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1,184

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SUBMITTED

120

FILMS
SCREENED

17

MASTERCLASSES
& DISCUSSIONS

91

COUNTRIES'
FILM SUBMISSIONS

6,600+

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Nita Gupta reviews implementation of Agri Deptt, allied institutions



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary in Agriculture Production Department (APD).. Nita Gupta, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of various programmes being executed under UT Capex Budget 2026-27, NABARD, HADP, JKICIP,CSS and SASCI In Kashmir division at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Director Command area Development Kashmir, Director Planning Agriculture production department, Director Finance SKUAST-K, Chief Agriculture Officers and other senior officers of the department.

The meeting focused on the progress and performance of the Department under CAPEX, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and NABARD. Detailed discussions were

held on physical and financial achievements, expenditure, targets and implementation status of various ongoing interventions.

The Secretary reviewed the progress of key projects and schemes and emphasized the need for timely execution, effective monitoring and optimum utilization of funds to ensure that the intended benefits of these interventions reach the farming community. She stressed upon the officers to adopt a result-oriented and farmer-centric approach, strengthen field-level monitoring and ensure close coordination among all concerned stakeholders for expeditious implementation of developmental programmes.

Earlier, the Secretary had also reviewed the functioning and performance of SKUAST-Kashmir, Command Area Development Department and Sericulture Department, taking stock of their respective programmes, achievements and implementation challenges.

During these reviews, emphasis was laid on strengthening coordination between the Agriculture Production Department and allied institutions, promoting technology-driven interventions, improving service delivery and ensuring effective implementation of farmer-oriented programmes.

Director Agriculture Kashmir apprised the Secretary of the overall performance of the department. He briefed her about the progress achieved under various schemes and initiatives besides highlighting the steps being taken to further accelerate implementation at the field level.

The Secretary directed the concerned officers to maintain regular monitoring, ensure timely completion of targets and strengthen inter-departmental convergence, with a clear focus on improving agricultural productivity, supporting farmers and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities across the region.

DC Anantnag reviews implementation of NAPS-PRAGATI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Thursday chaired a review meeting at the DC office to assess the implementation and progress of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)-PRAGATI in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Vikas Ahlawat, General Manager DIC, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Chief Education Officer, District Mineral Officer, District Employment Officer, Principals of ITI Anantnag and Seer Hamdan, Lead District Manager, District Officer JKEDI, and officials from the Health, Agriculture, J&K Skill Development Mission, SC/ST Corporation, and Tourism Departments, besides representatives from various other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the progress achieved under the scheme, the registration of establishments and apprentices, and measures to further strengthen apprenticeship opportunities for local youth. Modalities and possibilities for



better implementing the scheme in adherence to its guidelines were also deliberated on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for effective implementation of NAPS-PRAGATI and better coordination among all stakeholders. He called for wider participation from establishments and eligible youth to ensure

that maximum beneficiaries avail the benefits of the apprenticeship program and gain practical skills and work experience. With improved skill set across sectors, the employability and market demand of the eligible youth can be greatly enhanced, he observed.

Dr. Bilal directed the

concerned departments to closely monitor the progress and take the necessary measures to achieve the targets under the scheme within the stipulated timelines. He stated that the scheme is highly beneficial and that, with coordinated and systematic efforts by all institutions and agencies, the youth can fully avail its benefits.

Earlier, the Principal of ITI Anantnag briefed the meeting on the guidelines, aims, objectives, and other key aspects of the scheme through an elaborate Power Point Presentation. He also informed about the eligibility criteria and the process involved in registering the youth under the national level initiative.

JSD submits Comprehensive Implementation, Reform Plan under JJM 2.0

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jal Shakti Department, Jammu and Kashmir, has finalized its Comprehensive Implementation and Reform Plan (CIRP) under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0. This marks a significant step towards strengthening the water supply infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The plan reaffirms the department's commitment to timely completion of all ongoing Water Supply Schemes. Its main focus is to ensure sustainable and reliable drinking water services for the rural population of Jammu and Kashmir.

