhancement of their monthly stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000. The agitation had spread across government medical colleges and dental institutions in Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision to put the strike on hold follows renewed discussions



between intern representatives and the Health Minister. During an earlier meeting, Itoo had sought one month from the interns to address the issue, with the government stating that the proposal was under process and involved financial implications requiring consideration by the Finance Department.

The interns had initially rejected the proposed one-month timeline and continued their agitation, insisting that the stipend enhancement be formally notified through a government order.

The protest had subsequently intensified, with interns at SKIMS Medical College, Bimina announcing a 48-hour hunger strike on September 7 after the

absence of a formal order on the stipend revision.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had also said the issue should be resolved at the earliest, while Health Minister Sakina Itoo had maintained that the interns' demand was genuine and that the matter was being processed by the government.

With the strike now put on hold for one month, the focus shifts to the government's processing of the stipend proposal and its formal decision on the enhancement sought by the interns.

Dr Khan also thanked all individuals and organizations who extended support to the intern doctors during their agitation. [KNT]

SKIMS Bemina Issues Show-Cause Notices to Protesting Medical Interns

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Protesting medical interns at SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, have come under show-cause notices amid their ninth day of agitation demanding an increase in the monthly internship stipend from Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000.

In a notice, the Principal, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, said that "most of the CRMIs" had not been attending their assigned duties for the past one week, which, according to the notice, had adversely affected patient care and emergency services at the hospital.

The notice states that the absence amounted to "gross indiscipline and professional misconduct" under the National Medical Commission regulations and could warrant "curtailment, temporary suspension or even cancellation of internship."

The interns have been asked to explain their position within 24 hours and the notice states that failure to submit an explanation would result in the matter being dealt with under the applicable rules.

The Principal also referred to affidavits submitted by the CRMIs at the time of joining, stating that they would remain disciplined, follow the rules and regulations of the college and would not participate in strikes, court cases or other acts of indiscipline.

The notices came as MBBS and BDS interns across Jammu and Kashmir continued their indefinite protest for a stipend hike. The agitation entered its ninth day on Tuesday,



while interns at SKIMS Bemina have also been observing a 48-hour hunger strike. Protesters have said they will continue the agitation until a formal written government order is issued.

Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo has described the interns' demand as genuine and said the proposal is under consideration. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Monday that the matter should have been resolved earlier and that the Health Department would have to take the first decision on the issue.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani said the matter was being actively considered and that Itoo was pursuing it with the concerned authorities. He expressed hope that the issue would be resolved "in the coming hours, not in days."

National Conference chief spokesperson and MLA Tanvir Sadiq also backed the protesting interns on Tuesday, saying their demand was genuine and that they had the right to protest peacefully in a democracy. He also said the government should find a resolution to the issue.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti questioned the issuance of the show-cause notice, asking on whose behest the Principal of SKIMS Bemina

had initiated action against medical interns demanding a stipend hike.

"India is a democracy we are entitled to peaceful protests. You cannot hold them to ransom on the basis of a silly affidavit," Mufti said, according to her statement.

She also questioned the timing of the action, saying that while the Chief Minister had said only a few hours earlier that the issue would be resolved, notices had subsequently been issued through principals of medical colleges.

"Doublespeak by the government," Mufti said, while calling for an increase in the interns' stipend.

The protesting interns have maintained that their demand for an enhanced stipend has remained pending despite repeated representations and earlier government-level consideration. They have demanded that the proposed revision be issued through a formal government order rather than verbal assurances.

The SKIMS Bemina notice does not mention the stipend demand by name, but it has been issued while the interns are participating in the ongoing agitation and specifically refers to their absence from duties and their joining affidavits concerning participation in strikes. [KNT]

CM reviews progress of construction of mini-secretariat buildings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the progress of languishing projects under the Revenue Department across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on expediting the completion of mini-secretariat buildings and addressing bottlenecks delaying execution of these projects. CM took serious view of the delay in completion of ongoing buildings and delay in project planning, obtaining approvals and execution of new buildings.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner Revenue J&K Shaheen Kabra, Addi-

tional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Secretary Revenue, Divisional Commissioners Jammu/Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla and Srinagar, besides other concerned officers. Outstation officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister was briefed on the status of ongoing Mini Secretariat projects at Mendhar, Poonch, Rajouri and Akhnoor in Jammu division, and Tral, Dooru, Batamaloo and Tangmarg in Kashmir division.

Taking serious note of the slow pace of work, the Chief Minister expressed his displeasure over

the delays and directed the concerned departments and district administrations to take all necessary measures to remove bottlenecks and ensure commencement of work on stalled and new projects within one month.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for time-bound execution of the projects and directed the concerned officers to ensure strict compliance with the directions issued during the meeting.

He also called for standardisation of works and facilities across all Mini Secretariats so that these administrative complexes are developed with some uniformity in design and functionality and provide improved services and facilities to the staff and public in all districts.

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: As many as 172 government posts in Jammu and Kashmir are pending due to clarifications, court cases and other departmental issues, according to details available in an official document.

The data, shows that the Higher Education Depart-

ment has 92 posts pending, including 88 Assistant Professor posts in various disciplines, for which clarification is awaited from the Higher Education Department. Written examinations for 52 of these posts have already been conducted.

Another two posts of Assistant Professor in Biotechnology Engineering and

two posts of Assistant Professor in Food Engineering & Technology are pending due to the non-availability of syllabus. In the Health & Medical Education Department, one post of Junior Medical Physicist is pending due to the non-availability of the syllabus.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Production Depart-

ment has five posts of District Sericulture Officer pending, with the matter marked as sub judice.

The Health & Medical Education Department also has 35 posts of Assistant Professor (Unani/Ayurveda), two posts of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety and 10 posts of Assistant Professor Nursing pend-

ing, with the matters facing court-related issues.

Besides, seven posts of AP (500-bedded) Paediatrics Hospital, Bemina, have been kept on hold by the department. Another 20 posts of Tutor/Lecturer/Andrologist/Gynaecologist/Clinical Embryologist are awaiting clarification from the concerned department.—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

J&K Bank Crosses ₹3 Lakh Crore

Crossing the 3 lakh crore business mark is no ordinary achievement for Jammu and Kashmir Bank. It is a milestone that reflects the institution's expanding footprint, growing customer base and increasing role in the financial economy of Jammu and Kashmir and beyond. But milestones should not become occasions for complacency.

The bank's latest quarterly numbers present a picture that is both encouraging and cautionary. While advances surged 25 per cent to 1,30,503 crore and deposits grew 17 per cent to 1,73,420 crore, net profit fell 12.6 per cent year-on-year to 424.18 crore. That contrast deserves serious attention. The message from the balance sheet is simple: the bank is growing, but growth is becoming more expensive. The decline in net interest margin to 3.28 per cent, coupled with a sharp fall in the yield on advances from 9.35 per cent to 8.56 per cent, indicates that the traditional engine of banking profitability is facing pressure. Deposit costs, meanwhile, have not fallen at the same pace.

There are understandable reasons. RBI rate cuts, intense competition for deposits and relatively slower growth in low-cost deposits are squeezing spreads. But these are precisely the circumstances in which a bank's management has to demonstrate its strategic strength. For J&K Bank, the challenge is not merely to expand its loan book. It is to expand intelligently.

The sharp increase in provisioning, from around 15 crore to nearly 84 crore, also sends a signal that rapid credit expansion must be accompanied by equally strong risk management. Higher provisions may be painful for quarterly profits, but prudent provisioning is far better than postponing recognition of stress. There is, however, an important positive development. Asset quality has improved, with gross NPAs declining to 2.37 per cent and net NPAs standing at 0.60 per cent. This indicates that the bank has made progress in containing legacy stress and strengthening its balance sheet.

Yet the sector-wise numbers warrant caution. Real estate NPAs of 21.66 per cent, followed by services at 7.33 per cent and manufacturing at 6.99 per cent, cannot be dismissed simply because the overall NPA ratio remains manageable. Sectoral concentration of bad loans can become a serious vulnerability if economic conditions turn adverse. Equally significant is the changing geography of the bank's lending.

