

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

GMK

Srinagar • Thursday 10, September 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 216 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Day Three Of IFFJK Shines Light On Homegrown Kashmiri Stories

Youth, Regional Cinema, AI, International Co-Productions Take Centre Stage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The cinematic spirit of Jammu & Kashmir came alive on the third day of the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), as SKICC Srinagar played host to a rich mix of thought-provoking discussions, masterclasses, and interactive sessions.

The day's programme brought into focus youth-led storytelling, emerging cinematic voices, international co-productions and opportunities for Jammu & Kashmir cinema to reach global audiences.

The day began with an In-Conversation Session, "Echoes of the Chinar: Empowering J&K's Next Generation of Storytellers," explored the role of youth, local institutions and new cinemat-



ic voices in shaping the representation of Jammu & Kashmir on screen. The session was moderated by Danish Renzu, with Rahhat Shah Kazmi, film director and writer, as the speaker.

Another key session, "Global Partnerships in the Valley: Co-Producing Jammu and Kashmiri Cinema for the World," exam-

ined avenues for international collaboration and strengthening the region's presence in the global film ecosystem. The panel discussed international co-production, sustainable financing, creative partnerships and festival-market strategies for Jammu and Kashmiri cinema.

The session was moderated by Rabi-

ranjan Maitra, Indian director and editor, and featured Kapil Matoo, Munjal Shroff and Saba Bhat as speakers.

Speakers emphasised that Kashmir has a wealth of stories waiting to be told and stressed the need to nurture storytellers from within the region. They said that a strong cinematic ecosystem must be

Cultural Programmes Add Vibrancy To IFFJK

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing International Film Festival Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), the

Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), is organising a series of vibrant cultural programmes engaging local artists at multiple iconic venues across Srinagar.

The initiative engaging almost 400 local artists during the festival dates is aimed at entertaining festival delegates, guests and local

Class 7 Student Raped In Poonch, Two Arrested

AGENCIES

MENDHAR: A Class 7 student was allegedly raped by a cab driver and his friend in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Wednesday.

Both accused were arrested and booked under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS),

including those pertaining to gang rape, kidnapping and wrongful confinement, as well as under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the officials said. They said a man



lodge a complaint at Gursai police station late Wednesday afternoon, claiming that his daughter, a Class 7 student, while returning home boarded a cab driven by Zahoor Mushtaq alias Sonu who took her to

his house along with his friend Mohd Irfan on September 6.

The accused allegedly kept the girl in captivity for three days and raped her repeatedly, the officials said, quoting the complainant.

Acting swiftly, the police arrested both the accused and further investigation is on, the officials said.

Justice Bhati Sworn In As Chief Justice Of J&K, Ladakh HC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati was sworn in as the 39th Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at a solemn function held at SKUAST, Srinagar, on Wednesday.

The oath of office was administered to Dr. Justice Bhati by Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of UT of Ladakh with additional charge of UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The proceedings were conducted by



Shashanka Ala, Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh, while the

Mission YUVA Accelerates Youth Enterprise Push Across J&K

₹1,826 Cr Credit Disbursed; 13,597 Enterprises Operational

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Apex Committee of Mission YUVA (Youth Upliftment and Vibrant Advancement) met under Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, and reviewed the milestones achieved since the last Committee meeting held in May 2026, with particular focus on the four broad dimensions of the Mission including

Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity through digital commerce and market access.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Managing Director, JKRLM; representatives from Universities, SKUAST, NABARD and other key stakeholders. Commissioner Secre-



tor, IIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Education; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Managing Director, JKRLM; representatives from Universities, SKUAST, NABARD and other key stakeholders. Deputy Commissioners from all districts participated in the deliberations through video

J&K Cabinet To Meet Today

Four Bills Likely To Come Up For Consideration

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, will meet here today to consider a range of policy and development proposals, including new Skill Development and Homestay policies.

Sources said that the meeting is scheduled to be held at 4 pm at the Chief Minister's residence.

The proposed Mission Skill policy seeks to impart industry-oriented skills to youth from school to university level and create more employable

and market-ready human resources, they said.

The Cabinet is also likely to consider a revised Homestay Policy aimed at simplifying

THE RENEWAL period under the proposed policy may be extended from one year to five years.

procedures and encouraging more residents to participate in the tourism sector. The renewal period under the proposed policy may

■ Praise Valley's 'Unmatched Beauty'

Kashmir Has Completely Changed From 90S: Filmmakers At Gulmarg

WARIS FAYAZ

GULMARG: As the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) moved to its Gulmarg leg on Wednesday, members of the Bollywood fraternity praised Kashmir's unmatched beauty, local talent and the changes they have witnessed in the Valley over the years.

Speaking to reporters here, Bollywood producers, actors and filmmakers, recalled their earlier experiences of working in Kashmir, particularly during the 1990s, and said the situation



has changed considerably.

Referring to the shooting of the film 'Pukar' in Kashmir, the filmmakers said the atmosphere they witnessed during

their earlier visits was very different from what they see today.

"It has completely changed from the 90s," they said, recalling the challenges associated

with shooting in Kashmir during that period.

Actor and filmmaker Tinu Verma praised Kashmir's natural beauty and said its unique character and atmosphere could not be found elsewhere.

"The beauty of Kashmir is different and unmatched. The aura, the beauty, the character, nowhere could be found except Kashmir. I have been to countries worldwide, but Kashmir is unmatched," Verma said.

The Bollywood fraternity also described Gulmarg as the "crown of Kashmir" and Kashmir as the

■ 'We Apologise'

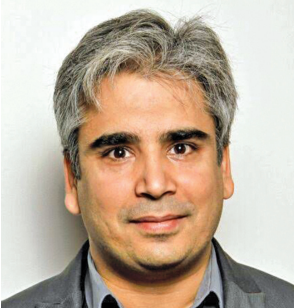
Tanvir Sadiq's Remarks Were Unintentional: NC

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) leaders on Wednesday apologised for party chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq's controversial remarks on poverty in Kashmir during the time of party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, saying the statement was unintentional and should not be dragged further.

Baramulla MLA Javid Hassan Baigh, said Sadiq was attempting to present historical facts about Jammu and Kashmir's political situation, but acknowledged that the choice of words could have been avoided.

"Tanvir Sadiq is very



mature, but sometimes the tongue slips. We are sorry and apologise unconditionally if anybody is hurt. There was no intention to hurt anybody," Baigh said.

"He wanted to present the historical facts of Jammu and Kashmir's political situation,

which is evident, but maybe the way was not okay. It should have been avoided. After all, he is human, and it was totally unintentional," he added.

NC MLA Salman Sagar also expressed regret over the remarks and appealed against prolonging the controversy. "If anybody is hurt by our chief spokesperson's unintentional statement, we are sorry. This should not be dragged further," he said.

Sagar said elected representatives derive their authority from the people and should not allow ego to come in the way of acknowledging mistakes.

"It is ultimately the people who are powerful

'Hybrid terrorist' arrested as terror module busted in Kupwara



GMK NEWS NETWORK

HANDWARA: Police on Wednesday arrested a former terrorist in Handwara for his involvement in a terror module linked to the banned Hizbul Mujahideen, and recovered a pistol, two magazines and 16 rounds of ammunition from his possession.

The accused, identified as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Kruhmura in Handwara, was apprehended during a joint

operation conducted by Handwara Police along with Army's 21 Rashtriya Rifles and 92 Battalion of the CRPF, police said.

According to police, Bhat was operating in a "hybrid" mode and was involved with a Hizbul Mujahideen module active in the Handwara-Kupwara area.

A Chinese-made pistol, two magazines and 16 rounds of pistol ammunition were recovered during the arrest, police said.

Police said the accused had earlier been arrested in two cases and was a former terrorist.

A case under relevant provisions of law has been registered at Handwara police station as FIR No. 232, and further investigation is underway.

Investigators are examining the module's network and activities and are working to identify other persons who may be associated with it, police said.

Director NIT releases brochures for 11th Int'l Nanotechnology Conference

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday released the brochures for the 11th edition of the biennial International Conference on Nanotechnology for Better Living (NBL-2027), which will be held at NIT Srinagar from September 7 to 11, 2027, in association with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar.

The conference will be jointly organised by NIT Srinagar and IIT Ropar in close association with several prestigious national and international institutions and organisations, including AMITY, New Delhi, and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)-Kashmir.

Prof Anurag Misra, Director, NIT Srinagar, released the brochures in the presence of faculty members and the conference organising team.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Misra said NBL-2027 would provide an important platform for researchers, scientists, academicians and industry representatives to exchange knowledge and strengthen scientific collaborations.

"NBL-2027 will bring together experts from different parts of the country and abroad to deliberate on the latest developments in nanotechnology and allied areas. NIT Srinagar is committed to promoting interdisciplinary research and providing a platform where scientific ideas can translate into meaningful technological applications," Prof Misra said.

The conference coincides with the birth anniversary of renowned British chemist and physicist John Dalton, whose pioneering contribution to atomic theory played a significant role in the development of modern chemistry and physics.



Prof M. A. Shah, General Chair of NBL-2027, said the conference would focus on strengthening the interface between scientific research, engineering and industry.

"Nanotechnology has become an important driver of innovation across science and engineering. NBL-2027 will provide researchers and industry professionals an opportunity to present recent findings, discuss practical challenges and explore collaborations for developing applications with wider societal relevance," Prof Shah said.

The conference will provide an interdisciplinary forum for participants to present and discuss recent innovations, research findings and practical challenges in nanotechnology and emerging technologies.

Prof Kowsar Majid, Programme Chair of NBL-2027, said special emphasis would be laid on encouraging young researchers and students to participate in the conference.

"Along with plenary and keynote sessions, NBL-2027 will provide dedicated opportunities for students and young researchers through tutorials, oral presentations and poster sessions. Our objective is to facilitate meaningful scientific interaction and expose emerging researchers to the latest work being carried out globally," Prof Majid said.

The conference will be coordinated by 11 scientists from different institutions. Prof Kowsar Majid will serve as the Programme Chair, while Dr Aamir Ahsan and Dr Anshul Gupta will serve as Organising Chairs.