The CIRP constitutes a strategic, time bound operational framework by



the UT, outlining scheme wise completion timelines, financial allocations, reform commitments and governance milestones for JJM 2.0. It provides a comprehensive roadmap for implementation of JJM 2.0 in Jammu and Kashmir, with emphasis on timely

completion of schemes, improved service delivery, operation and maintenance, source sustainability, water quality and institutional reforms.

As part of the CIRP, J&K has committed that all new schemes shall be completed within the timelines pre-

scribed by the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM). Retrofitting schemes shall be completed from the resources of the Union Territory, thereby ensuring optimal utilisation of the existing infrastructure and strengthening the functionality and service delivery of rural water supply schemes.

In order to facilitate the implementation process, funds to the tune of ₹128 crore comprising ₹116 crore as Central Share and ₹12 crore as UT share have been released to the PHE Divisions across J&K. The process for release of payments against eligible works has also been initiated by the concerned divisions.

The finalisation of the CIRP marks an important step towards the effective implementation of JJM 2.0

in Jammu and Kashmir. The plan places renewed emphasis on moving beyond mere creation of infrastructure towards assured, sustainable, reliable and quality drinking water services while ensuring accountability, timely execution and efficient utilisation of resources.

The Jal Shakti Department remains committed to work in close coordination with the National Jal Jeevan Mission, field formations, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other stakeholders for achieving the objectives of JJM 2.0 and strengthening the rural drinking water service delivery.

The reform plan is readily available on JJM-2.0 IMIS dashboard for the stakeholders access.

FDA conducts Label, Packaging scrutiny; 455 food samples examined

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K conducted a special enforcement drive across all districts of the Union Territory to examine compliance with the prescribed requirements relating to labelling and display of food products.

During the drive, 455 food samples were scrutinized, 35 samples were found non-compliant with the prescribed labelling requirements. Notices have been issued to the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs), to rectify the deficiencies within the stipulated period. Further action shall be taken in accordance with law in case of non-compliance.

The scrutiny was carried out with reference to the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020

and covered packaged food products including spices, edible oils, dairy products, bakery and confectionery items, honey, rice, beverages, coffee, dry fruits and other food articles. The labels were examined for compliance with mandatory declarations, including name and nature of the food, ingredients, nutritional information, batch/lot number, date of manufacture/packing, Best Before/Expiry Date, MRP, details of the manufacturer/packer, FSSAI License/Registration Number, vegetarian/non-vegetarian logo and other prescribed declarations.

The scrutiny also covered health, nutritional and other claims appearing on food labels with reference to the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018. The concerned FBOs were directed to remove or

rectify claims found to be misleading or not in conformity with the applicable regulatory requirements.

Where violations are established, penal action shall be taken under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Section 52 provides for a penalty which may extend to ₹3 lakh for misbranded food, while Section 53 provides for a penalty which may extend to ₹10 lakh for misleading advertisements. Section 61 for furnishing false information provides for a penalty which may extend to ₹10 lakh.

The Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers concerned have been directed to ensure compliance by the FBOs and initiate further proceedings, including adjudication or prosecution, wherever warranted under the provisions of the Act.

DC B'pora reviews implementation of NAPS - PRAGATI

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting Thursday at the Mini Secretariat to review the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) PRAGATI across the district.

The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting skill development through practical, on-the-job training. Operating under the "Earn While You Learn" framework, the scheme connects educated youth directly with industrial and commercial establishments, offering trainees hands-on work experience, industry-recognized certification, and monthly stipends partly supported by government co-funding.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to achieve 100% onboarding



of eligible commercial, private, and government establishments on the official apprenticeship portal. She pointed out that under the Apprentices Act, it is mandatory for establishments employing 30 or more workers to engage apprentices within the range of 2.5% to 15% of their total workforce. Units with 4 to 29 employees were also encouraged to join the scheme voluntarily to build a skilled local talent pool.