While advances in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh grew by 9.5 per cent during FY 2025-26, the Rest of India portfolio expanded by a remarkable 28.8 per cent. The Rest of India advances stood at 48,822 crore against 76,159 crore in J&K. This expansion outside the traditional home market can be a major strength. Diversification reduces geographical concentration and opens new avenues of business. But it also raises an important question: how does J&K Bank balance its responsibility towards its home region with the commercial opportunities available elsewhere?

A bank headquartered in J&K cannot afford to become disconnected from the economic aspirations of the region that built its identity. At the same time, it cannot ignore profitable opportunities merely because they lie outside its traditional geography. The answer lies in balance. J&K Bank must continue financing local entrepreneurs, agriculture, tourism, MSMEs, youth enterprises and emerging businesses while simultaneously building a diversified national portfolio. Credit should reach productive sectors rather than merely chase volume. The 3 lakh crore milestone, therefore, should not be viewed merely as a number to celebrate. It should be treated as a responsibility.

The next phase must be about improving margins, strengthening low-cost deposits, maintaining asset quality and ensuring that every additional rupee lent is backed by sound underwriting. For a bank, the size of the balance sheet tells only half the story. The real measure of success is whether that balance sheet generates sustainable profits without compromising financial discipline. J&K Bank has demonstrated that it can grow. The bigger challenge now is to prove that it can grow profitably, prudently and purposefully. That is the milestone that will matter far more than 3 lakh crore.

Beyond The Deadline

The Need For Regulated Post-Lock Mutations In J&K

J&K's Digitisation Drive Needs A Practical Mechanism To Reconcile Administrative Deadlines With Locked Jamabandies

MOHD AMIN MIR

The digitisation of land records in Jammu and Kashmir is one of the most significant administrative reforms undertaken in recent years. The objective is clear: to make land records more accurate, transparent, accessible and responsive to the needs of citizens. But every digital transformation has a difficult final mile—the point where administrative directions have to be translated into actual entries on the ground and into functioning digital systems. A recent issue concerning the incorporation of backlog mutations highlights precisely such a challenge.

As per Order No. REV/GENL/418/2024 dated 03.09.2026, backlog mutations up to 14.09.2026 are required to be incorporated in the mutation module. The direction is important because mutations are not merely procedural entries. They are the mechanism through which changes in ownership, inheritance, transfer and other legally recognised interests are reflected in revenue records. However, a practical difficulty has emerged. The concerned Jamabandies have already been locked in the Jamabandi module. Consequently, the mutations required to be incorporated in those Jamabandies cannot presently be entered through the existing functionality.

This creates an administrative paradox: the direction requires the backlog mutations to be incorporated, but the digital architecture presently prevents the concerned Jamabandies from being updated. The issue should not be viewed simply as a technical inconvenience faced by field staff. It raises a larger question about the relationship between administrative instructions and digital systems.

A government order can establish a deadline. It can assign responsibility. It can direct officers to complete a task. But where the software does not provide the necessary functionality, the field-level officials cannot reasonably be expected to complete the task merely through additional effort. The purpose of digitisation is to simplify and strengthen the revenue-record system, not to create a situation where an



official is instructed to perform an action that the system itself does not permit. If a Jamabandi has been locked after verification or finalisation, there must necessarily be a controlled and properly authorised mechanism through which a subsequent mutation can be incorporated without compromising the integrity of the already verified record.

At the same time, unlocking Jamabandies cannot be treated casually. Land records are sensitive public documents. Any mechanism that permits alteration after locking must have appropriate safeguards. There should be a clear audit trail showing who opened the record, why it was opened, what mutation was incorporated, who verified the entry and when the Jamabandi was locked again. The solution, therefore, should not be an uncontrolled reopening of Jamabandies. Rather, the system should provide a regulated post-lock mutation functionality.

Such a facility could permit authorised officers to reopen a particular Jamabandi or relevant parcel for the limited purpose of incorporating an approved backlog mutation. Once the entry is made and verified, the record could be re-locked automatically, with the entire process digitally recorded. This would preserve both administrative compliance and record integrity.

Revenue officials, particularly Patwaris, are working at the intersection of traditional

land administration and an increasingly digital revenue system. They are expected to reconcile old records, process mutations, verify ownership particulars and simultaneously comply with new digital workflows. The difficulty becomes greater when the physical and digital records do not move at the same pace. A mutation may exist in the traditional revenue record and may be required to be incorporated under a government order, while the corresponding digital Jamabandi is already locked. The field official is then placed in an impossible position: compliance with the order requires an action that the software does not allow. Such situations require institutional coordination rather than merely additional instructions to field staff.

The immediate requirement is therefore straightforward. The competent authority should issue clear guidance regarding the procedure to be followed for backlog mutations pertaining to locked Jamabandies. Simultaneously, the matter should be taken up with the concerned technical authority so that the necessary functionality or authorised access is enabled.

A dedicated workflow could include: identification of Jamabandies affected by backlog mutations; verification and approval of the relevant mutation; controlled temporary unlocking of the concerned record; incorporation of the mutation in the Jamabandi; verification by

the competent revenue authority; automatic generation of an audit trail; and re-locking of the Jamabandi after completion. Such a system would eliminate ambiguity and ensure that the same procedure is followed across districts and tehsils.

There is an important lesson here for the broader digitisation programme. A digital land record should not be considered a finished product simply because it has been digitised, verified and locked. Land is a living asset. Ownership changes through inheritance, sale, gift, partition, court orders and other legally recognised processes. Therefore, a modern land-record system must be capable of accommodating future lawful changes without undermining the sanctity of the existing record. The real test of digitisation is not whether an old record can be converted into a digital format. The real test is whether the digital record can continue to evolve accurately as the underlying rights and interests change.

Jammu and Kashmir has invested considerable administrative energy in modernising its land-record system. The next stage should be to make the digital architecture sufficiently flexible to deal with real-world revenue administration. Backlog mutations are not an isolated technical issue. They are part of the transition from historical records to a dynamic digital land-record ecosystem. The authorities therefore need to ensure that the field machinery is given both clear instructions and the technical tools necessary to execute those instructions. If a government order says that backlog mutations up to 14 September 2026 must be incorporated, the digital system should be capable of facilitating that task in a controlled, transparent and auditable manner.

The objective should not simply be to meet a deadline. It should be to ensure that every lawful change in land rights ultimately finds its correct place in the revenue record. Digitisation succeeds only when the order, the official and the software move in the same direction.

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Children With Autism

Challenges, Care And The Hope Of Inclusion

DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Autism is not a single condition with a single pattern. It is a neurodevelopmental difference that can influence communication, social interaction, behaviour, sensory processing and learning in different ways. Every autistic child is unique. Some children may speak fluently but find social communication difficult; others may communicate through gestures, pictures or assistive technologies. Some may require substantial lifelong support, while others may become increasingly independent with appropriate education and assistance. In India, the conversation around children with autism has gradually moved from silence and stigma towards awareness, diagnosis, intervention and inclusion. Yet enormous challenges remain. The country needs not only better medical and therapeutic services but also a deeper social understanding that autistic children are children first—with dreams, emotions, abilities and the right to dignity.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects social communication and interaction and may involve restricted or repetitive patterns of behaviour, activities or interests. The term 'spectrum' is important because autistic children can have widely different abilities and support needs. A child may show signs such as limited eye contact, delayed speech, difficulty responding to his or her name, repetitive movements, unusual sensory sensitivities, difficulty adjusting to changes in routine or intense interest in particular subjects. However, the presence of one or two such behaviours does not by itself establish autism. Professional developmental assessment is essential. Indian paediatric guidelines emphasise that intervention should begin as early as possible and that support should be evidence-based, structured and adapted to

the developmental needs of the individual child.

One of the difficulties in understanding autism in India is the absence, historically, of sufficiently large and nationally representative prevalence studies. The Government has itself acknowledged the need for stronger data. This uncertainty about

Autism is not something that can be eliminated through a single medicine, diet, supplement or alternative treatment.

numbers should not obscure the central reality: many Indian families are raising children who require varying levels of developmental, educational, therapeutic and social support. Awareness has improved considerably in metropolitan cities. Developmental paediatricians, child psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, special educators and autism-focused organisations are increasingly available. But access remains unequal. Families in smaller towns and rural areas may have to travel long distances to obtain assessment and therapy. The problem is therefore not simply autism. It is autism combined with unequal access to opportunity.