Prof O P Sinha of AMITY and Dr Suriya Rehman of KSA will serve as International Advisory Board Chairs, while Prof Kamal K. Kar of IIT Kanpur and Prof M. A. Shah will serve as General Chairs.

The conference will be held under the patronage of Prof Anurag Misra, Director, NIT Srinagar, and Prof Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT Ropar.

The NBL series has emerged as a major international scientific event, with participation from researchers and institutions from different countries. NBL-2027 will feature plenary lectures, keynote talks, oral presentations and poster sessions covering nanotechnology and allied fields.

The Joint Coordination Committee of NHM employees decided to proceed with the strike after the government's response failed to satisfy the workforce by the September 5 deadline set by the employees. The committee had earlier warned of a UT-wide agitation if concrete steps were not taken on its long-pending demands.

Employees said the latest action was not an abrupt decision but the

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They urged the Education Department and JKBOSE to take an early decision, saying opening the link would enable them to continue their studies without losing another academic year. (KNS)

Students seek opening of TDC exam link for private candidates

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Students who have qualified the Higher Secondary Part-I (PUC) Biannual Private examination have appealed to the education authorities to open the online link for submission of forms for the TDC Annual Examination.

The students have sought intervention of the Education Minister, Com-

missioner/Secretary Education and Chairman, J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE), saying they are unable to register for the TDC examination as the required online link has not been made available to them.

"We have already lost one academic year. We humbly request the concerned authorities to consider our case on humani-

tarian grounds and open the examination link so that we can submit our examination forms for the TDC Annual Examination," the students said.

They urged the Education Department and JKBOSE to take an early decision, saying opening the link would enable them to continue their studies without losing another academic year. (KNS)

LMD intensified enforcement drive across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the supervision of Controller, Legal Metrology, J&K, Shiv Kumar Gupta, the Legal Metrology Department (LMD) has intensified enforcement and compliance activities across the Union Territory.

As per the consolidated progress report for August 2026, the Department has realised approximately Rs 44.55 lakh as revenue and ₹9.10 lakh through composition.

The Department has also adopted the Improvement Notice mechanism introduced under Jan Vishwas 2.0, marking an important shift towards compliance-oriented

enforcement. Under this mechanism, establishments found with minor or rectifiable deficiencies are served Improvement Notices, giving them an opportunity to correct the deficiencies within the prescribed period before further penal action is considered, wherever warranted. The approach seeks to promote voluntary compliance while ensuring that persistent and serious violations are dealt with strictly under law. As part of this compliance-oriented approach, the Department has so far served more than 50 Improvement Notices to establishments for minor or rectifiable deficiencies.

The enforcement framework has further been

strengthened through the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Metrology Enforcement Rules, 2026, along with a revised fee structure providing greater uniformity and transparency in regulatory services, enforcement procedures and statutory fees. These reforms seek to simplify compliance, reduce unnecessary regulatory burden and promote a business-friendly environment while safeguarding consumer interests.

During September 2026, LMD Kulgam took action against two sellers on the Amazon e-commerce platform in connection with a violation initially detected in July, for which Improvement Notices had been issued. Both sell-

ers were penalised with a compounding fee of ₹25,000 each, resulting in a total realisation of ₹50,000. In another consumer protection-related action, a penalty of ₹75,000 was imposed by Consumer Protection, Jammu, on a spare-parts establishment for violation of applicable provisions.

In a significant enforcement action by Legal Metrology Unit Kupwara, an inspection of a gas agency in August 2026, following a consumer complaint, detected short-filled domestic LPG cylinders beyond the permissible limits. The matter was taken up with the manufacturer/packer, following which the bottling plant opted for compounding of

the offence, and ₹2 lakh was recovered as penalty, along with a written assurance to ensure future compliance with the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, and the rules made thereunder.

Controller, Legal Metrology, J&K, has directed all field formations to maintain sustained market surveillance and ensure effective implementation of the new enforcement framework. The Department reiterated that its objective is to balance ease of compliance with effective enforcement, while ensuring accuracy in weights and measures, truthful declarations, fair trade practices and protection of consumer interests across the Union Territory.

NHM workers go on 72-hour strike over pay, regularisation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: More than 12,000 employees associated with the National Health Mission (NHM) in Jammu and Kashmir began a 72-hour strike on Wednesday, bringing fresh pressure on the administration over demands ranging from pay revision and job security to social and retirement benefits.

The agitation is being observed across district, block and field-level establishments in both divisions of the Union Territory and includes personnel working under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) and other NHM schemes, according to the employees' association.

The employees are seeking a comprehensive job policy, revision of their remuneration in line with NHM personnel in other states, and extension of benefits including Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), insurance cover and post-retirement support.



outcome of repeated representations, meetings and assurances that, according to them, had failed to translate into a policy-level resolution.

"We have been at the forefront of healthcare delivery, particularly during emergencies, but continue to face uncertainty over wages and job security," a protesting employee, Rouf Ahmad, said.

The employees maintained that their grievance goes beyond an increase in monthly pay, arguing that years of service under NHM have not been matched by a corresponding framework for employment security and social protection.

The latest strike also comes months after NHM employees observed a 48-hour agitation in April over similar demands. That protest was called off after representatives held discussions with Health Minister Sakina Itoo and were assured that their grievances would be examined.

The issue of regularisation and service conditions has also figured in Parliament. In a March 17 reply in the Rajya Sabha, the Union Health Ministry said

public health and hospitals are State subjects and that matters concerning NHM human-resource policies, including pay parity, regularisation and absorption, are to be decided by the respective State or Union Territory administrations.

The Ministry also said the Union government provides need-based technical and financial support to States and Union Territories under the NHM, while the respective administrations are responsible for ensuring healthcare manpower and creation of regular posts in accordance with applicable norms.

The renewed agitation comes at a time when the health sector in Jammu and Kashmir is already witnessing protests by medical interns over stipend-related demands, adding to concerns over disruption of healthcare services. A political party has separately urged the government to intervene in the disputes involving interns and NHM employees.

The situation could see further escalation, with another NHM employees' grouping having set September 17 as a deadline for action and warned of a separate UT-wide strike from September 18 if its demands remain unresolved.

The protesting employees have maintained that they remain open to dialogue with the government but want a concrete mechanism to address their employment status, remuneration and long-term social security rather than further assurances. (KNS)

Cluster University conducts Pilot of Paperless Examination at GCOE

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) took a significant step towards digital transformation and environmentally sustainable academic administration by successfully conducting a paperless examination at the Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar.

The initiative marks an important step towards modernizing examination and evaluation practices in higher education institutions across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The pilot examination was conducted for 40 nominated students of the B.Ed. 2nd Semester programme, who participated in the inaugural digital examination drive. The initiative was aimed at streamlining the assessment process, reducing administrative workload, enhancing efficiency, and minimizing paper consumption in university examinations.



cess, including accessing the examination platform, navigating the digital interface, attempting and submitting answers, and familiarizing themselves with the overall examination procedure. The mock drill enabled the students to gain hands-on experience and confidence before appearing in the actual examination.

A specialized training session was also conducted for 10 teacher evaluators to familiarize them with the digital evaluation mechanism and procedures. A detailed practical guidance on the various aspects of electronic evaluation, including accessing digital answer scripts, navigating the evaluation interface, applying the prescribed evaluation mechanism, recording marks, and completing the evaluation process in accordance with the stipulated examination protocols was also discussed.

The faculty members who participated in the training included Prof. Syed Shabana Shabir, Dr. Shabina, Prof. Ab. Gani Kumar, Prof. Bilquees Aslam, Dr. Showkeen Bilal Gul, Prof. Mehraj ud Din, and Prof. Shazia Siraj. The training equipped the faculty members with the requisite skills to undertake digital evaluation efficiently and accurately.

The examination was conducted successfully and concluded without any technical glitches. Both the participating students and teacher evaluators expressed positive feedback regarding the digital examination and evaluation process. The successful mock drill, followed by the smooth conduct of the actual examination and digital evaluation, demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of adopting technology-driven examination systems in higher education.

ACB traps Treasury clerk for demanding, accepting bribe

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday trapped and arrested a clerk posted at Government Treasury Kalakot for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000.

An official said that the accused clerk, identified as Khadam Hussain, was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe from a complainant.

The official said that following a complaint regarding the alleged demand for illegal gratification, the ACB laid a trap and apprehended the accused during the transaction.

He said the accused was taken into custody and a case has been registered in the matter, while further investigation is underway.

Capacity building session on Solid Waste Management Rules held in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Municipal Committees Yaripora and Frisal Wednesday jointly organised a comprehensive Capacity Building Programme on the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, aimed at enhancing operational awareness and strengthening ground-level implementation of sustainable waste management practices across both urban local bodies.

The specialized training workshop was conducted by Capacity Building Expert Tabraiz Madni. The session delivered practical guidance on key operational aspects under the framework of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, emphasizing source-level waste segregation, door-to-door collection routines, safe transportation logistics, scientific waste processing, and safe disposal standards.

Technical discussions during the session detailed the statutory obligations of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), operational protocols for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), home composting techniques, and essential occupational safety measures for frontline sanitation personnel.

Madni highlighted that achieving long-term urban hygiene requires structured coordination among municipal administration, local businesses, and community institutions.

Key attendees included the Executive Officers of MC Yaripora and MC Frisal, swachhata executives, swachhata ambassadors, swachhata champions, local students, residents, members of the trading community, community stakeholders, sanitary supervisors, frontline sanitation workers, and administrative staff from both municipal bodies.

Veshaw Literary and Trade Festival arrangements finalised in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: In preparation for the upcoming two-day Veshaw Literary and Trade Festival-2026, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday convened a meeting of senior officers and concerned stakeholders at the DC Office, Kulgam to finalize the arrangements for the successful conduct of the festival.

The meeting was attended by ADC Viqar Ahmad Giri, ACR Reyaz Ahmad Shah, ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, CPO, Malik Suheel, Principals of Degree Colleges, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and R&B Departments, Tehsil-dars, Executive officers of urban local bodies and other district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various aspects pertaining to the arrangements for the two-day literary-cum-trade festival.