On the occasion, the DC set clear goals for departments to meet the district target of registering over 3,000 candidates and mobilizing local micro, small, and medium enterprises

(MSMEs), business houses, and health and tourism institutions. Key executing bodies and public enterprises operating in the district, including NHPC, NHA, and commercial banks, were directed to identify apprentice vacancies and engage local youth without delay.

Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and the District Industries Centre were further directed to regularly organize awareness camps and monthly Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas (PMNAM) across the district so that candidates can register and connect directly with prospective employers.

DC Kulgam inspects ongoing construction works at JNV Mirhama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Thursday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing construction works at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Mirhama, to assess the physical progress of the prestigious educational infrastructure project and review the status of various components being executed at the site.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the progress of the project and reviewed the status of the ongoing civil, allied and developmental works. He interacted with the officers, engineers and representatives of the executing agency TCIL and sought a component-wise update regarding the execution of the works.

It was informed that the project, titled "Construction of Phase-A and Phase-B Works at JNV Kulgam," is being executed at an estimated cost of 40.47 crore. The JNV is being established over 143 kanals of land allotted at Mirhama for the purpose.

Apprenticeship awareness meeting organized at Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: An awareness meeting regarding the Apprenticeship Training Scheme was organized Thursday by ITI Kulgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

The aim of the session was creating awareness about apprenticeship opportunities among the youth and various educational and training institutions of the district.

During the meeting, Superintendent ITI Kulgam, Saahil Rashid, briefed the participants about the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, highlighting its objectives, eligibility, registration process and the benefits available to candidates and establishments.

A detailed presentation on the Apprenticeship Scheme was also presented, covering important aspects such as candidate registration, establishment registration, on-the-job training, stipend, skill development and employment opportunities.

It was highlighted that apprenticeship provides youth with valuable practical, industry-oriented skills and workplace experience, helping bridge the gap between education and employment and enhancing their employability.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Kulgam stressed upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards promoting apprenticeship and ensuring that maximum eligible youth benefit from the scheme.

SWD organises awareness-cum-distribution programme under BBBP



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Social Welfare Department, SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Budgam, organised an Awareness-cum-Distribution Programme at Government Middle School, Beerwah.

The programme was organised under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative with the objective of promoting education, health, dignity, safety and empowerment of the girl child.

During the programme, school bags along with stationery items and sanitary kits were distributed among deserving girl students. The initiative was aimed at supporting the educational needs of girl students while promoting awareness regarding menstrual hygiene, personal health and well-being.

As part of the awareness session, the students were sensitised about the importance of education, gender equality, personal hygiene, menstrual health and safety, besides being informed about various women- and girl-centric welfare schemes and initiatives being implemented by the Government.

The SANKALP Hub team encouraged the students to pursue their education with confidence, understand their rights and make use of the opportunities available to them. The programme also emphasised the importance of creating a safe, supportive and enabling environment for the holistic development of girl children.

Sopore Law College Hosts Comprehensive Symposium on Women Empowerment

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: Sopore Law College, in active institutional collaboration with the Indian Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), organized a high-level educational symposium and awareness program dedicated to the theme of Women Empowerment: Leadership, Resilience, and National Integration at the college auditorium.

The collaborative initiative sought to cultivate leadership values among youth, foster gender equity, and dismantle systemic social barriers through informed discourse and real-world mentorship.

The program was executed under the patronship and overall administrative supervision of the leadership of Sopore Law Col-



lege, led by Chairperson Maryam Bacha and Vice Chairperson Tamkeena Bacha. Their collaborative efforts with security forces underline an ongoing institutional commitment to holistic legal education and community development in North Kashmir.