Early recognition can



make a significant difference. Unfortunately, many children in India are diagnosed later than would be ideal. Several factors contribute to delayed diagnosis. Parents may initially believe that the child will "catch up" naturally. Relatives may dismiss developmental concerns. Teachers may not recognise early signs. In some communities, autism is wrongly attributed to poor parenting, excessive screen use, supernatural causes or parental behaviour. Such misconceptions can cause guilt and anxiety within families. Autism is not caused by a mother's lack of affection, a father's absence, poor discipline or a child's "bad habits". Nor should families be blamed for a child's developmental condition. The National Trust has specifically highlighted social stigma, myths, lack of awareness and late diagnosis as important concerns in autism. Early intervention does not mean trying to make an autistic child "normal". Its purpose should be to help the child communicate, learn, participate, develop independence and experience a meaningful life.

Depending on the child's needs, support may include speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, behavioural and

developmental interventions, special education, social-skills support and assistance with daily living. The Indian Academy of Paediatrics recommends multidisciplinary management, with attention not only to autism itself but also to associated conditions and individual developmental needs. Parents should be cautious about unproven "miracle cures". Autism is not something that can be eliminated through a single medicine, diet, supplement or alternative treatment. Medical treatment may sometimes be appropriate for particular associated symptoms or conditions, but it should be guided by qualified professionals.

The family is often the child's strongest source of support. Parents learn to understand their child's communication, sensory preferences, strengths and difficulties. They may discover that a child who does not speak much can express remarkable understanding through drawing, music, technology, movement or other forms of communication. Indian families often make extraordinary sacrifices. Therapy can be expensive. Parents may have to alter working schedules,

travel to cities for specialist appointments and advocate constantly for their child's educational rights. But parents also need support. A family should not be expected to carry the entire responsibility alone. Respite care, parent-support groups, counselling, financial assistance and community networks can reduce the emotional and practical burden. The National Trust provides schemes covering areas such as early intervention, day care, residential support and health insurance, reflecting the need for support across different stages of life.

Education is perhaps the most important arena for inclusion. For too long, children with disabilities have sometimes been separated from mainstream educational environments because schools felt unprepared to accommodate them. But inclusion means more than admitting a child into a classroom. It means making the classroom accessible to different ways of learning. An autistic child may benefit from visual schedules, structured routines, additional time, sensory accommodations, individualised learning goals, classroom assistance and alternative communication methods. India's inclusive-education framework has increasingly recognised these requirements. In 2025, the Ministry of Education highlighted therapy services, specialised interventions and learning support for children with autism through Block Resource Centres under Samagra Shiksha. Teachers therefore need training—not merely in identifying autism but in understanding how to teach autistic students. A teacher who says, "This child cannot learn," may close a door. A teacher who asks, "How does this child learn best?" may open an entire world.

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■ Raising Children In The Age Of Screens

Parenting Can No Longer Be Left To Instinct Alone



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Someone once rightly said, “It takes a community to raise a child.” For generations, that community was visible and close at hand. It included grandparents, relatives, neighbours, teachers, elders and family friends. Children grew up surrounded by adults who corrected them, encouraged them, protected them and, when necessary, disciplined them. Parents rarely carried the entire burden alone. Today, the community still exists—but much of it has moved online.

A new mother worried about her baby’s sleep, a father struggling to understand his teenager, parents anxious about screen addiction, school pressure, bullying, emotional health or changing social behaviour can now find thousands of articles, videos, blogs, podcasts and parenting groups within seconds. This is undoubtedly an advantage. But it also creates a serious problem: modern parents are not suffering from a shortage of advice; they are suffering from an excess of it. The real challenge is no longer simply how to raise a child. It is how to distinguish useful guidance from fashionable opinion, scientific evidence from social-media myths, and thoughtful parenting from fear-driven overreaction. Parenting in the twenty-first century cannot be left entirely to instinct, tradition or internet trends. It requires learning, reflection and adaptability.

The parenting journey often begins long before a child enters school. Parents seek advice during pregnancy, childbirth, adoption and early childhood. Questions arise about nutrition, sleep, behaviour, attachment, discipline, language development and emotional growth. Yet the biggest mistake parents often make is searching for a universal formula. There is none.

Children differ in temperament, ability, sensitivity, personality and developmental pace. Families differ in culture, economic circumstances and social expectations. What works beautifully in one household may fail completely in another.

The objective, therefore, should not be to create a “perfect child.” It should be to create an emotionally secure environment in which a child can gradually develop responsibility, confidence, judgment and resilience. Parenting is less about manufacturing obedience and more about preparing a human being for life. This is particularly important during the early years. When a toddler cries, screams, refuses food or throws a tantrum, adults often describe the child as stubborn or badly behaved. But children frequently communicate through behaviour before they can explain themselves through language. A child may be tired, frightened, overstimulated, hungry, frustrated or simply unable to regulate an unfamiliar emotion.

This does not mean that parents should abandon discipline. Children need boundaries. But discipline without understanding can easily become punishment, while understanding without boundaries can turn into indulgence. Healthy parenting lies somewhere between these extremes. Before reacting, parents should ask a simple question: Why is my child behaving this way? That question changes parenting from reaction to understanding. Teenagers Do Not Need Police Officers at Home The challenge becomes more complicated during adolescence.

Teenagers live in a world their parents never experienced at the same age. Their friendships may exist partly online. Their failures can become public within minutes. Their social comparisons are continuous. They are exposed to influencers, unrealistic lifestyles, online hostility, academic competition and rapidly changing expectations about careers and identity. In response, some parents tighten control. They monitor every friendship, question every decision and respond to mistakes with lectures, threats or humiliation. The intention may be protection, but excessive control often produces secrecy. A teenager who believes that every confession will lead to punish-



ment eventually stops confessing. This is one of the greatest dangers in family relationships.

Parents must remain parents, not merely friends. Rules are necessary. Accountability matters. But authority is most effective when accompanied by trust.

The aim should not be to know every detail of a teenager’s life. It should be to build such a relationship that the teenager voluntarily returns to the parent when facing a difficult decision. That is far more powerful than surveillance.

There are many ways to raise children, but not all produce the same emotional environment. Some parents are authoritarian: rules are strict, questioning is discouraged and obedience is expected. Others are permissive: affection is abundant but boundaries are weak. Some become emotionally distant and leave children to largely manage themselves. A healthier approach is often one that combines warmth with structure—clear expectations, consistent consequences, emotional availability and age-appropriate independence. Children need freedom, but freedom without responsibility does not prepare them for adulthood. They need discipline, but discipline without affection may produce fear rather than character.

Successful adulthood depends on much more than grades. It requires resilience, communication, problem-solving, emotional regulation, ethics and the ability to recover from failure. Technology is not automatically harm-

ful either. The real questions are what children are watching, how long they are using devices, whether technology is replacing sleep, exercise and relationships, and whether parents themselves are modelling responsible behaviour. Parents cannot reasonably demand that children put away their phones while adults remain permanently absorbed in screens.

Children study our behaviour more carefully than they listen to our instructions. We Must Stop Pretending That Good Parents Never Struggle Another damaging myth is that good parenting always looks calm and confident. It does not. Parents become exhausted. They worry about finances, education and their children’s future. They lose patience. They compare themselves with other families. They make mistakes. Social media makes this worse by constantly presenting carefully edited images of successful children, perfect homes and smiling families. But parenting is not a competition in public appearance. A child needs emotionally available parents more than socially impressive parents.

This means parental well-being matters too. A chronically exhausted, anxious or emotionally overwhelmed parent cannot consistently provide the patience and stability children need. Taking care of one’s own physical and emotional health is therefore not selfish. It is part of responsible parenting. The internet contains endless instructions: communicate more, reduce screen time, discipline consistently,

support your child, build confidence. But advice becomes useful only when it answers three questions: Why? How? What should I actually do? “Communicate with your teenager” is a slogan. Explaining how to start a difficult conversation, what language to avoid, how to listen without interrupting and what to do when the teenager refuses to speak—that is guidance. “Reduce screen time” is easy advice. Introducing device-free meals, keeping phones outside bedrooms at night, discussing online safety and setting family-wide digital rules—that is practical parenting. Good parenting education should therefore move beyond moralising. It should provide tools.