The DC fixed the department wise responsibilities for the preparations and issued necessary directions for ensuring timely completion of all assigned responsibilities.

The DC directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure that all requisite arrangements, including venue management, sanitation, drinking water, power supply, traffic regulation, security, public convenience and other essential facilities, are put in place well in advance for the smooth, impactful and hassle-free conduct of the literary programmes and other activities scheduled as part of the festival.

Floating cinema draws huge crowds as IFFJK brings cinema to Dal Lake

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Cinema has found an extraordinary setting in Kashmir, as the tranquil waters of world famous Dal Lake have been transformed into a floating theatre during the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK).

In a setting where the lake, mountains and city lights come together, audiences are experiencing films on a large floating screen, with the banks of Dal Lake serving as an open-air auditorium. The initiative has emerged as one of the most distinctive attractions of the four-day festival that began on September 07, giving the celebration of cinema a setting deeply connected with Kashmir's visual and cinematic heritage.

The Floating Cinema opened on the first day of the festival with the screening of the evergreen 1961 film *Jungle*. The screening drew audiences to the lakefront, creating a memorable spectacle as a classic Hindi film played out against the waters of Dal Lake.



As the screen lights up over the waters of Dal Lake, families, visitors, film enthusiasts from different parts of the country and abroad and curious onlookers have been turning up along the banks, making the screenings a lively public experience.

The experience goes beyond conventional film viewing, allowing audiences to watch cinema while surrounded by the very landscapes that have inspired filmmakers for generations. The initiative also reflects IFFJK's effort to take cinema beyond traditional theatre spaces and bring it into public and culturally significant

settings. On Wednesday, the Floating Cinema featured the timeless 'Kashmir Ki Kali', bringing to the waters of Dal Lake the infectious energy and charisma of Shammi Kapoor at his energetic best, alongside the effortlessly graceful and captivating Sharmila Tagore.

The film, remembered for its romance, music and vibrant performances, offered audiences an opportunity to revisit one of Hindi cinema's most beloved classics in a setting that feels naturally connected to its story.

The nostalgia will continue on the concluding day on September 10 with the screening of Yash

Chopra's *Kabhi Kabhie* (1976), another celebrated classic associated with the cinematic tradition of Kashmir.

With films being projected over the waters and audiences gathered along the lakefront, Dal Lake has become more than a backdrop to the festival—it has become a part of the cinematic experience itself.

The Floating Cinema brings together three enduring elements of Kashmir—its landscapes, its association with Hindi cinema and its love for storytelling—creating an experience that is as much about the place as it is about the films being screened.

IFFJK 2026 Students, public attend special screenings of global cinema at Cinemas

DIPR facilitates participating colleges, institutions; organises vibrant cultural evening

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Numerous students from different colleges and institutions and a large number of people Wednesday attended the day long screenings of short films and movies from world cinema at the Wave Cinemas organised as part of International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir 2026.

The students who attended the screening of short films and movies under IFFJK 2026 were from Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women, Government MAM College, SPMR College of Commerce, Indian Institute of Mass Communication Bantalab, Government College for Women Parade, University of Jammu, Central University of Jammu and other educational institutions. A large number of locals also attended the screenings.

The students, while sharing their experiences and learnings from the screenings of different films from across the globe, said that it was a unique and novel experience for them to witness maiden Film festival aimed at promoting and exploring the film making opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir.

Himanshu Dubey, a student of IIMC Jammu,



shared his enriching experience at the IFFJK 2026 Jammu. He described it as an occasion to explore international films, understand diverse perspectives and gain valuable insights into filmmaking and visual storytelling.

Students of Mass Communication from Central University of Jammu termed the IFFJK 2026 as a great opportunity for them to learn various aspects of filmmaking, videography, visual communication and much more. They appreciated the initiative and encouraged others to participate.

Professor Paramveer Singh, Central University of Jammu, said "films are often called a mirror of

society." He appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for taking this commendable initiative and described the First ever Film Festival as a positive step towards promoting cinema & visual storytelling in J&K.

Professor Rabia Javaid said that students thoroughly enjoyed the first-ever International Film Festival being organised in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a historic and enriching experience for the region.

She noted that the Film Festival has provided a unique opportunity to learn, explore cinema, interact with filmmakers and industry professionals and gain valuable exposure beyond

the classroom.

She also thanked the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising the festival and bringing such a vibrant platform to J&K, adding that events of this kind will inspire young talent and open new avenues for aspiring filmmakers and media students.

Later, in the evening the Cultural wing of DIPR, Jammu organised a cultural event featuring diverse performance of folk singing, instruments and theme based songs.

Prominent and talented Singers Vanshika Dogra and Aditya Rao enthralled the audience with their vibrant performances which received thunderous applause from one and all. The cultural event was anchored by Firdos and Prashant Khajuria

Deputy Director Information (PR) Moksha Dogra, Deputy Director (HQ) Ashu Kumari, Culture Officer Rajinder Kumar Diga, Field Publicity Officer, Mohit Sharma, District Information Officer Kathua, Gurpreet Singh, District Information Officer, Poonch, Hardeep Singh Choudhary, Assistant Information Officer, Jiwan Singh were present, along with other officials of the department.

Education only power to lead societies towards progress, awareness: Dr Farooq

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah Wednesday said that education and literacy are the foundations of any civilized, progressive and dignified society.

He said that only an educated society can better understand its rights and responsibilities and while meeting the challenges of a changing world, achieve the goals of progress and prosperity.

Dr Farooq Abdullah said it is highly encouraging and a matter of pride that Jammu and Kashmir, just last week, achieved the target of full literacy by attaining a literacy rate of 98.43 percent under ULLAS-NBSK.

He said this achievement is the result of the collective efforts of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, teachers, students and all institutions working towards the promotion of literacy.

"The educational awareness and literacy success we are witnessing today has its foundations in the pioneering efforts of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah decades ago. Today, the light of education kindled by him has



spread far and wide and the fruits of his struggle and efforts are visible to all," he said.

He accorded special importance to the establishment of educational institutions and promotion of education in Jammu and Kashmir, recognising education as a fundamental means of social transformation, empowerment and eradication of backwardness.

He said that since its inception, the National Conference has regarded education as a fundamental pillar of social and economic development. "The steps taken during the tenure of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to establish educational institutions, create opportunities for the common people and eradicate educational backwardness ushered in a new era of awareness in the society of Jammu and Kashmir. The National Conference has always maintained

that education should not remain confined to privileged sections of society; rather, every child, including those from poor, middle-class, remote and backward areas must have equal access to quality educational opportunities."

Dr Farooq Abdullah said that the present government, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is also taking several measures to strengthen the education sector and provide better educational opportunities to the younger generation. The government is focused on improving the infrastructure of government educational institutions, enhancing educational facilities, promoting quality education, strengthening skill development and vocational education, and creating better opportunities for students.

The National Conference President also described the passage of the Private Universities Bill during the last Assembly session as an important development in the education sector. He said the legislation would help expand the higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, create new educational opportunities, promote healthy competition in education and provide students with greater choices.

Use cinema to build bridges, not spread hatred: Akbar Khan

Says Kashmir's landscape, culture can make festival global cinematic destination

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Veteran filmmaker and actor Akbar Khan on Wednesday called for greater responsibility in filmmaking, saying cinema should be used to promote love, harmony and understanding rather than hatred and social division.

Speaking on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) here, Khan said cinema had an unparalleled ability to connect people, cultures and civilisations.

"Cinema is the most powerful medium that makes bridges between nations and civilisations," he said, stressing that filmmakers should use the medium to foster understanding across communities.

Khan also cautioned against using films to distort history or promote hostility

between religious groups, while maintaining that every filmmaker had the right to express his or her ideas and artistic interpretation.

"I respect every filmmaker. Every filmmaker has the right to present his film, his ideas, but never distort history," he said.

The veteran filmmaker said meaningful cinema could entertain audiences while simultaneously conveying a positive social message.

"We have to spread love through cinema. We have to give entertainment through cinema - meaningful entertainment," Khan said, adding that films created specifically to spread hatred or propaganda should be discouraged.

Khan praised the organisers of IFFJK and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for the festival, saying its cultural presentations and opening events reflected the spirit of the Valley.

He expressed confidence that the festival would grow into a major international cinematic event, arguing that Kashmir offered something few established film festivals could match its

landscape, cultural richness and atmosphere.

"I feel from year to year this festival will grow from strength to strength," Khan said, predicting that it could eventually compete with major global festivals.

He said filmmakers visiting Kashmir would not only watch films and interact with their peers but also draw inspiration from the region's cultural heritage and landscape.

Khan referred to his historical television projects, including *The Sword of Tipu Sultan* and *Akbar the Great*, saying they were conceived with the broader objectives of nation-building and communal harmony.

He also expressed a desire to bring his film *Taj Mahal: An Eternal Love Story* to Kashmir for a premiere, describing the *Taj Mahal* as a universal symbol of love.

The first edition of IFFJK is being held in Srinagar from September 7 to 10, bringing together filmmakers and cinema professionals from India and abroad while showcasing films from Jammu and Kashmir alongside international and Indian cinema.(KNS)

Spanish filmmaker Anna Saura praises IFFJK

Calls it platform for global filmmakers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Spanish filmmaker Anna Saura has praised the ongoing International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), describing it as an important initiative that brings filmmakers and cinema professionals from across the world together in Kashmir. Saura appreciated the efforts of the organisers and the Department in creating a platform for filmmakers, artists and other cinema professionals to interact and exchange ideas.

She said such initiatives could create opportunities for filmmakers to explore Jammu and Kashmir, its culture and stories, besides highlighting the region's potential as a destination for film production.

Speaking about Kashmir, Saura said the region's natural beauty and cultural richness offer considerable possibilities for filmmaking.

She expressed hope that the festival would encourage more filmmakers from across the world to visit Kashmir and explore opportunities for cinema in the region. (KNS)

Lal Chowk traders offer 30 pc discount to Film Festival guests

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lal Chowk Shopkeepers and Traders Association has welcomed guests attending the Film Festival in Srinagar and announced a special 30 per cent discount at participating shops in the city's main commercial hub.