The proceedings opened with an inaugural address delivered by the Principal of Sopore Law

College, Sheikh Ishaq. Welcoming the high-ranking delegation from the 52 Rashtriya Rifles, led by the battalion's Second-in-Command (2IC) alongside Special Guest Speaker Captain Dr. Ankita, Principal Sheikh Ishaq extended gratitude to the armed forces for their civic engagements and steadfast dedication under the operational command of the

Indian Army's Northern Command.

In his keynote remarks, Principal Sheikh Ishaq contextualized the structural imperatives of nation-building. "The bedrock of a self-reliant and sovereign nation rests squarely upon three foundational pillars: the vitality of our youth, the vigilance of our defence forces, and the tireless sustenance provided by our agrarian community," he noted. He further urged the student community, particularly law scholars, to recognize the constitutionally guaranteed mandates of gender parity and to utilize the rule of law as an engine for social transformation.

The technical and motivational session was led by Captain Dr. Ankita from the 52 RR medical wing, who offered a deeply

moving, pragmatic discourse on perseverance, psychological endurance, and navigating competitive avenues. Sharing her personal trajectory into the military medical establishment, Captain Dr. Ankita candidly recounted her initial setbacks, explaining that her first attempt at qualifying for the armed forces medical services was unsuccessful.

"Struggle is not merely an obstacle in the pursuit of success; it is an absolute prerequisite for meaningful accomplishment," she stated during her address. "Setbacks do not define capability; rather, they serve as refining fires that build character, resilience, and tactical focus. For young women striving to break ceilings across civil services, armed forces, or the judiciary, consistency of purpose is non-negotiable."

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

J&K Police

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'No Need To Apologise'

CM Omar Defends Tanvir Sadiq's 'Pyajama' Remark



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday defended National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq over his recent remarks, saying what he said was historically accurate and that neither he nor the party needed to apologise or issue any clarification.

Speaking to reporters here, the Chief Minister, said the poverty and hardships faced by Kashmiris in the past were well documented by historians and were not Tanvir's personal thinking.

"What Tanvir said is historically accurate. He does not need to apologise or clarify what he said," Omar said.

He said Walter Lawrence and several other historians had written about Jammu and Kashmir, particularly

about the poverty of Kashmiris and the hardships people faced under the system of Zaildars, Chakdars and landlords.

"People did not have money. Tanvir did not talk about this first. Maybe there is a senior National Conference leader, from our President to General Secretary and others, who did not talk about this," he said.

He said there was a time when Kashmiris were extremely poor and had to face severe hardships even for basic necessities. "There was a time when Kashmiris were so poor that they had to come to the city with their pyjamas from the mosque. This is not Tanvir's own thinking. This is a historical fact," he said.

Abdullah said Sadiq's remarks should **•P-06**

Curtains Fall

J&K's Maiden International Film Festival Ends In Srinagar

Union Minister Congratulates Administration For Organizing Mega Event

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) concluded in Srinagar on Thursday with a vibrant closing ceremony, bringing the curtain down on four days of films, discussions, masterclasses, cultural performances and industry engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The maiden festival, was organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K. It was held from September 7 to 10 across Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg, bringing together filmmakers, actors, technicians, artists, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from India and abroad.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Dr L. Murugan said Jammu and Kashmir was emerging as a global destination for cinema



and the wider creative industries.

Congratulating the J&K Government for organising the festival, Murugan highlighted the international response to

its inaugural edition, saying around 1,100 films had been submitted from more than 80 countries.

He said the region's landscapes, heritage, **•P-06**

ceremony of the four-day International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) at the SKICC back lawns along the shores of Dal Lake.

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Dr L. Murugan, former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, J&K's Council of Ministers, **•P-06**

CM Calls For Making J&K Hub For Film Production



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday called for transforming Jammu and Kashmir from merely a sought-after filming location into a vibrant centre for storytelling, talent development and film-making, as he addressed the concluding

ceremony of the four-day International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) at the SKICC back lawns along the shores of Dal Lake.