Artificial intelligence, social media, online learning, gaming, digital relationships and new forms of employment are reshaping childhood and adulthood. Parents cannot guide children effectively if they refuse to understand the environment in which those children are growing up. This does not mean blindly accepting every trend. It means becoming curious enough to understand before condemning. Sometimes, instead of telling a child, “This is useless,” a parent could ask, “Explain to me why this matters to you.” That single question may open a door that criticism would close.

Because so many parents now depend on online guidance, parenting bloggers, websites, educators and social-media creators also carry responsibility.

Their goal should not be merely gaining followers. They should raise awareness, challenge myths, explain child development, encourage healthy communication and offer realistic solutions. Parenting content should ask why, show how and tell parents what they can actually do. Above all, it should remind parents that uncertainty is normal and learning is continuous. The old proverb remains correct: it still takes a community to raise a child. The difference is that today the community includes both the people living around us and the voices reaching us through our screens. But technology must support parenting, not replace human connection.

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■ e-Market

Beyond Convenience, The New Challenge Of Sustainable Economy

LALIT GARGG

India’s shopping landscape is changing at an unprecedented pace. This is not merely a transformation in the way people shop; it signals a deeper shift in consumer behaviour, employment, technology, small businesses and the overall structure of the economy. According to a recent report by research and consulting firm Infism, India’s e-market, valued at around \$125 billion in 2024, could reach nearly \$345 billion by 2030—almost tripling in six years, with an estimated compound annual growth rate of 18.4 per cent. However, this figure should not be viewed simply as a success story of market expansion. The real question is what such rapid growth will mean for the Indian economy, employment, consumer rights, small businesses and the environment. The next chapter of India’s e-market must not be merely about selling more; it must be about creating a more responsible, inclusive and sustainable model of growth.

The biggest transformation brought about by e-commerce is that it has taken the marketplace out of a physical location and placed it in the palm of the consumer. Earlier, customers went to the market; today, the market reaches the customer through a mobile phone. Traditional opening and closing hours are losing relevance, geographical distance matters less, and convenience has become one of the strongest attractions of online shopping. Online commerce is no longer restricted to metropolitan India. Small towns and emerging cities are becoming important centres of digital consumption. Recent studies suggest that nearly 66 per cent of new direct-to-consumer orders are coming from Tier-II and Tier-III cities. This development is particularly significant for India because smaller cities are emerging as the next major drivers of consumer demand.

Regional languages, local preferences, digital platforms for small merchants and efficient supply networks can give further momentum to e-commerce. The marketplace of tomorrow, therefore, will not simply be technology-driven;



it will have to understand India’s linguistic diversity, cultural richness and highly varied local needs. The younger generation will play a decisive role in this transformation. Young consumers already account for nearly one-third of online shoppers, and by 2030 they could become the largest group in terms of digital spending. This is not merely a demographic change; it represents a transformation in the psychology of consumption. The new generation compares products, checks prices, reads customer reviews and attaches great importance to convenience. For them, shopping is not merely about purchasing a product; it is also about saving time. This mindset is giving extraordinary momentum to quick commerce.

A few years ago, receiving everyday products within minutes seemed almost impossible. Today, quick commerce is expanding from metropolitan centres to smaller cities. Estimates suggest that its market could reach \$65-70 billion by 2030, contributing nearly 45-50 per cent of the incremental growth of the e-market over the next five years. The number of small fulfilment centres could also rise from around 2,525 in 2025 to nearly 7,500 by 2030. But a serious question arises: Is delivering every product within a few minutes really the ultimate measure of progress? If a customer receives a prod-

uct in five minutes, but that convenience comes with excessive packaging, greater traffic, higher energy consumption, insecure employment and unsustainable business models, how long can such speed truly be considered progress? The success of tomorrow’s e-market must therefore be measured not only by sales and delivery speed, but also by its social, economic and environmental balance.

Technology will deepen this transformation further. Artificial intelligence will understand consumer preferences and recommend products. Conversational commerce will help customers make purchasing decisions through interactive dialogue, while virtual try-on technologies may transform the way people buy clothing, beauty products and other goods. A recent study estimates that artificial intelligence and machine learning could improve retail productivity by 35-37 per cent by 2030. An even greater transformation may be ahead. Today, consumers search for products themselves; tomorrow, artificial intelligence could perform much of the searching, comparison and selection for them. The strongest competitor in the marketplace may therefore not be the company offering the largest number of products, but the one capable of understanding the customer’s needs before the customer articulates them. This will save time, but it will also create new concerns

regarding privacy, data security and consumer freedom of choice. As technology becomes more powerful, the responsibility to protect consumers must become equally strong.

The expansion of e-commerce is also creating a major challenge for traditional retailers. Customers accustomed to comparing prices online are becoming more informed even when they shop at physical stores. Yet it would be wrong to view the future simply as a battle between online and offline commerce. The successful retailer of tomorrow will probably combine both worlds. A local shopkeeper can accept digital orders, provide home delivery and use technology to strengthen traditional customer relationships. E-commerce, therefore, need not end the traditional marketplace; it can transform it into a more competitive and modern system. Employment is another important dimension. E-commerce has created millions of opportunities in delivery, warehousing, packaging, technology services and logistics. Yet questions remain about wages, social security, workplace safety and the quality of employment.

Economic growth cannot be called complete if its benefits remain concentrated among companies and investors while workers at the last mile remain insecure. The digital economy must create not merely more jobs, but better, safer and more dignified employment. The environment is equally important. Individual packaging, frequent small deliveries and ultra-fast fulfilment can increase energy consumption, traffic and waste. The e-market of the future must therefore move towards recyclable packaging, electric vehicles, consolidated deliveries and low-waste supply chains. Only then can its economic benefits be aligned with environmental responsibility.

Another major change is taking place at the intersection of social media, content creators and commerce. According to a 2026 Google-Deloitte study, by 2030 the younger generation could account for nearly 45 per cent of online spending, while content creators could influence around 30 per cent of total retail expenditure. The traditional

distance between advertising and purchasing is rapidly disappearing. In this emerging environment, trust, experience and social influence may become as important as price. A trusted content creator can influence purchasing decisions more powerfully than a conventional advertisement. The consumer journey is increasingly moving from discovery to influence to purchase within the same digital ecosystem.

The e-market of 2030 will therefore be radically different from today’s marketplace. It will not simply be an online store but a vast economic ecosystem powered by artificial intelligence, regional languages, digital payments, rapid delivery, social influence and personalised recommendations. By the end of the decade, the e-market could account for around 10-12 per cent of India’s total retail spending, contribute nearly 2.5 per cent to the national economy, and reach 420-440 million online shoppers. Yet we must remember that the larger the market becomes, the greater its responsibility. The real test of India’s e-market is not how fast it grows, but how many people it takes along with it. If technology provides genuine convenience, small businesses gain opportunities, consumers remain protected, workers receive dignified employment, environmental pressures decline and companies grow sustainably, only then can this expansion be called genuine economic progress.

India therefore faces both a tremendous opportunity and a serious challenge. The \$345-billion e-market is an attractive destination, but the quality of that market matters more than its size. India needs an e-market that does not merely make shopping faster, but makes the economy more inclusive, trustworthy, humane and sustainable. The winners of the coming decade will not simply be those who deliver products fastest; they will be those who offer value, convenience and trust together. That will be the real revolution of India’s e-market—not merely a revolution in how we shop, but a transformation in how India’s economy grows.

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VK Saxena To

High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Vinai Kumar Saxena, who is currently in Srinagar, is expected to administer the oath to Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at the Shalimar Convention Centre of SKUAST-Kashmir.

The SKUAST-Kashmir administration has ordered suspension of all official and academic work at the main campus to facilitate the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the event.

The SKUAST auditorium has been chosen as the venue for the oath-taking ceremony, as SKICC is currently hosting the International Film Festival—(KNO)

IFFJK Opens

institutions for imparting specialised courses and training within J&K.

He also highlighted the role of the Skill Development Mission in creating appropriate training opportunities in local institutions, including courses related to film-making and its allied fields.