The association invited visitors to explore shopping destinations in and around Lal Chowk, including Polo View Market, Ghanta Ghar, Regal Chowk, Abi Guzar and Lambert Lane.

The traders said the initiative was aimed at offering Film Festival guests an opportunity to experience the local culture, handicrafts, flavours and hospitality of Kashmir while shopping in the city's traditional markets.

The association also urged visitors to interact with local traders and take home souvenirs reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage.

The traders extended a warm welcome to all Film Festival guests to Lal Chowk and Kashmir.(KNS)

Div Com Chairs Meeting to address issues related to Medicity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review and resolve issues related to the Medicity project.

Besides Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, senior officers from the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, SIDCO, Industries & Commerce Deptt and Project Coordinator Sajad Nazir Shah attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the demarcation of land earmarked for the Medicity project, as well as 15-metre Right of Way/ the buffer area between new Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Highcourt com-



plex & Medicity.

The Divisional Commissioner took note of the issues raised by the concerned departments and the executing agency and directed the officers to undertake a joint inspection of the site to resolve the matter of demarcation of allocated land.

He further directed that revenue officers from the concerned departments be associated with the demarcation process to ensure that the land is demarcated strictly in accordance with

the approved plan of 2021.

Anshul Garg also stressed the need to ensure the requisite right of way to the Medicity project so that the implementation of the project proceeds smoothly and without further impediments.

Meanwhile, DC Srinagar assured support to facilitate the resolution of the issue at the earliest.

Earlier, project coordinator apprised the chair regarding the approved plan of Medicity and Right of Way.

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Private Schools Association Jammu & Kashmir (PSAJK) organised "Women Edupreneurs Connect 2026" at the EMRC Auditorium, University of Kashmir, bringing together women education leaders, policymakers, academicians, educationists, senior officials and representatives of private educational institutions from across Jammu & Kashmir.

Minister for Education and allied departments, Madam Sakeena Yatoo, was the Chief Guest, while Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The programme was also attended by legislators, senior officers of the School Education Department, BOSE and SCERT, district representatives of PSAJK and other eminent personalities.

Addressing the gather-



ing, Education Minister Sakeena Yatoo acknowledged the difficulties faced by private schools due to multiple No Objection Certificates (NOCs). She assured the private education sector that the Government was seriously considering rationalising the existing system and indicated that the requirement could be brought

down to three major NOCs for CBSE-type schools.

She said the matter would be pursued with seriousness in the forthcoming Assembly session, with the objective of reducing unnecessary regulatory bottlenecks and streamlining approvals. The Minister also assured women school leaders of her continued support in

strengthening and developing their institutions.

VC hails women's contribution to education

Prof. Nilofer Khan appreciated PSAJK for creating a dedicated platform to recognise and celebrate women school leaders and edupreneurs. She described the initiative as an important step towards women's empowerment, emancipation and leadership in education, appreciating the resilience and commitment of women educators in building institutions and shaping the future of children.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, President PSAJK, said the initiative was conceived as the beginning of a broader movement to recognise the contribution of women in education.

"Women Edupreneurs Connect is our humble attempt to celebrate their success, recognise their leadership and provide them with a platform

where they can connect, learn, collaborate and inspire one another"

The programme featured expert sessions on women's leadership, institutional excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship, early childhood education, professional management, networking and future-ready learning, with particular emphasis on NEP 2020 and building resilient and inclusive educational institutions.

Women education leaders and representatives from different districts participated in the deliberations, making the programme a broad-based platform for collaboration and professional development.

PSAJK reiterated its commitment to creating sustained platforms for dialogue, capacity building, recognition and collaboration, and to strengthening the role of women in shaping the educational future of Jammu & Kashmir.



■ World Suicide Prevention Day

A Collective Responsibility To Protect Life



SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Every year, 10 September is observed as World Suicide Prevention Day. It allows us to speak about suicide, mental health, emotional well-being, and most importantly, the value of human life. In Kashmir, we increasingly hear about suicide incidents, and every such incident leaves behind a grieving family and a community searching for answers. It is a painful reality that deserves serious attention. At the same time, suicide is a complex issue and cannot be explained by one reason alone. Emotional distress, family problems, relationship difficulties, academic pressure, financial concerns, social expectations, and other personal circumstances can all contribute to a crisis. One factor that deserves more discussion today is the growing influence of social media, particularly on young people.

The Changing Impact of Social Media

Social media has become a part of everyday life. Through Snapchat, Instagram, reels, stories, photographs and status updates, we see what other people are doing almost every day. We see someone's holiday, new clothes, achievements, celebrations, friendships, relationships, new car, new phone or successful career. But what we usually do not see are their worries, failures, family problems, financial difficulties or moments when they are struggling. This creates a difficult situation for some people. They begin comparing their real lives with the carefully selected lives they see online.

result can be followed by another opportunity. A career setback can lead to a different path. A broken relationship can eventually heal. Financial or family difficulties can also change with time and support. We should never allow one painful chapter to decide the entire story.

Changing the Conversation

Mental health is still surrounded by silence in many families and communities. A person may be suffering internally but remain quiet because they fear being judged or misunderstood. Some people are told to simply "be strong" or are reminded that others have bigger problems. Although such words may be well intentioned, they can make someone feel that their pain is not important.

Instead, we need to listen. Asking a simple question such as "Are you okay?" can be meaningful when it comes with genuine concern. We do not always need to have the perfect answer. Sometimes, giving someone the space to speak is itself an important form of support.

Talking about suicide responsibly does not encourage suicide. Responsible conversations can help people recognise distress, reduce stigma and encourage those who are struggling to seek appropriate help. When Failure Feels Like the End

For many young people, examination results carry enormous emotional pressure. A student who fails an examination or does not get the marks expected by their family may feel that their future has been destroyed. But one examination cannot define a person's life. Marks measure performance in a particular examination. They do not measure someone's character, abilities, potential or worth.

There are many ways to build a meaningful future. A person may try again, choose another course, learn a skill, change direction or discover an opportunity they had never considered. Parents and teachers have an important role here. Children need to know that they can come home after failure



children can say, "I am struggling," without fearing humiliation. Parents should listen before judging and understand that their child's dreams may not always be the same as their own. A child who does not meet an expectation is still a child deserving of love, respect and support.

Recognising Signs of Distress

People experiencing emotional distress may show changes in their behaviour. They may withdraw from family and friends, lose interest in things they once enjoyed, experience major changes in sleep or appetite, express hopelessness or repeatedly describe themselves as a burden.

These signs do not automatically mean that someone is suicidal. However, significant changes should not be ignored. Friends, parents, teachers and colleagues

and helping them find the right support.

We should avoid statements that compare one person's suffering with another's. Pain is not a competition. Professional mental-health support should also be treated without shame. Speaking with a qualified mental-health professional, doctor or counsellor is not a sign of weakness. It is a responsible way of seeking help.

Using Social Media Responsibly

Talking about suicide responsibly does not encourage suicide. Responsible conversations can help people recognise distress, reduce stigma and encourage those who are struggling to seek appropriate help. When Failure Feels Like the End

We cannot simply tell young people to leave social media. Digital platforms are now part of education, communication, and everyday life. Instead, we need to teach responsible use. Young people should understand that online images do not show the whole reality. They should be encouraged to take breaks when social media begins affecting their mood or confidence. It would be better for parents to discuss the topic of cyberbullying with their kids. The kids should understand that they can

always block accounts that cause them harm or report the abuse to an adult they trust.

We also need responsibility when sharing suicide-related content. Sensational headlines, graphic descriptions and romanticising suicide can be harmful. Public discussion should focus on awareness, prevention, hope and pathways to help.

Asking for Help Is Strength

There should be no shame in asking for help. Someone experiencing serious emotional distress can speak with a qualified mental-health professional, doctor, counsellor, trusted family member, teacher, or another responsible person.

If someone appears to be in immediate danger of harming themselves, the situation should be taken seriously. Stay with them if it is safe to do so and seek urgent assistance through local emergency or healthcare services. Support should not end after one conversation. A simple phone call or message later can show that the person has not been forgotten.

Building a Supportive Community

Suicide prevention cannot be left to families alone. Teachers, healthcare professionals, community workers, religious leaders, social organisations and local institutions can all contribute to creating a culture where mental-health difficulties are discussed with understanding rather than shame.

In Kashmir, family and community relationships remain important parts of social life. These relationships can become powerful sources of support when they are based on compassion, privacy, and respect. We need communities where people do not feel embarrassed to say that they are struggling.

Let Us Teach Our Children That Failure Is Not Final

Children need to hear something simple but important: failure is a part of life. Not getting the expected marks does not mean the future is finished. Losing a relationship does not mean love is finished. Facing financial difficulties does not mean opportunities will never return.

Parents and teachers should help children develop resilience while also making sure they know that asking for help is acceptable. We should teach them that their worth is greater than their marks, appearance, income, relationships, or social-media presence.

Life Deserves Another Chance

When one path fails, another can be explored. When circumstances become difficult, they can change. When the future looks unclear, support can help a person see possibilities that are difficult to recognise during a crisis.

This is the message we need to repeat: pain deserves support, not silence. A person should never be reduced to their worst day, their biggest mistake, or their greatest disappointment.

A Collective Responsibility

World Suicide Prevention Day is not only about remembering those who have died. It is about asking what we can do to prevent another family from experiencing such loss. Prevention begins with awareness, but awareness must lead to action.

We need families that listen, schools that support, healthcare services that are accessible, communities that show compassion, and social media users who understand the responsibility that comes with what they share. Most importantly, we need to change how we respond when someone says they are struggling. Listen before judging. Support before blaming. Guide before giving up on someone.

A difficult chapter does not define the entire book

On 10 September, let us remind one another that life has value even when circumstances make that value difficult to see. Let us encourage people to reach out, seek appropriate help, and stay connected to those who care about them. Life is precious. Let us protect it, support one another, and make sure that no one feels they have to face their darkest moments completely alone.