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Dr L. Murugan, former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, J&K's Council of Ministers, **•P-06**

DGP Commends Joint Team Of Security Forces For Commitment, Efforts

YOGESH

JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday commended the commitment and efforts of joint team of security forces manning the strategically important Doda-Kathua-Udhampur trijunction area.

According to the details available, DGP Prabhat visited a Joint Temporary Operating Base (TOB) manned by the jawans of Special Operations Group (SOG), Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

DGP Prabhat interacted with personnel deployed at the Joint TOB and commended them for their alertness, dedication and operational commitment. He emphasised the importance of maintaining high levels of vigilance and ensuring close coordination among all security agencies to effectively address emerging security challenges.

The DGP was accompanied by the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone Tejinder Singh, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban (DKR) Range Sargun Shukla, Deputy Inspector General, Udhampur-Ramban Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma and Senior Superintendent **•P-06**



J&K Can Once Again Emerge As Global Filmmaking Destination: MoS I&B

'J&K Has Potential To Become Home For Filmmakers, Writers, Creative Enterprises'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting L. Murugan Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to once again emerge as a preferred destination for filmmakers from India and across the world.

Addressing the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir, Murugan said the festival reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of encouraging filmmakers to shoot and create films in Kashmir. Highlighting the region's distinctive landscapes and cinematic heritage, he expressed confidence in its renewed potential as a filmmaking destination.

The Minister said India is emerging as a major global hub



for media, digital content and virtual reality, and emphasised the Government's initiatives to strengthen the creative economy, including the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) and programmes supporting content creators and film production.

Emphasising the need to equip young people with industry-relevant skills, Murugan said the focus is on nurturing talent, strengthening industry linkages and providing quality infrastructure and opportunities. He noted the growing participation of Jammu and Kashmir's youth in filmmaking, scriptwriting and digital storytelling, and expressed hope that the festival would create new **•P-06**

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PM-SETU To Transform J&K's ITIs Into Industry-Ready Skill Hubs: CS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired the 1st UT Level Steering Committee Meeting to review and steer the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising the need to make skill education more responsive to industry requirements and emerging employment opportunities.

The meeting besides the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Education; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Managing Director, J&K Skill Development Mission; Director, Skill Development Department; Labour Commissioner; representatives of industrial bodies and other



concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary described PM-SETU as a very good model to make skill education better. He unequivocally stressed that the upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) should go beyond physical infrastructure and focus primarily on creating an industry-aligned ecosystem capable of equipping J&K's youth with skills that translate **•P-06**

Kashmiri Sufi Music Brings IFFJK Closing Ceremony Alive

Gulzar Ganie Enthralls Audience With Soulful Rendition Of Wahab Khar's Kalam

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) came alive with the soulful strains of Kashmiri folk and Sufi music as renowned singer Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, popularly known as Gulzar Ganie, captivated the audience with his performance.

Gulzar Ganie presented the popular Kashmiri Sufi kalam 'Yaar Doad Naar Khoth', penned by celebrated Kashmiri Sufi poet Wahab Khar. His soulful rendition filled the venue with the rich sounds of Kashmir's traditional musical heritage and drew warm



applause from the gathering.

The performance, added a distinct Kashmiri cultural flavour to the closing ceremony, creating a deeply evocative

atmosphere and highlighting the enduring appeal of the region's Sufi musical tradition.

Wahab Khar is regarded as one of Kashmir's celebrated

Sufi poets. His poetry, deeply rooted in spirituality, devotion and the cultural ethos of Kashmir, continues to resonate through traditional Sufi and folk music. His kalams remain an integral part of the region's rich oral and musical heritage.

Gulzar Ganie, a renowned exponent of Kashmiri folk music, Sufiyana Kalam and Chakri, has devoted decades to preserving and promoting Kashmir's traditional musical heritage.

The performance added a fitting cultural touch to the IFFJK closing ceremony, celebrating Kashmir's enduring legacy of music, poetry and artistic expression—(KNO)

'Unique Governance Model For Ladakh Under Article-371'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Ladakh administration on Thursday said the proposed governance model in the Union Territory would neither be a state nor a Union Territory with a legislature, but some other body vested with powers.