On the ease of filming in J&K, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need to continuously remove procedural bottlenecks faced by filmmakers and production houses. He observed that the Single Window Clearance System needs further strengthening and simplification, while the proposed Ease of Doing Business Bill is expected to bring further deregulation and facilitate a smoother business environment for the industry.

Referring to the culture of encouraging people to write their own stories in Maharashtra, he said that similar efforts could help identify and nurture storytelling talent in J&K, with many of these narratives having the potential to evolve into vibrant film scripts. “We have numerous stories here. What is required is to hone and chisel this talent and present these stories in the right form and style,” he maintained.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, R. Alice Vaz, while elaborating on the J&K Film Policy, outlined the incentives presently available for film shootings in the Union Territory and the additional benefits extended to regional filmmakers and productions having significant local participation.

She explained that the policy has been designed not merely to attract external productions but also to encourage local filmmakers, artists and creative talent, thereby creating greater opportunities for people associated with the film industry within J&K.

She also highlighted the incentives available for films having more than 50 per cent of their shooting in J&K, along with provisions encouraging the engagement of local artists and other personnel.

Vaz said that these policy interventions are intended to create a virtuous cycle in which greater filmmaking activity generates employment and opportunities for local talent while simultaneously showcasing J&K’s landscapes, heritage and cultural richness to wider audiences.

She underlined the strong linkage between filmmaking and tourism, noting that increased cinematic visibility can contribute to the promotion of destinations and generate wider economic activity for local communities.

The panel discussion thus brought together the policy, regulatory, educational, creative and economic dimensions of J&K’s emerging film ecosystem, with the participants stressing that the ultimate objective should be to move beyond facilitating individual film shoots towards creating a sustainable ecosystem capable of nurturing local talent and attracting national and international productions.

The Day-2 proceedings of IFFJK-2026 also featured a diverse range of creative, technical and policy-oriented sessions across SKICC Srinagar. A Masterclass on directing romantic comedies was conducted by filmmaker Sriram Raghavan, while an In-Conversation Session with cinematographer Anil Mehta explored the role of framing, lighting and other visual elements in creating narrative subtext beyond written dialogue.

Furthermore four panel discussions further expanded the festival’s engagement with contemporary cinema and its evolving ecosystem. In Hall 2, a panel moderated by Dhvani Desai explored the convergence of traditional regional art forms with animation, Artificial Intelligence and CGI and the possibilities of creating new authorial voices through emerging technologies. The discussion featured Sanat P. C., Ujjwal Nirgudkar, Hetal Soliya, Jitin Masand, Bharath Laxmipati, Jividha Sharma and Kanika Gautam.

In addition to that the Hall 3 hosted a festival selection round table moderated by Sourav Kanti Datta, with C. S. Venkateshwaran, Siladitya Sen, Nirmal Dhar and Reema Borah deliberating on the changing landscape of independent cinema, curation and access.

The day concluded with an acting-focused panel moderated by Mandar Bam, featuring Sulakhyana Barua, Rahul Bhatt and Ashoke Viswanathan, who discussed the creative demands, preparation and collaborative processes involved in developing memorable characters for the screen.

The varied sessions on the second day reinforced IFFJK-2026’s larger vision of creating a platform where cinema, policy, technology, education, creative talent and tourism converge, while opening new avenues for J&K’s participation in the national and global cinematic landscape.

Five Films Selected

Koch (The Lost Lane), directed by Sid-darth Koul and Ankit Wali; Tasruddaar (Djinns of Kashmir), directed by Kapil Mattoo; and Naqsh-e-Daur (The Story of Ghulam Nabi Dhar), directed by Baba Tassaduq Hussain.

Spanning Kashmiri and Hindi languages, the films explore themes ranging from childhood, family and memory to displacement, identity, heritage, resilience and the changing social landscape of Kashmir.

Searching for the Grandpa follows two young siblings in a Kashmiri village on Eid. Arifa centres on a woman returning to her ancestral home in Kashmir and confronting memories of her childhood and father. Batt Koch explores displacement, identity and the enduring idea of home through the story of a Kashmiri migrant family. Tasruddaar (Djinns of Kashmir) weaves together mystery, memory and the scars of Kashmir’s past, while Naqsh-e-Daur portrays the life and legacy of a Padma Shri-honoured wood-carver in downtown Srinagar, highlighting Kashmir’s craftsmanship, heritage and resilience.

The selected films will form part of the competitive programming of the four-day International Film Festival, offering audiences and filmmakers an opportunity to engage with distinctive cinematic voices and stories from Jammu and Kashmir.

Multiple Films

cinema for their contribution towards promotion of language, art and cultural heritage.

The occasion also acknowledged the rich legacy of notable Dogri films, including the first ever Dogri featured film Gallan Hoiyan Beetiya and Maa Ni Mildi, Kuggi maar Duaari, Reet, Geetian, Aau Aa Shinda, Shah Shani, Lakeer, Mehroom, Chann Mahi, Funtasiyan and Moj Masti. The felicitation recognised the creative contribution of filmmakers and artists in preserving and promoting the local language, culture and storytelling traditions through cinema.

Earlier, a number of short films and movies from across the country and around the globe, curated by the special jury of IFFJK, were screened throughout the day for the general public, providing film enthusiasts and students an opportunity to experience diverse cinematic narratives of global cinema.

Meanwhile, a cultural programme featuring acclaimed dogri singer Bishan Das, Romalo Ram & Party beside performances of prominent singers and cultural artists were also organised in the evening, adding vibrancy to the celebrations and further amplifying the spirit of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir. The programme reflected the international film festival’s vision of showcasing the region’s rich cultural heritage, creative talent and growing cinematic potential.

CM Omar Attends

Minister felicitated the actors and appreciated their contribution to Indian cinema. He welcomed them to Jammu & Kashmir and expressed happiness over their participation in the maiden edition of IFFJK.

The Chief Minister said that the presence of leading artistes and filmmakers in Jammu & Kashmir would further strengthen the region’s association with cinema and contribute to building a vibrant film ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir was inaugurated by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at SKICC on the evening of September 7. The four-day festival is bringing together filmmakers, artists, delegates and cinema enthusiasts from across the world, with participation from over 30 countries and more than 130 films being showcased during the festival.

The IFFJK is being organised to celebrate the enduring relationship between Jammu & Kashmir and cinema, while providing a platform for filmmakers and audiences to engage with diverse cinematic traditions from across the world.

Former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Director Information Shreya Singhal and other concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

Ladakh-Centre Talks

several measures that have been seen as confidence-building steps ahead of the talks.

These include the establishment of a Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory, approval of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Nautor Regularisation) Rules, 2026, and plans to establish hill councils in all seven districts of Ladakh, including the five districts created recently.

However, the new measures have also raised concerns among the civil society representatives.

Kargili said decisions relating to land had been taken without adequate consultations with stakeholders.

“The decisions regarding the land were taken without consultations. We would have expected that the current talks were taken into consideration and the stakeholders were taken onboard,” he said.

The proposed expansion of the hill council system is also expected to figure prominently in the discussions.

With each council proposed to have 30 members, the seven councils would together provide for 210 elected representatives in a Union Territory with a population of around 3.5 lakh.

The LAB and KDA are expected to argue that the councils should have greater autonomy and constitutional protection, along the lines of institutions functioning under the Sixth Schedule in parts of northeastern India.

“We demand that these hill councils are autonomous with constitutional powers as in the North-East under the Sixth Schedule,” Kargili said.

The two groups are also likely to seek the withdrawal of police cases registered against locals who took part in protests in September last year.

Representatives of LAB and KDA are expected to raise the issue of compensation for the families of those killed in protest as well as for people who sustained injuries—(KNO)

7 Sittings In 10-

September 24 and 28 for Private Member Bills and September 25 for Private Member Resolutions.

The House will not assemble on September 23, 26 and 27—(KNO)

Kashmir Has

and deeply rooted local narratives. “I like Dal Lake. Kashmir has beautiful, rooted stories,” they said.

They added that Kashmir can offer filmmakers stories beyond its landscapes, including its people, food, culture and everyday life.

“Kashmir is one of the most beautiful parts of the country. If infrastructure is further developed, it would be wonderful to come here and tell stories about Kashmir,” they said.