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A young person who is already disappointed with life may look at these posts and think, "Everyone is happy except me." Another may feel that others are moving ahead while they are being left behind. Over time, constant comparison can affect confidence and create feelings of loneliness, inadequacy and frustration. Social media is not itself the cause of suicide, and it would be wrong to reduce such a serious issue to one factor. However, excessive use, cyberbullying, online harassment, harmful content and constant comparison can add to emotional pressure, especially for someone who is already struggling. We need to teach our children that social media is a window into selected moments, not a complete picture of someone's life.

Life Is Precious

Life is precious. It is a gift from the Creator, and it deserves to be protected and valued, especially when circumstances become difficult. There are moments when people feel disappointed, rejected, heartbroken or exhausted. They may feel that they have failed their families or themselves. In such moments, the present pain can appear permanent.

But it is not. A difficult period is only one part of life. Circumstances can change. A bad examination

without being humiliated. Failure needs to be treated as something from which we can learn, not as a reason to lose hope.

When Relationships Break

Relationship problems can also cause intense emotional pain. Rejection, separation, betrayal or losing someone close can make a person feel as though life has lost its meaning. During heartbreak, it can be difficult to imagine a future without the person who has been lost. But emotions change, and healing takes time.

The end of a relationship is not the end of a person's life. Family, friendship, education, work, personal goals and new experiences can gradually help someone rebuild. A person's value cannot depend entirely on one relationship.

The Pressure of Expectations

Family and social expectations can motivate people, but they can also become overwhelming. Young people may feel pressure to achieve high marks, obtain a particular profession, earn well, marry at a certain age or maintain a particular social image. Parents usually want the best for their children, but sometimes expectations become so strong that children become afraid of disappointing them.

We need to create homes where

do not need to diagnose the person. They can simply notice the change, listen without judgment and encourage them to seek appropriate support. Sometimes, showing that we have noticed can make a person feel less alone.

Young People Need Safe Spaces

Young people today are growing up under pressures that previous generations did not experience in the same way. Along with education, employment and family expectations, they are constantly exposed to the online world. Schools and colleges should therefore provide more than academic education. Students need spaces where they can discuss stress, failure, bullying, relationships and uncertainty about the future.

Teachers can help create an atmosphere where asking for help is normal. Parents can do the same at home. A young person's concern should not always be dismissed as "just a phase." Listening seriously builds trust.

The Role of Families

Families can become an important source of strength during difficult periods. Support does not always mean solving someone's problems. Sometimes it means sitting with them, listening patiently

Day Three Of IFFJK

developed in Jammu & Kashmir itself, providing young people with opportunities to learn, create and collaborate. He also called for greater engagement of youth from diverse academic and professional backgrounds and departments to build a vibrant and inclusive creative ecosystem for cinema in the region.

They emphasised Jammu & Kashmir is rich in talent, stressing the need to provide its young storytellers with the right direction, opportunities and ecosystem to realise their creative potential.

The panel discussion, “The Gentle Truth: AI and the Beautiful Soul of Jammu and Kashmir,” explored the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence and documentary cinema, with speakers reflecting on the possibilities and challenges of using emerging technologies in non-fiction storytelling. The discussion covered ethics in documentary filmmaking, observational cinema and hybrid forms, while also examining how technology can complement authentic human stories and the rich cultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. The session was moderated by San-skar Desai and featured Subbiah Nallamuthu, Arun Chadda, Yadu Vijaykrishnan, Supriyo Sen and Raja Shabbir Khan.

The panel discussion “Local Voices, Global Hearts: Celebrating Regional Cinema in the Valley” explored how compelling regional stories from across India are shaped, narrated and brought to audiences. The session also reflected on the rich cultural traditions and diverse storytelling potential of Jammu and Kashmir, and how its distinctive voices can contribute to and become part of India’s vibrant regional cinema landscape. The discussion was moderated by Arfi Laamba and featured Tribeny Rai, Dr. Pradeep Kenchanuru, Haobam Paban Kumar and Madhavi Tangella.

Among the day’s key highlights was the masterclass, “Cutting Visuals, or Cutting Emotions,” which explored the art and psychology of film editing, including rhythm, spatial continuity, temporal manipulation and the emotional impact of the cut. The session featured acclaimed Indian director and editor Rabi Ranjan Maitra, who shared insights into the craft of editing, exploring how rhythm, continuity, temporal manipulation and the psychology of the cut shape the emotional impact of a film.

Another major attraction was the masterclass, “Beyond the Stage: Inside the Actor’s Craft,” which examined the interplay between theatrical training, embodied performance and contemporary approaches to cinematic acting. The session featured noted Indian actor and director Chittaranjan Tripathy, who shared insights into the craft and evolving dynamics of screen performance.

The masterclasses provided a valuable opportunity for students, film enthusiasts and aspiring filmmakers to learn directly from experienced practitioners and gain practical insights into the creative and technical aspects of filmmaking.

The day’s sessions further strengthened IFFJK’s role as a platform for meaningful dialogue, learning and collaboration, bringing together diverse perspectives on the art, craft, technology and future of cinema in Jammu & Kashmir. The discussions highlighted the importance of creating greater opportunities for local talent while connecting the region’s cinematic voices with wider national and international platforms.

The interactive sessions drew enthusiastic participation from film enthusiasts, students and aspiring filmmakers, who engaged with the speakers through questions and discussions. The exchanges offered participants valuable insights into filmmaking practices, emerging technologies, creative processes and the evolving opportunities within the film industry

A major focus of the festival’s competitive programming is the newly introduced J&K Select section, for which five films by filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir have been shortlisted.

The selected films, Searching for the Grandpa, directed by Mohammad Wali; Arifa, directed by Rohin Ravendran Nair; Batt Koch (The Lost Lane), by Siddarth Koul and Ankit Wali; Tasrufdaar (Djinns of Kashmir), directed by Kapil Mattoo; and Naqsh-e-Daur (The Story of Ghulam Nabi Dhar), directed by Baba Tasaduq Hussain bring distinctly local narratives to the competitive platform.

The films span themes of childhood, family and memory, displacement and identity, mystery and the scars of Kashmir’s past, besides the region’s traditional art and craftsmanship.

Naqsh-e-Daur, for instance, chronicles the life and legacy of Padma Shri awardee and downtown Srinagar woodcarver Ghulam Nabi Dhar, while Batt Koch explores displacement and the enduring idea of home through the story of a Kashmiri migrant family. Searching for the Grandpa follows two children in a Kashmiri village during Eid, bringing an intimate rural story to the screen.

The emergence of these films comes against a broader conversation at IFFJK on whether Kashmir can move from being primarily a cinematic location to becoming a source of stories, filmmakers and creative talent in its own right.

Filmmakers and actors attending the festival have stressed the need for cinema to look

beyond Kashmir’s familiar landscapes and explore its people, traditions, food, folklore and lived experiences.

Actor Divyendu Sharma said cinema should not restrict Kashmir to songs and scenic sequences, while filmmaker Imtiaz Ali underlined the need to create an ecosystem in which local artists can develop and find wider audiences. Actor Pankaj Tripathi also pointed to the growing body of short films being made by young Kashmiris, including filmmakers working with limited resources and mobile phones.

The emphasis on local talent has also found space in the festival’s policy discussions. On the second day, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo called for a sustainable cinematic ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting film education, skill development, investment, incentives and a more effective single-window clearance mechanism as important components of the region’s film future.

Cultural Programmes

audiences, while showcasing the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of Jammu & Kashmir alongside the international film festival.

The cultural programmes are being organised at prominent locations including Jhelum Riverfront, Rajbagh; Old Zero Bridge; Sher-i-Kashmir Park; Nishat Garden; and SKICC.

The programmes feature a diverse array of traditional and cultural performances providing audiences and guests with an opportunity to experience the region’s distinctive folk traditions and performing arts.

On the closing day of the festival, September 10, the cultural programmes shall be scheduled at the designated venues in the afternoon (5 to 7 PM)

Through these programmes, the cinematic experience of IFFJ&K is being complemented with the rich cultural expressions of Jammu & Kashmir, bringing together film, music, folk traditions and performing arts at some of Srinagar’s most prominent public and cultural spaces.

Justice Bhati Sworn

Warrant of Appointment of the Chief Justice was read out by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The occasion was graced by the Chief Minister of the UT of J&K, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh along with their spouses, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, Advisor to Chief Minister of UT of J&K, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, State Election Commissioner, former Chief Justices and Judges of the High Court and a distinguished gathering representing the judiciary, Bar, civil and police administration and academia.

A large number of sitting and former Chief Justices and Judges from several High Courts across the country, particularly from Rajasthan besides the High Courts of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Allahabad, attended the event. The presence of Dr. Justice Nupur Bhati, Judge of the Rajasthan High Court and spouse of the Chief Justice, his parents, close relatives and other family members added special significance to the occasion.

Among other dignitaries present were the Chief Secretary, J&K; Director General of Police of J&K; Commissioners/Secretaries to Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh, Vice-Chancellors of Universities; Members of the Central Administrative Tribunal besides Executive Members of the Kashmir Advocates’ Association and the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu; Law Officers of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Judicial Officers and officers of the High Court Registry.

A sizeable representation of senior Advocates, Government Advocates and other members of the Bar from Rajasthan besides staff members and other distinguished guests, also attended the event.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, issued the notification regarding the appointment of Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on September 5, 2026.

Born on September 21, 1970, Dr. Justice Bhati enrolled as an Advocate in 1992 and practised primarily before the Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur, acquiring extensive experience in diverse areas of law. These included constitutional and writ jurisdiction, service matters, public interest litigation, election, revenue, mining, education, Panchayati Raj, family and criminal law.

Before his elevation as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on November 16, 2016, Dr. Justice Bhati served as Additional Advocate General for the State of Rajasthan from October 13, 2008 to December 29, 2008, and again from January 6, 2014.

During his distinguished career at the Bar, Dr. Justice Bhati was elected as Member of the Bar Council of Rajasthan for the period 2009–2015. He also served as President of the Rajasthan High Court Lawyers’ Association from 2011 to 2013 and as General Secretary of the Rajasthan High Court Advocates’ Association in 2001.