Speaking to media persons, Chief Secretary Ladakh Ashish Kundra said a sui generis model, which does not exist anywhere else in the country, will be carved out for Ladakh.

"It is not going to be a state, for sure. It is not a UT with legislature, but it is some other body which will have these powers," he said, adding that its nomenclature was yet to be finalised and discussions were underway.

Kundra, who is also part of the sub-committee constituted on Ladakh, said the Sixth Schedule had certain limitations in the context of the region.

"It was **•P-06**

'J&K's Peak Power Demand Likely To Surge By 450 MWs'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: In coming three years, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require nearly additional 450 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours.

According to the official documents available, authorities have projected that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir will have a peak demand of 3813 MWs.

It also said that in the coming fiscal 2027-28, the region is likely to require additional 151 MWs of power during the peak time with a total demand projection of 3964 MWs.

Furthermore, the projections said that in the year 2028-29, Jammu and Kashmir may require additional 300 MWs of power during the

peak hours in comparison to the projected demand of the ongoing fiscal.

The official figures also said that in the year 2029-30, Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a peak demand of 4262 MWs that amounts to 449 MWs of additional energy demand to the projection made for the year 2026-27.

Pertinently, as already reported, in the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 percent.

The Government of India (GoI) had said that from the fiscal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU.

The official figures further reveal that the annual energy demand in J&K rose from 16,214 Million **•P-06**



Good Morning

Kashmir

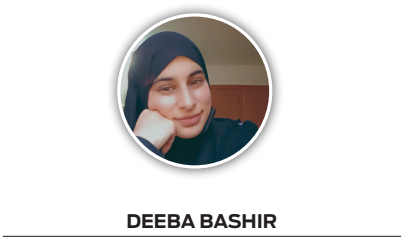
EDITORIAL

Pyjama That Became A Political Issue

Kashmir has seen many political battles, over land, identity, power and history, but the latest controversy has taken politics to a rather unusual wardrobe: one pair of trousers shared by an entire village. National Conference chief spokesperson and Zadibal MLA Tanvir Sadiq’s remarks about poverty in pre-1947 Kashmir have now become a full-fledged political controversy, with the BJP and PDP demanding an apology and protests being staged. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, however, has come to Sadiq’s defence, saying there was no need for either clarification or apology. And why should there be, he seems to ask, when history itself has already done the explaining? Omar invoked Sir Walter Lawrence, whose writings documented the miserable condition of Kashmir’s peasantry. Sadiq too subsequently cited Lawrence while clarifying that his remarks were meant to highlight the “abject poverty and deprivation” suffered by Kashmiris under Dogra rule. But politics, as usual, has little patience for historical footnotes when a controversy offers a ready-made microphone. The curious part is that nobody appears particularly interested in discussing the poverty itself. The argument has instead become about who said what, who should apologise, who should protest and who should defend. The poor Kashmiris of that era, whose poverty has suddenly become the centrepiece of political speeches, remain conveniently absent from the debate. Perhaps the most unfortunate irony is that a discussion about people who allegedly did not have enough clothes to wear has turned into a political competition over who has the better political costume. History should certainly be debated. Historical suffering should be acknowledged. But history should not be selectively opened like an old cupboard whenever contemporary politics needs a prop. If Kashmir’s people were indeed reduced to such deprivation, that deserves serious historical examination—not outrage manufactured for television debates and street protests. And if Sir Walter Lawrence recorded the condition of the peasantry, his account should be read, discussed and contested by historians rather than converted into ammunition by political parties. The real question is not whether a politician should apologise for mentioning a pair of trousers. The real question is: why are we more offended by the description of poverty than by poverty itself? Perhaps tomorrow, someone will demand an apology from history itself. Until then, the trousers remain in circulation, this time not from one villager to another, but from one political party to another.