Reflecting on Kashmir’s long association with the film industry, the actors noted that while filmmakers historically visited the region for song sequences and shoots, there is now an opportunity to tell deeper stories about its people and culture.

“Kashmir has had a connection with cinema for a long time. People used to come here for songs and shoots. But there are so many other things, the people, food and culture. Why not talk about them?” they said.

The actors are in Srinagar as part of the ongoing International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir, which has brought together filmmakers, actors, technicians, students and cinema enthusiasts from across the country and beyond—(KNO)

I Have Fallen In

of Kashmir, its people, food and peaceful atmosphere.

“The people here, the warmth with which they meet you, the food and the peace and tranquillity—what can I say? I simply do not feel like leaving,” she said.

Chauhan expressed hope of returning to Kashmir with her concert, saying she had “fallen in love with Kashmir all over again”.

“Earlier, I fell in love with Kashmir just by seeing it on screen, but now, after being here, I feel that I want to do my bit for the people of Kashmir,” she said.

Speaking about the film festival, Chauhan termed it a “very good initiative”,

saying it provides a platform for films that often do not receive the appreciation they deserve.

“There are films that do not receive the appreciation they deserve, and there are people who work very hard to make films without knowing what their future will be. Such films are being showcased here,” she said.

She said film festivals also provide an important platform for young people interested in direction, acting, singing and other aspects of filmmaking.

“These are platforms where people learn a lot, and if they are confused about something, they can come here and get clarity because there is so much to explore,” Chauhan said.

She expressed happiness over the participation of young people from Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir in the festival and hoped they would make the most of the opportunity.

Chauhan also urged people to use social media to promote good films and help them reach wider audiences.

“If you like something, numbers and all these things do not matter. Just let the films spread and reach as many people as possible. If good films are appreciated, more good films will be made and people’s minds will also open up,” she said.

On filmmaking and tourism in Kashmir, the singer said both had been associated with the Valley for many years and believed the film festival would provide further impetus to the sectors.

“You can shoot anywhere in Kashmir and every frame looks beautiful. I think the Film Festival will give this an even greater boost and help more people discover Kashmir,” she said.

She said the festival could also help the younger generation discover the cultural and natural richness of Kashmir.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for them to discover Kashmir, spend time in these valleys and experience this beautiful environment,” she said.

Chauhan also acknowledged the presence of musical talent in Kashmir, recalling a contestant from the Valley whom she encountered while judging Indian Idol.

“I remember that she sang very well. If there was even one such talent, I am sure there are many more talented people here. All the best to them,” she said—(KNO)

BJP Will Fight

Sunil Sharma said. He said the NC government had failed to provide effective, accountable and responsive governance instead of addressing people’s genuine concerns.

“The BJP will not allow the government to hide its failures behind political rhetoric. We will go to every district, every constituency and every section of society, listen to the people and bring their issues before the government and the people of Jammu and Kashmir,” he asserted.

Sunil Sharma said the grievances raised in Poonch and Rajouri clearly demonstrate that people are increasingly questioning the functioning and priorities of the NC government.

“The BJP is not sitting in offices and making political statements. Our leaders and workers are reaching the people, hearing them directly and standing with them in their hour of need. The people’s voice will become the BJP’s strongest weapon against NC’s misgovernance,” he said.

He further announced that the public outreach would be expanded across Jammu and Kashmir, with senior BJP leaders undertaking visits to different administrative districts to highlight the government’s failures and ensure that genuine public issues are raised at every appropriate forum.

“The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve performance, accountability and development—not excuses and empty promises. The BJP will remain the strongest voice of the people and will continue to hold the NC government accountable,” Sunil Sharma said.

The spokesperson said LoP Sunil Sharma was accompanied by senior leader Adv. Vibodh Gupta, District Presidents S. Gurdeep Singh Khalsa and Dev Raj Sharma, former MLC Pardeep Sharma and other senior BJP functionaries.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Farooq Ahmad Shah to (New Name) Farooq Ahmad. In future I will be known as (New Name) Farooq Ahmad . If anybody have any objection He/She May contact Passport Office Srinagar within & 7-days no Objection will be accepted after that.

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

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DAR MATTING SHOP

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JKPSC received 94,546 applications for 1,263 posts in 2025-26

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) received 94,546 applications for 1,263 posts during 2025-26, highlighting the intense competition for government employment in the Union Territory.

According to the JKPSC's 67th annual report, accessed, the Commission made 1,152 selections against the 1,263 posts referred to it during the year.

The figures mean that there were roughly 75 applications for every post

referred to the Commission during the year, although the number of applicants for individual examinations varied depending on the post and eligibility requirements.

The report said the Commission conducted 52 written tests and preliminary examinations and two mains examinations during 2025-26.

The selections included appointments to the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, Jammu and Kashmir Police Service and Jammu and Kashmir Accounts Service, besides 39 Junior

Judges in the subordinate judiciary and faculty and other gazetted posts.

The scale of applications also raises questions about the growing dependence of educated job seekers on government recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly when compared with the relatively limited number of posts referred to the Commission.

The annual report, however, does not by itself establish the unemployment status of all applicants, as applications may include candidates already employed or those applying for multiple examinations.

The Commission also held 29 Departmental Promotion Committee meetings and cleared 508 officers for promotion during the year.

It conducted three departmental examinations in which 813 candidates appeared.

The report said the Commission had adopted 100 per cent written-examination-based recruitment and introduced on-screen evaluation to improve transparency and reduce delays in the recruitment process.

It also introduced SMS notifications for candidates regarding examinations and interviews—(KNO)

Sufi Tahir urges Govt to resolve intern doctors' stir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) Youth President Sufi Tahir on Tuesday made a fervent appeal to the government to urgently intervene and resolve the ongoing agitation by intern doctors, who have launched a hunger strike at various Government Medi-

cal Colleges (GMCs) across the valley.

Expressing concern over the deteriorating situation, Tahir took to social media platform X to highlight the plight of the protesting medicos, particularly drawing attention to Dr Faisal of SKIMS JVC, who has been forced to resort to an indefinite fast.

"One of the intern doctors, Dr Faisal of SKIMS JVC, has to go on a hunger strike. This is unfortunate," Tahir posted, urging Health Minister Sakina Itoo to personally meet the agitating doctors and provide them with a written assurance addressing their demands.

The JKPC youth leader reiterated his party's soli-

darity with the protesting doctors, stating that they stand with the medicos in their legitimate demands. He called for constructive dialogue between the administration and the agitating interns, emphasizing the need for timely intervention to bring the matter to an amicable resolution.

Anti-drug coordination meeting held in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A UT-level meeting of enforcement agencies on narcotics control in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was held in Srinagar on Monday to strengthen coordination and curb drug trafficking.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the 2nd UT-level Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting on narcotics control for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was held at the Police Control Room, Srinagar, under the chairpersonship of DDG (NWR), NCB, and IG Crime/ANTF Head of J&K Police.

He said senior officers from various enforcement and stakeholder agencies, including ED, BSF, State Drug Controller, IB, Customs, DRI, Income Tax and NIA, along with District SSPs from Jammu, Srinagar and Ganderbal, participated in the meeting.

The spokesperson said the participating agencies shared their experiences and enforcement initiatives and deliberated upon emerging trends in drug trafficking, inter-State

linkages, illicit cultivation, information sharing, joint investigation, financial investigation and effective prosecution.

"Discussion was also held on making sincere efforts for implementation of the 'Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029)' by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah in the 10th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) in New Delhi on June 26, 2026. It was highlighted that the emphasis shall be on a network-centric approach to combat the drug menace," he said.

Further, stress was laid on the need for strengthened inter-agency coordination, joint interrogation, effective financial investigation and greater utilisation of available information-sharing mechanisms.

The spokesperson said the meeting concluded with a call for sustained cooperation among all stakeholder agencies and adoption of a Whole-of-Government approach to detect, disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking networks in J&K and Ladakh—(KNO)

ABVP protests at JNU, burns effigies over alleged delay in sexual harassment case

IANS

NEW DELHI: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) JNU unit on Monday staged a protest on the campus and burnt effigies of the university's Internal Committee (IC) and a professor accused of sexual harassment, alleging that the case was being delayed due to political influence.