Dr. Justice Bhati holds B.A., LL.B. and LL.M. in Mercantile Law besides a Ph.D. He served as Visiting Faculty at the Faculty of Law, Jai

Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, for 19 years from 1997 to 2016 and as Visiting Faculty at National Law University, Jodhpur, for one year. He is also a Member of the Executive Committee of the Rajasthan Chapter of the Indian Law Institute.

Mission YUVA

conferencing. Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the Mission’s performance across its various components and underscored the importance of sustaining the momentum generated on the ground.

He emphasised the need for close coordination among departments, financial institutions, training institutions and field-level functionaries to ensure that the expanding application base translates into viable and sustainable enterprises, meaningful employment opportunities and long-term economic empowerment of the youth.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the district-wise progress through the Deputy Commissioners and stressed the importance of continued field mobilisation, effective handholding of applicants, timely processing of cases and stronger convergence among the institutions associated with Mission YUVA.

He called for maintaining the focus on women and youth participation, strengthening the training and mentorship ecosystem and leveraging digital platforms to expand market access for locally created products and services.

The Apex Committee also reviewed the institutional mechanisms put in place for field-level implementation and took stock of the emerging requirements for further strengthening the Mission’s delivery architecture.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the progress achieved since the May review and called for continued efforts to convert the Mission’s growing outreach into sustainable enterprises, stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems and wider livelihood opportunities for the youth across Jammu and Kashmir.

Presenting the latest progress, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, highlighted the substantial expansion of the Mission’s footprint since the previous review, noting that the programme has continued to gain traction at both the institutional and grassroots levels.

He apprised the meeting that under the mission youth mobilisation continued gaining momentum with female participation rising sharply. He revealed that under the Cultural Mobilisation and Public Awareness component, the average daily application intake has increased by 39 per cent over the last three months, rising from 280 to 390 applications per day.

A particularly significant feature has been the growing participation of women with female-led applications increasing by 76 per cent, from 91 to 160 applications per day, while 78 per cent of all female applications are being driven by Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Sustained field-level awareness has consequently increased the overall female share of applications from 27 per cent to 31 per cent.

The Mission’s mass youth mobilisation campaign (Yuva Jagriti 5.0) has so far reached 88,300 individuals, marking a 42 per cent increase since the last Apex review.

It was also divulged that the ongoing Business Hackathons, launched on August 15, 2026, have also emerged as a major platform for entrepreneurial mobilisation, reaching 18,000 students across more than 255 educational institutions. More than 1,300 innovative business ideas have already been generated, with the campaign continuing until September 16, 2026.

Additionally it was highlighted that the total application intake has increased by 37 per cent, rising from 1,04,067 on May 15 to 1,42,196 as on September 7, 2026. SBDU verifications have risen by 34 per cent to 80,965, while DLIC approvals have increased by 39 per cent to 75,791.

Moreover the loan sanctions have grown by 53 per cent, reaching 1,992 crore across 37,171 sanctioned accounts, while disbursements have reached 1,826 crore across 32,665 accounts, also registering 53 per cent growth.

The meeting was informed that commercial banks are presently processing around 2,800 applications every month, while the final sanction rate has recovered strongly from 23 per cent in July to 40 per cent in August, indicating improved processing efficiency and conversion across the financial funnel.

The programme has simultaneously translated financial support into actual enterprise creation, with 13,597 new enterprises now fully operational across J&K, representing a 58 per cent surge since May. Another 6,777 enterprises are currently in the Work-In-Progress (WIP) stage, with WIP report submissions increasing by 70 per cent.

The Mission has also witnessed a substantial expansion in its Capacity Building and Business Mentorship component as the trained individuals has increased by 73 per cent since the last review, with 36,474 student/entrepreneur certifications completed so far.

The mentorship framework has recorded an especially notable expansion, with enterprise mentorship completion increasing seven-fold (700 per cent) since the previous review. As many as 2,645 entrepreneurs have been mentored by 482 onboarded mentors, strengthening the handholding ecosystem for emerging entrepreneurs beyond the initial stages of enterprise establishment.

The number of J&K merchant storefronts

onboarded on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has grown by an extraordinary 329 per cent since May, reaching 9,266 digital stores.

Significantly, 2,067 dedicated Mission YUVA youth stores have now been fully onboarded on ONDC, providing young entrepreneurs, including those from rural and semi-urban areas, direct access to the national digital marketplace.

It is needless to say that the Mission YUVA, through its integrated approach to mobilisation, finance, skills, mentorship and market connectivity, is emerging as a comprehensive platform for enabling young people of J&K to move from aspiration to enterprise and from enterprise to sustainable livelihood.

J&K Cabinet To

be extended from one year to five years.

On the development front, the agenda includes a proposal for administrative approval of a 1.955-km flyover from Muthi Flyover to Shakuntla Theatre in Jammu to ease traffic congestion, they added.

They said that the Cabinet may also take up a proposal for an Industrial Park at Padri in Vijaypur under the BHAVYA scheme and land transfer to BSNL for extending 4G services to uncovered villages in Jammu and Kashmir.

Other items include land for a vegetable market at Sopore, promotions of J&K Accounts Service officers, flood relief compensation and post-monsoon macadamisation works.

Four Bills drafted by different departments are also expected to be placed before the Cabinet for approval and subsequent introduction in the legislature. (KNS)

Kashmir Has Completely

“crown of the country”.

The filmmakers said Kashmir has immense talent and called for greater opportunities for local artists and professionals in the film industry.

“Kashmir is full of talent. We want Kashmir to be on another level, which they haven’t achieved yet,” they said.

They also praised the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government for the changes they have witnessed in the Valley. They specifically acknowledged the role of former chief minister Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The Bollywood representatives said the improving environment could help attract more film productions to Kashmir and provide local talent with greater opportunities—(KNO)

Tanvir Sadiq’s Remarks

and by whom we are here. There should be no ego. If such things happen which are hurtful, we should apologise, and we are sorry,” the MLA said.

The controversy followed remarks by Tanvir Sadiq on Tuesday, in which he referred to the severe poverty in Kashmir during Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah’s time and said that an entire village would sometimes share a single pair of trousers—(KNO)

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Want to revive Kashmir’s Bollywood connection: JD Information

Floating cinema on Dal Lake instant hit; 360-plus delegates attend IFFJK



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Joint Director Information Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari on Wednesday said the administration wants to revive old association and connection of Jammu and Kashmir with Bollywood and attract more filmmakers to the region.

Talking to the reporters on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), here, Bukhari, said, “We want to revive that old tradition and give confidence to people from Bollywood that they can come to Kashmir and shoot their films here.”

He said J&K has immense potential for filmmaking and remained a natural choice for film shoots. “We want to attract filmmakers from across the globe to the region,” he said.

Bukhari said the three-day IFFJK received an overwhelming response, with more than 360 del-

egates from outside J&K attending screenings, expert sessions and other programmes.

The floating cinema on Dal Lake emerged as one of the festival’s major attractions, drawing large crowds. “You have seen the response yourself. All the surrounding areas are packed with people. They come and enjoy. It’s an instant hit,” Bukhari said.

He said efforts would be made to further develop the concept and hoped the Tourism Department would take the floating cinema initiative forward for tourists.

Bukhari also said the administration intended to organise the film festival annually, besides exploring a winter edition in Gulmarg. “We are also exploring the possibility of planning a film festival during winter. Perhaps we could organise it in Gulmarg during the winter season,” he said.

He said the participation of prominent filmmakers and industry personalities, including veteran filmmaker C.P. Dixit of Sholay fame, would provide local youth an opportunity to interact with experienced professionals and help strengthen the region’s filmmaking ecosystem—(KNO)

CS charts roadmap for rolling out RuTAGE Smart Village Centres across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday held detailed deliberations with the stakeholders of the Manthan platform of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India to deliberate upon the roadmap and institutional framework for implementing RuTAGE Smart Village Centres (RSVCs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by ACS, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Education; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Director General, Rural Sanitation, besides other senior officers and concerned stakeholders.

The deliberations focused on translating the RSVC concept into a practical, outcome-oriented model suited to the diverse socio-economic and geographical requirements of J&K. The initiative envisages bringing appropriate science, technology and innovation closer to rural communities while creating avenues for entrepreneurship, skill development, live-



lihood enhancement, local value addition and improved delivery of services.

While speaking the Chief Secretary underscored the need for a day-long workshop to deliberate comprehensively on the possibilities, institutional arrangements and implementation strategy for the programme in the UT. He observed that such a workshop should bring together all relevant departments, universities, technology institutions, grassroots organisations and other stakeholders so that a clear and actionable roadmap is evolved.

He emphasised that developing local capacity would be crucial for ensuring that the initiative is sustained beyond its initial implementation phase and that the technologies introduced through RSVCs are adapted to local

needs and translated into tangible benefits for communities.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Science & Technology Department to function as the nodal department for the initiative in J&K and maintain close coordination with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India, as well as other stakeholders associated with Manthan, for technology identification, institutional partnerships, capacity building and implementation support.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary highlighted several sectors having significant potential for technology-led transformation through the RSVC framework. These included hydro-power, agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, hospitality, education, geriatric care and

drug-abuse rehabilitation, among other areas.

The Chief Secretary further stressed the importance of convergence with existing flagship initiatives of J&K, particularly Mission YUVA and the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), so that the RSVC network can leverage established grassroots institutions, entrepreneurial ecosystems, training mechanisms and community outreach platforms.

He observed that integration with Mission YUVA could provide a strong avenue for linking technology adoption with youth entrepreneurship, innovation and employment, while convergence with JKRLM could help extend the benefits of suitable technologies to rural self-help groups, producers and livelihood-based enterprises.

J&K Drafts New Policy for RReT, Grade-II-III Teachers

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has proposed a new transfer framework for regularised Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers, Grade-II and Grade-III teachers, under which an employee would ordinarily have to complete three years at a place of posting before becoming eligible for transfer consideration, while no teacher would ordinarily remain at one station beyond five years.