According to an ABVP press release, several female students have levelled serious allegations of sexual harassment against a JNU professor, who is also a Congress MP. The complaints have been submitted to the university's Internal Committee, and the matter is under process.

The student organisation claimed that despite the gravity of the allegations, no concrete action has been taken so far.

ABVP alleged that the accused professor was being protected because of his political affiliation. The organisation questioned whether the fact that the professor is a Congress MP was the reason for the lack of action.

It further accused the leftist representatives on the JNU Internal Committee of delaying the hearing under political pressure from their leadership.

In the press release, ABVP JNU President Mayank Panchal said the absence of prompt action on the complaints filed by female students exposed the "true face" of the Left-dominated Internal Committee and leftist organisations on campus.

He claimed that several activists associated with leftist groups had faced sexual harassment allegations in the past yet continued to remain active.

ABVP JNU Minister Praveen Kumar Piyush demanded the immediate resignation of the leftist representatives elected to the Internal Committee, describing them as "incapable." He alleged that in a recent case involving a complaint against an AISF cadre, the leftist members of the IC had not attended any of the hearings, which, according to him, reflected their insensitivity towards women's issues.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Il have changed my name from KHADEEJA KHALID KHUROO to KHADEEJA KHALID. In future I will be known as KHADEEJA KHALID. If anyone is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farozan Nizami, son of Qaiser Nizami, resident of Firdous Colony, Chandpora, Harwan, Srinagar, hereby give notice to the general public that I intend to correct my name in my passport as "Fuzail Farozan Nizami." Any person having any objection to the proposed correction of my name may intimate the Passport Office, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Contact: 9055000555

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION SRINAGAR.

e- NIT NO:- 04 OF 2026 DATED:- 05-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (In Two cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs.)	EARNEST MONEY (Rs.)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Planting of 6817 nos of conifer polybag plants in various institutions of District Ganderbal under CAPEX 2026-27. (Plants will be provided departmentally)	200000/-	4000/-	"D"	Rs. 200/=	70 days
2	Planting of 1000 conifer and 2000 NR plants under Maintenance and upgradation of Old Units at VW Lot Kri-shoo of SF Range Ganderbal for the Year 2026-27 CAPEX, SF Division Srinagar (Plants will be provided departmentally)	75000/-	1500/-	"D"	Rs. 200/-	70 days
3	Planting of 1380 conifer and 3000 NR plants under Maintenance and upgradation of Old Units at Co. 34M of SF Range Ganderbal for the Year 2026-27 CAPEX, SF Division Srinagar. (Plants will be provided departmentally)	75000/-	1500/-	"D"	Rs. 200/=	70 days
4	Raising of 15000 NR prickings including 1 st year maintenance and Raising of 25000 Polybag plants including 1 st year maintenance under CAPEX 2026-27 Waheedpora Nursery Ganderbal. (Seeds/prickings/cuttings will be provided departmentally)	317190/-	6343/-	"D"	Rs. 200/=	Raising 45 days (2026-27) & maintenance 9 months (2027-28)
5	Raising 10000 Naked Root Prickings including 1 st year Maintenance at Co. 4b Harran Shalbugh Nursery, Ganderbal under Capex 2026-27. (Seeds/prickings/cuttings will be provided departmentally)	61397/-	1227/-	"D"	Rs. 200/=	Raising 45 days (2026-27) & maintenance 9 months (2027-28)

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Name of Scheme:- UT CAPEX
Position of Funds: Budgeted.
Position of AA/TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date:-	07-09-2026
Download Start Date:	07-09-2026 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	07-09-2026 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	16-09-2026 Upto 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	17-09-2026 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Regional Director Department of Social Forestry Kashmir at Rajbagh Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (on Line) after completion of Technical Evaluation and the date will be notified separately.

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website:- <https://jktenders.gov.in>

02. The Technical bids shall be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

03. The financial bids shall be opened online after completion of Technical Evaluation and the date will be notified separately.

04. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee pledged in favour of Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening.

05. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority). The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be re-leased after successful completion of DLP of 06 months.

7. In nursery raising works - maintenance will start from April 2027 to December 2027.

8. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO:- 16-20/SGR/NIT-2026-27
Dated:- 05-09-2026
DIPK-5419-26
DT: 08/09/2026

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Division,
Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVIL WORKS SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs.2.50 Corers)

NIT No: 52/5559-69/RnB/ SPN /e-Tendering/2026-27 Dated:-07-09-2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	AAA No. Date	TS No. Date
1	Revival and Restoration of Dargah Shareef at Hazratbal Pinjura Shopian.	Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in Jammu and Kashmir	49.450	98900/-	BEE/AAV	180 Days	1100/-	DAA&M-529 of 2026 Dated: 04-08-2026	91-TS/RnB/ Spn/2026-27 Dated: 05-09-2026

Position of funds:- Committed
Project Authority= Director Archives Archaeology and MuseumsJ&K.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-09-2026
2	Document downloading Start Date.	08-09-2026 From 10:00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	24-09-2026 upto 2:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	08-09-2026 From 10:00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	24-09-2026 upto 2:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25-09-2026 at 10:00 A.M

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) .

3. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG). (Which shall be adjusted or refunded as per the guidelines)

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in cash to the designated authority / Account which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

5. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

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

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited If:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bidsubmission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bidwill be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original documents related to the bid shall be submitted by L1 before issuance of Allotment in his favour.

DIPK-5423-26
DT: 08/09/2026

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CMYK

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Sher-E-Punjab T20 League: Randeep Singh's final-over magic helps Jalandhar Warriors steal thriller against Ludhiana Lions



IAN S

MOHALI: Jalandhar Warriors held their nerves to steal a win against Ludhiana Lions by seven runs in the Sher-E-Punjab T20 League at the I.S. Bindra Stadium in Mohali.

The Warriors posted 169/8 in 20 overs after Ludhiana's bowlers put up a strong show. Jalandhar got off to a poor start and were reduced to 16/3 in just the second over. However, Prabhsimran Singh and Gourav Makan joined hands to steady the innings.

The two batters played carefully at first before finding their rhythm and adding valuable runs. Prabhsimran scored 39 off 30 balls before being dismissed, leaving Jalandhar in another difficult position.

Gourav continued his good form and scored a crucial half-century. He made 52 off 43 balls before losing his wicket, but his

knock gave Jalandhar a strong base for the final overs.

Aryan Yadav then took charge and provided the late push Jalandhar needed. He remained unbeaten on 35 off 26 balls to help the Warriors reach 169/8.

For Ludhiana Lions, Krish Bhagat was the best bowler. He picked up four wickets for 37 runs in four overs, while Kartik Chadha finished with 1/21 in his four overs.

Ludhiana made a steady start to the chase, with openers Abhijeet Garg and Bikramjeet Singh adding 49 runs for the first wicket. However, the Lions then lost a few quick wickets and were reduced to 79/3.

Arjun Rajput and Salil Arora then gave Ludhiana hope by putting together a 54-run partnership. Rajput scored 45 off 33 balls before being dismissed, while Salil made 26 off 24 balls.

The Lions needed 19 runs from the final two

overs to win. Krish Bhagat kept the chase alive by hitting a six off the final ball of the 19th over, reducing the target to 10 runs from six balls.

Randeep Singh bowled the final over and made an immediate impact, dismissing Aseem Kohli for 11 off seven balls off the first delivery. He then removed Havneet for a duck off the next two balls, leaving Ludhiana in deep trouble.

With two balls left, Krish Bhagat came back on strike and tried to finish the chase with another big shot. However, he failed to clear the boundary and could only take a single. Ludhiana needed eight runs from the final ball, but didn't get anything on it.

As a result, Jalandhar Warriors secured a thrilling seven-run victory, while Ludhiana Lions fell just short despite a late fightback and were restricted to 162/8 in 20 overs.

GCL: Triveni Continental Kings upset table toppers Alpine APL Pipers to throw race for top spot



IAN S

BENGALURU: Two-time champions Triveni Continental Kings threw the race for the top two positions in the Global Chess League (GCL), in Bengaluru wide open at the halfway stage as they upset table toppers Alpine APL Pipers while Ganges Grandmasters register the most dramatic victory of the competition on Tuesday.

The Continental Kings, who were at the bottom of the standings with just one win from four matches, defeated the Pipers 10-4 while CheQ Mumba Masters continued their march with a 11-6 win over FYERS American Gambits. In the most dramatic match of the tournament so far, Ganges Grandmasters defeated PBG Alaskan Knights 12-8 with all six boards ending in a result.

At the halfway stage, Alpine APL Pipers and CheQ Mumba Masters have nine match points and 47 game points each but the former stays on top of the leader board by virtue of winning the match between the two teams.

It was the opening match of the day between Ganges Grandmasters, who are now third in the standing with nine match points, and PBG Alaskan Knights that set the tone for a sensational day 4 at the GCL. While it was the first match in which all six board had a result, it was the last second drama on

the prodigy board that ultimately became the biggest talking point of the match.

Abhimanyu Mishra, who is making his GCL debut with Alaskan Knights, was in a clearly winning position against Leon Luke Mendonca with both players rushing against time. At that stage, the match score read 9-8 in favour of the Ganges Grandmasters, playing white, but they were clearly staring down the barrel on the prodigy board.

But with just a second left on the clock, Mishra did not legally complete the move while promoting his pawn to a queen as the pieces were not in the right position when he hit the clock. Mendonca was quick to bring it to the notice of the arbitrator and ended up winning the game on time and Ganges Grandmasters clinched the match.

On the icon board, Ian Nepomniachtchi had defeated Viswanathan Anand in just 23 moves and Polina Shuvalova registered her third win in four games by beating Kateryna Lagno and Player of the Match Linier Dominguez Perez squeezed out a win over 15-year-old Yaziz Kaan Erdogmus, who cracked under time pressure.

But it looked like those three wins would not really help the Ganges Grandmasters wrap up the match as Arjun Erigaisi defeated Levon Aronian and Nino Batsiashvili got the better

of Stavroula Tsolakidou to close the gap to one point and Mishra was in a clearly winning position on the prodigy board.

But his error while pushing the clock turned out to be his and his team's undoing.

Explaining the reasoning about his choice following the match, Mendonca said, "He wanted to take my rook and make a queen. He pressed the clock and he went from one second to three second. I was given one minute but it had to be made one second for him."

"He was clearly winning and I knew this was my only chance. I have had this discussion with a friend about how much time it takes to win a piece and convert it into a queen in a second. And I knew it was very difficult," Mendonca added.

Mishra was understandably gutted. "It really hurts because if I had won, my team would have won the match." He said, while explaining how things unfolded.

In the third match of the day, table toppers Alpine APL Pipers had the opportunity to open up a considerable lead over their rivals as they faced the Continental Kings who didn't had the best of starts to the competition.

However, Aravindh Chithambaram defeated Vidit Gujrathi in 56 moves while Pranav V forced Volodar Murzin to resign after 63 moves to set the win for their team.

Indian men's hockey team departs for Japan to defend its Asian Games gold medal

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Indian Men's Hockey Team departed for Japan on Tuesday evening to defend their continental crown at the Asian Games 2026, scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4.

The hockey competition will be played in Kakamigahara, located approximately 35 km from Nagoya.

Led by captain Harmanpreet Singh, the Indian side will be determined to put behind their disappointing eighth-place finish at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, held last month in the Netherlands and Belgium, and shift focus towards the crucial continental assignment. With the Asian Games gold medal offering direct qualifica-



tion to the LA 2028 Olympic Games, India will aim to successfully defend the title they won at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023.

The Indian team showed glimpses of its quality at the World Cup but struggled to maintain consistency at key moments, ultimately paying the price in closely-contested encounters. The team will now look to draw from that experi-

ence and deliver a more composed and consistent performance in Japan.

India have established themselves as the dominant force in Asian hockey over the past decade, with the team comfortably securing the gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games and Asia Cup. The defending champions will be keen to maintain that supremacy and secure another Olympic berth by retaining

their gold medal.

"We don't want to think too far ahead and will focus on one game at a time," said India captain Harmanpreet. "There are no easy games because you want to play well consistently throughout the competition and not let up. The aim is to keep improving with every match and hit peak form when it matters the most during the knockout phase."

Chief coach Craig Fulton would also want the players to remain focused on execution of plans rather than thinking about the eventual outcome.

Four-time champions India have been drawn in Pool A alongside hosts Japan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The defending champions will open their campaign against Indonesia on September 20 and conclude their pool engagements against Bangladesh on September 28.

The knockout phase will see the semifinals played on October 1, while the final is scheduled for October 3. With qualification for the LA 2028 Olympic Games at stake, the Indian team will aim to maintain its stronghold and return home with a second consecutive Asian Games gold medal.

Ballon d'Or 2026: PSG, Arsenal, Bayern Munich among nominees for Men's Club of the Year



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Paris Saint-Germain, Arsenal, Bayern Munich, Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt and Brazilian giants Flamengo have been nominated for the Men's Club of the Year award at the 2026 Ballon d'Or.

PSG enter the race as defending holders of the award after a remarkable season in which the French club claimed their second Champions League title. They also enjoyed a highly successful domestic and international campaign, adding the Ligue 1, French Super Cup, European Super Cup and Intercontinental Cup to their trophy cabinet.

The Parisian side will be hoping to retain the honour after establish-

ing themselves as one of Europe's leading clubs.

Arsenal are also among the five nominees after ending their long wait for the Premier League title. The Gunners secured the English championship after 22 years and capped a strong campaign with further progress in Europe.

Bayern Munich make the shortlist after another trophy-laden season in Germany. The Bavarian giants won the Bundesliga, German Cup and German Super Cup, underscoring their continued dominance at home.

Bodo/Glimt is the surprise name on the list. The Norwegian club earned recognition for an impressive campaign and also lifted the Norwegian Cup. Their nomination highlights the growing

presence of clubs beyond Europe's traditional powerhouses.

Flamengo completes the shortlist after an outstanding season in Brazil and across South America. The Rio de Janeiro club won the Copa Libertadores, the Brazilian Championship and the Rio de Janeiro State Championship.

The five clubs will now compete for the prestigious Club of the Year award, with the winner to be announced at the 2026 Ballon d'Or ceremony on October 26 in London.

PSG's impressive haul of major international and domestic trophies makes them one of the leading contenders, but Arsenal and Bayern Munich also arrive with strong cases following successful seasons.

'Dream of playing for India is still alive': Akash Madhwal

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NEW DELHI: Akash Madhwal has made it clear that the dream of representing India remains firmly alive, with the Uttarakhand pacer believing that one strong season could propel him towards an international debut.

Madhwal, who has already produced one of the most memorable play-off bowling performances in IPL history with his 5/5 against Lucknow Super Giants in 2023, said an India five-wicket haul would carry far greater significance for him.

"Obviously, a fiver for India! Everyone who plays cricket dreams of playing for India. To represent India. It's the same for us too...To do something for India. To make a name for ourselves. It's the same," Madhwal told IANS in an exclusive interaction on Tuesday.

He said the hard work that began during his days of playing tennis-ball cricket has ultimately been driven by the ambition of representing the country.

"Whatever hard work is going on, whether it's tennis balls or whatever we started professionally, it's all so that we can play for India once. And we can represent India," he said.

Madhwal added that he hopes to replicate his famous IPL performance on the international stage.

"And the 5/5 that I picked in IPL for MI, I will do that for India too," he said. The fast bowler also believes he has more to offer than simply his reputation as a death-overs specialist and yorker bowler.

"As a cricketer, I have represented Uttarakhand. In Uttarakhand, I started as a strike bowler. And I used to rely on my strength for Yorkers and the death overs. So, I was a complete pace bowler," he said.

Madhwal said playing alongside some of the world's leading bowlers in the IPL exposed him to different conditions and showed him how captains could utilise his abilities.

"When we went to the IPL, the conditions were different. The world's number one bowlers were playing with you. So, the captain used you according to your capability."

"But I think I am a pace bowler. Because I have been a strike bowler for Uttarakhand. I have been a strike bowler. I have been a death-over bowler. And whenever you see super overs, I have bowled for my team. And I have won a couple of times."

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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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