The draft Jammu and Kashmir Regularised Rehbar-e-Taleem (RReTs) Teacher Transfer Policy 2026, issued on September 3, proposes an annual transfer drive along with provisions for administrative, rationalisation, mutual, compassionate and security-related transfers.

A key provision of the proposed framework is that transfers would remain within the respective cadres—RReT to RReT, Grade-II to Grade-II and Grade-III to Grade-III. The draft also restricts transfers between these categories and General Line Teachers, except in specified cases involving employees transitioned and adjusted against regular or substantive posts.

Under the proposed system, transfers within the same zone would be ordered by the concerned Zonal Education Officer after approval from the Chief Education Officer. Transfers between zones within a district would require approval from the Joint Director, while inter-district transfers and deployments would be handled by the Administrative Department on the recommendations of the concerned Director.

The draft provides for an annual transfer exercise and ordinarily seeks to avoid mid-session transfers except in exceptional circumstances. It also contains provisions concerning mutual transfers, inter-district mutual transfers, compassionate grounds, security grounds and grievance redressal.

The proposed three-year minimum tenure changes the existing transfer consideration for teachers covered by the policy by making a minimum period at the place of posting a basic eligibility condition. At the other end, the five-year provision creates an upper limit on an ordinary stay at one station, after which a teacher may become liable for transfer in the interest of administration.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Bhat, resident of Tarzoo, Sopore, hereby inform the general public that the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0213020004677 is currently registered in the name of Late Ghulam Mohammad Bhat. Now, I intend to transfer the said electricity connection into my own name, i.e., Abdul Rashid Bhat, resident of Tarzoo, Sopore. Upon transfer, all future rights, responsibilities, and liabilities related to the above-mentioned electricity connection shall rest solely with me. If any person has any objection to the proposed transfer/change of name, they may contact the concerned department (PDD, 2nd Subdivision) within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No claims or objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Abdul Rashid Bhat
Resident of Tarzoo, Sopore

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER KULGAM.

Tel/Fax No. 01931260163 Email ID: sheephusbandrykulgam@gmail.com.

Subject: Invitation of short-term quotations for supply of Normal saline infusion for the year 2026-27

NOTICE

On behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir short term quotations are invited from interested/registered Companies/dealers for supply of following items during the current financial year. The interested companies/dealers shall submit the quotations mentioning the rates/cost to this office by or before 12-09-2026 4pm. The quotations will be opened on the next working day (14/09/2026) by the constituted committee.

1. Normal saline (500 ml)

Terms and Conditions:

1. The quotation must be submitted in properly sealed envelope.

2. The rates should be written legible without any cutting, overwriting

The department reserves the right to reject the quotation of any company without assigning any reason thereof.

No. DSHOK/Stores/2026-27/ 1292-98

Dated: 08 09 /2026.

DIPK-5505-26

DT: 09-09-2026

District

Sheep Husbandry Officer

Kulgam

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SRINAGAR

(AMAR NIWAS COMPLEX TANKIPORA SRINAGAR)

Email: dcsgr-jk@nic.in Ph./Fax:0194-2472580/2452182

Subject: Final Seniority list of Drivers of District Cadre Srinagar of Revenue Services.

ORDER NO. 82 DCS OF 2026

DATED: 31.08.2026

Whereas, a tentative Seniority list of Drivers of District Cadre Srinagar as it stood on 30.06.2026 was notified vide order No. 74 DCS of 2026 dated: 29.07.2026 issued under endorsement No. DCS/Estt/26/1807-1827 dated: 29.07.2026 for inviting objection from all interested persons in respect to correctness of their position vis-a-vis particulars recorded therein etc; and

Whereas, no objection has been received within stipulated time period.

Now, therefore the final seniority list of Drivers of District Cadre Srinagar, Revenue Service as it stood on 30.06.2026 is hereby notified, as Annexure-A for information of all concerned.

The seniority shall be subject to outcome of any application/petition(s) pending in any Hon'ble court of law.

It is further ordered that the date of birth and the category status mentioned against the official(s) in the seniority list shall be subject to authentication from the concerned issuing authorities and shall further tie subject to the entries recorded in the service book/ Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate.

No. DCS/Estt/26/2013-24

Dated: 31-08-2026

DIPK-5462-26

DT: 09/09/2026

Addl. Deputy Commissioner,

Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,

MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR,

NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e-mail Id: to-exenmidrsrinagar@ik.gov.in

Sub: Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 27 of 2026-27, dated: 29.08.2026 for below mentioned work:

Pruning of tree branches and clearing of rank vegetation at Sub-Store premises, Gogjibagh.

Ref: JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: 2026_IFC_322684_1

EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to Poor Response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under:

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	14.09.2026 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	15.09.2026 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No.: MIDS/Ts/2952-56

Date: 09.09.2026

DIPK-5459-26

DT: 09-09-2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

Mechanical Irrigation Division

Srinagar

DISTRICT POLICE QUARTERS DODA

Email: dpododa@jkpolice.gov.in

FAX No. 01996233501 | Phone No.01996233396

No. CRB/L.O.N/2026/

Dated:

As intimated by In-charge Police Post Kahara vide letter No. 266/PPK dated 07.09.2026 that one Daish Hussain S/O Din Mohd R/O Chapwar Tehsil Kahara lodged a written report at PP Kahara to the effect that on 04.09.2026 his wife namely, Shaista Bagum age 28 years went to Bani Trehnlal and did not returned back till date and despite strenuous efforts whereabouts of the said missing lady are not known so far. Accordingly, missing report vide DDR No. 17 dated 07.09.2026 was entered in he daily dairy of PP Kahara and search started.

Name	Shaista Bagum
W/O	Daish Hussain
Residential address	Chapwar Tehsil Kahara.
Age	28 years.
Color	Whitish
Height	5 feet.
Wearing dress	Blue Color shalwar kameez.

It is therefore requested that, sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of the said missing lady is received, please inform on the below mentioned telephone numbers:

1. PCR Doda 01996-233530

2. IC PP Kahara 8492092386

No. CRB/L.O.N/2026/46459-85

Dated: 08-09.2026.

DIPK-5487-26

DT: 09/09/2026

Sr. Superintendent of Police,

Doda

HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF J&K

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

COLLEGE CAMPUS, DIALGAM ANANTNAG J&K-192210

Email ID: principal-gmca@jk.gov.in

Subject: Selection list for the posts of Junior Resident in Govt. Medical College Anantnag.

Ref.:

1. Advertisement Notice No. 08 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 24.04.2026.

2. Notification No. 11 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 03.07.2026.

3. Notification No. 14 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 30.07.2026

NOTIFICATION NO.: 17- -GMCA OF 2026

DATED: 09-09-2026

Whereas, this office vide Advertisement Notice No. 08 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 24.04.2026 invited applications from the eligible candidates possessing requisite qualifications for filling up tenure posts of Junior Residents in the Government Medical College, Anantnag; and

Whereas, the written test for the said posts was conducted on 1st of June, 2026 at Main Campus Dialgam, GMC Anantnag; and

Whereas, the merit list of candidates who appeared in the said written test was published vide this office notification dated 16.06.2026; and

Whereas, this office already issued selection lists for filling up vacant posts of Junior Residents in GMC Anantnag vide Notification No. 11 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 03.07.2026 and Notification No. 14 GMCA of 2026, Dated: 30.07.2026.

Whereas, pursuant to the aforesaid selection notifications, only a limited number of selected candidates have joined and reported for their respective assignments, resulting in certain posts remaining unfilled; and

Whereas, additional vacancies have also arisen subsequently due to resignation/non-joining of some Junior Residents, thereby necessitating further selection against the available vacancies;

Now, therefore, on the basis of merit, availability of vacancies and the position arising out of non-joining/resignation of Junior Residents, the candidates as annexed in Annexure "A" to this notification are provisionally selected as Junior Residents initially for a period of six (06) months extendable upto one (01) year subject to the satisfactory performance to be certified by the concerned Head of the Department.

The selected candidates are directed to report the Establishment Section (Main Campus) of Govt. Medical College Anantnag within 14 days from the date of publication of this notification along with following documents (original as well as photocopies) for verification:

1) MBBS Degree Certificate issued by the concerned University/Institution.

2) Internship completion certificate.

3) J&K Medical Council Registration Certificate of MBBS.

4) Attempt Certificate, if applicable.

5) Examination marks sheets (All Phases) issued by the concerned University.

6) Date of Birth Certificate.

7) Domicile Certificate.

8) 02 Passport size photographs.

9) Screening Certificate (FMGE Pass Certificate), if applicable.

ANNEXURE A' TO NOTIFICATION NO. 17 GMCA OF 2026, DATED: 09-09-2026

S. NO	ROLL NO.	NAME OF CANDIDATE	FATHER'S NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	PRESENT ADDRESS
1	2450	MOHAMMAD HUZAF HAFIZ	MR. IMTIYAZ AHMAD HAFIZ	02-07-1999	IQBAL ABAD, ANANTNAG
2	12210	MOHEENA MUBARIK	MR. MUBARIK AHMAD MIR	04-09-1999	AWGAM, KULGAM
3	2431	SHAKIR NASEER	MR. NASEER AHMAD BHAT	18-03-2000	DUROO, DANGERPORA, BARAMULLA
4	2243	SYED MANTASHA SHAFI	MR. SYED MOHAMMAD SHAFI	08-07-2000	PEHROO,ANANTNAG
5	2459	SYED GAZANFER ALI	MR. SYED BAQIR	04-09-2000	CHITTERGUL, SHAGUS, ANANTNAG
6	2310	MAHAK MOHSINA	MR. ABDUL MAJID WANI	22-12-2000	BUBEHARA, ANANTNAG
7	2293	UMMER AZAD	MR. AZAD HUSSAIN LONE	31-03-1994	<APRIN, SHOPIAN

No. GMCA/Estt/2026/7906 -12

Dated: 09-09-2026

DIPK-5519-26

DT: 09/09/2026

Prof. Dr Junaid S Wani,

Principal,

Govt. Medical College,

Anantnag.

CMYK

Athar Amir inaugurates Inter-District Provincial-Level Sports Competition

Urges young sportspersons to excel at national level, adopt drug-free lifestyle



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday inaugurated the Inter-District Provincial-Level Sports Competition at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Budgam.

The competition, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Budgam, is being conducted in Wushu under Under-17 and Under-19 categories, besides Taekwondo and Karate for boys and girls across different age groups.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the

enthusiasm and dedication of the participating sportspersons and urged them to give their best and strive for selection at the national level.

Emphasising the importance of sports in the overall development of youth, he advised the players to remain focused, disciplined and committed to their goals. He also encouraged them to adopt and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, along with sportspersons and officials, administered a pledge to stay away from drugs and contribute

towards building a drug-free society.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of young sportspersons who displayed talent, sporting spirit and determination.

The competition aims to provide budding athletes an opportunity to showcase their talent, gain competitive exposure and further hone their skills for higher-level competitions.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Zonal Sports Officer Budgam, Physical Education Teachers and other officials were present on the occasion.

Messi reaches preliminary agreement to become majority owner of Spanish club Eldense

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Lionel Messi is set to expand his involvement in football ownership after Spanish second-division club Eldense announced that the great of Argentina has reached a preliminary agreement to become its majority shareholder.

Eldense said Messi has agreed to acquire the shares currently held by Grupo TH Soluciones. The deal, however, is not complete yet and still needs to go through several legal and contractual steps. The club said the agreement is subject to due diligence and the required approval from Spain's National Sports Council (CSD).

"A preliminary agreement has been reached with Lionel Messi for the acquisition of the shares currently owned by Grupo TH Soluciones, which would make him the club's majority shareholder," Eldense said in a statement on Wednesday as quoted by The BBC.

The proposed investment would make Eldense the second Spanish club to come under Messi's ownership or control.



The 39-year-old had earlier invested in Catalan club Cornella, which currently plays in the fifth tier of Spanish football. That move underlined Messi's growing interest in the development of football clubs away from the pitch.

Eldense, based in Alicante, are currently struggling in La Liga 2. They have collected just two points from their opening four matches and sit 20th in the standings. The club also parted ways with head coach Claudio Barragan earlier this week.

Messi, meanwhile, continues to play club football for Inter Miami. The former Barcelona forward has built one of the most successful careers in football history, winning the FIFA World Cup

with Argentina in 2022 and claiming two Copa America titles.

He recently announced his retirement from international football following Argentina's 1-0 defeat to Spain in the 2026 World Cup final.

Messi ended his Argentina career with a record 207 appearances for the national team. His international journey began in 2005 and included some difficult years before he finally lifted the World Cup trophy in Qatar in 2022.

His decision to step away from international football came after a career filled with major achievements, including the 2022 World Cup and Copa America triumphs.

Women's Asia Cup: With final berth on the line, India seek batting stability against Bangladesh

IAN S

DUBAI: Seven-time champions India will aim for having batting stability, especially in the middle-order, when they face a spirited Bangladesh in the Women's Asia Cup semi-final, to be played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

The winner of the clash will book their place in the title clash, to be played on Sunday. India have dominated Bangladesh in recent years by winning their last eight T20I meetings against them. But memories of the 2018 Asia Cup, where Bangladesh stunned India twice en route to a historic maiden title, including defeating them in the final, remain a clear reminder of their ability to

disrupt the heavyweights.

While India, the Group A toppers, enter the clash as firm favourites, their batting line-up has shown occasional vulnerability, something which Bangladesh, who finished second in Group B, will look to fully exploit.

A collapse of eight wickets for 46 runs against Thailand earlier in the tournament showed that middle-order issues are yet to be resolved. It is a concern that previously proved costly for India during their recent T20 World Cup campaign, where they failed to enter the semi-finals.

While Bangladesh have their own batting concerns to take care of, in-form pacer Marufa Akter has struck in her opening spell in every game of this tournament, and has an impressive econ-

omy rate of 3.27. Her ability to move the new ball will pose a direct threat to India's top order of in-form Smriti Mandhana, the explosive Shafali Verma, and Pratika Rawal.

Pratika, filling in at number three for the injured Jemimah Rodrigues, has managed 36 runs across three innings at a strike rate of 109.09. The high-stakes semi-final presents her with a timely opportunity to make a defining contribution against Bangladesh.

Smriti also needs 69 more runs to become the all-time leading run-scorer in women's T20Is, after having already become the top run-getter across in women's international cricket and centuries list via hitting a memorable 124 against Hong Kong.

Manipur beat West Bengal 3-1 to retain Junior Boys' NFC title for BC Roy Trophy

IAN S

BENGALURU: Holders Manipur successfully defended their Junior Boys' National Football Championship for Dr BC Roy Trophy title with a convincing 3-1 victory over West Bengal in the Tier 1 final at the Bengaluru Football Stadium on Wednesday.

Jogesh Singh Heikrujam and Jenson Meitei Thiyam scored in the first half to put Manipur in command before Muskan added a late third to seal the victory. West Bengal skipper Debraj Das converted a penalty early in the second half to give his side a brief chance of a comeback.

The final was a repeat of last year's title clash in Amritsar, where Manipur defeated West Bengal 3-0. The two sides had also met in the 1999-2000 edition in Bengaluru,



with Manipur emerging victorious after a sudden-death goal in extra time.

The triumph marked Manipur's third title in the competition and made them the first team since Mizoram in 2019-20 to successfully defend the Junior Boys' NFC crown.

Manipur dominated proceedings in the opening half, moving the ball effectively and constantly put-

ting pressure on the West Bengal defence. The combination of Siroi Khwairakpam and Pravin Warepam on the right flank created repeated problems for the opposition.

Manipur skipper Jogesh broke the deadlock in the 26th minute with a superbly struck free-kick from just outside the West Bengal penalty area. His effort beat goalkeeper

Arpan Mitra and found the back of the net.

Jenson doubled the advantage in the 39th minute after making a strong run down the left before cutting inside and unleashing a powerful right-footed shot from the edge of the box that flew past Arpan.

West Bengal pulled one back five minutes after the restart when

Manipur wing-back Lanchenba Khwairakpam brought down Ayush Rajak inside the area. Debraj stepped up to convert the resulting penalty, sending his effort into the right corner.

West Bengal showed greater attacking intent after the break, but Manipur's defence remained composed and denied them a way back into the contest.

Manipur eventually restored their two-goal cushion in the 88th minute when substitute Muskan latched onto a loose clearance, advanced into the box and fired a firm left-footed shot past Arpan to complete a memorable victory.

With the final whistle, Manipur celebrated another Junior Boys' NFC title and extended their dominance in the tournament.

'He puts a lot of pressure on you': Alcaraz hails Shelton's serve after US Open loss

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Tennis World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz acknowledged Ben Shelton's serve as a key factor in the decisive moments after the defending champion was knocked out of the US Open in a dramatic quarter-final at Arthur Ashe Stadium.



Alcaraz was beaten 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, and 7-6(10/7) by the American in a four-hour and 28-minute contest that ended at 3:33 a.m. local time, the latest finish in US Open history.

The Spaniard, who was playing his first tournament after a four-month injury layoff, fought back after losing the third set to force a decider. However, Shelton held his nerve in the final-set tiebreak to complete the biggest win of his career.

Reflecting on the deciding moments, Alcaraz admitted that Shelton's serve created significant pressure, particularly when both players were physically exhausted.

"The serve is a really good weapon in these kinds of situations. But sometimes you win, sometimes you lose," Alcaraz said after the match.

The four-time Grand Slam champion recalled his previous experience in a deciding tiebreak and explained how difficult it was to deal with Shelton's delivery while trying to stay competitive late in the match.

"I remember the last tie-break that I played was in Paris. It was an unbelievable game that I played in that moment," he said.

"This time, when you're trying to fight and trying to overcome all the problems you might have, physically tired a lot, and obviously when he's serving, he puts a lot of pressure on you," he added.

Alcaraz said Shelton's ability to produce free

points from his serve made every return an added challenge in the tense closing stages.

"You're thinking about trying to put the return in, and it's unknown if you're going to play the point or he's going to get a free point with the serve. So I think in these moments he takes a lot of advantage with the serve," he said.

The Spaniard was quick to dismiss his physical condition as an excuse for the defeat while still recognising the importance of Shelton's biggest weapon.

"Not any excuse, but I would say it's an important weapon in those moments," Alcaraz said.

Cricket West Indies appoints Bob Carter as batting consultant on one-year contract

IAN S

ST JOHN'S (ANTIGUA): Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Wednesday appointed veteran New Zealand coach Bob Carter as its batting consultant on an initial one-year contract. The appointment is aimed at elevating technical standards across the region ahead of crucial global tournaments.

Carter, who officially assumed his duties on September 1, will oversee CWI's men's, women's, and age-group development programmes. His immediate assignment includes a high-priority regional tour later this month across all six first-class territories - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Leeward Islands, and the Windward Islands - where he will engage directly with players and local coaches.

The appointment comes at a critical juncture as West Indies prepare for a congested international calendar, including the Men's ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier scheduled to be played in February and March 2027.

"West Indies cricket has a proud tradition of producing outstanding batsmen, and my job is to help build the base to produce



future generations of world-class players. My focus has always been on supporting players and coaches to reach their full potential, and I am looking forward to working alongside the regional and high-performance coaches to help achieve that," said Carter in a statement, after taking up the role.

Carter, who played 60 first-class games and 50 List A appearances, brings three decades of elite coaching expertise to the Caribbean - having served as High-Performance Coach with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) from 2012 to 2025.

His extensive resume also includes leading the New Zealand women's team as head coach from 2019 to 2022, two stints as Blackcaps assistant coach, and senior administrative roles in county cricket with Northamptonshire in England.

CINEMA
CULTURE
PEOPLE
CONVERSATIONS
KASHMIR

KASHMIR'S STORIES ON A GLOBAL SCREEN

IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT

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

7th
September

8th
September

9th
September

NO REGULAR MOVIE SCREENINGS

Bookings are open for
10th September
SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES SOON!

FILMS
PEOPLE
PLACES
IDEAS
KASHMIR

Same
Stories
A Brighter
Tomorrow

INOX