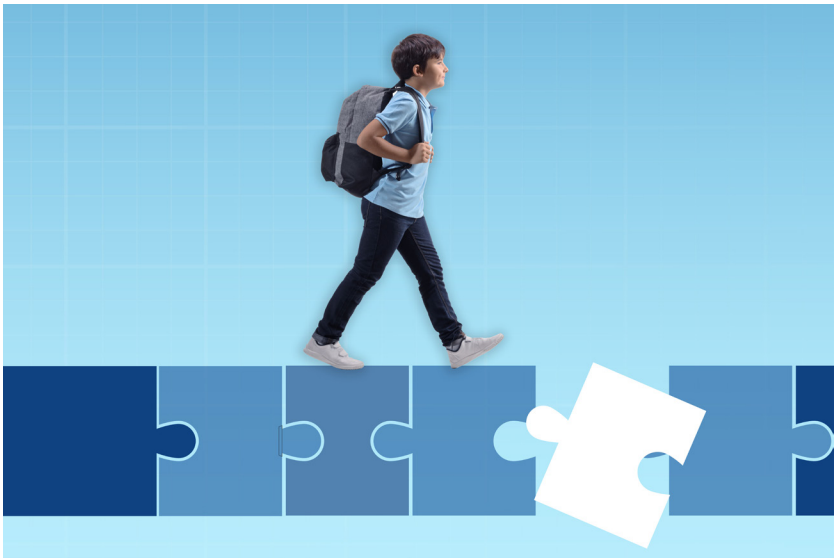
Understanding The Student Behind The Grades

"Behind Every Quiet Face, There Is A Story; Behind Every Smile, A Struggle; And Behind Every Dream, Countless Sacrifices."



DEEBA BASHIR

Student life is often painted as a beautiful chapter filled with friends, classrooms, laughter, opportunities, and dreams. But behind the cheerful face of a student, there can be a completely different story, a story of pressure, sacrifice, fear, responsibilities, and struggles that often remain unseen. What appears to be a simple journey of attending classes, completing assignments, preparing for examinations, and building a career can sometimes involve battles that nobody else knows about. Every student enters education with a dream. Some dream of becoming doctors, engineers, teachers, officers, entrepreneurs, or successful professionals. Others dream of simply becoming financially independent and giving their families a better life. They study with hope, work hard with determination, and imagine a future where all their efforts will finally be worth it. They may spend countless hours studying, preparing for examinations, completing assignments, and trying to improve themselves. Behind every achievement, there may be sacrifices that others never see. But life does not always follow the plan we make. For some students, the biggest challenge is not their studies but their circumstances. Financial problems can make education difficult. The cost of books, fees, transportation, accommodation, and other educational needs can become a burden for families. Family responsibilities can also demand a student's attention. Some students have to balance their studies with household duties or other responsibilities. While others are sitting with their books and concentrating on their lessons, they may be thinking about problems that have nothing to do with their syllabus. They may be worried about their family's financial situation, responsibilities at home, or the future that awaits them after graduation. Parents want their children to succeed. Teachers expect good performance. Society compares one student with another. Relatives ask about marks, careers, college admissions, and future plans. Slowly, a student can begin to feel that they are not allowed to fail. Every examination can start feeling like a judgment of their intelligence and every result can feel like a measurement of their worth. They get tired. They become confused. They make mistakes. They sometimes lose confidence. There are days when they feel exhausted and question whether all their efforts will ever lead to success. There are moments when they desperately want to stop, yet they continue because they know



how many people are depending on them. Sometimes they continue not because they are strong enough to carry everything, but because they have no choice except to keep moving forward. Perhaps one of the most painful struggles is giving up a personal dream for the sake of family. A student may spend years preparing for something they truly love. They may imagine themselves achieving it one day and building their entire future around that dream. But when circumstances change, they may choose their family's needs over their own dreams. They may select a different career, change their plans, or accept an opportunity they never originally wanted. From the outside, it may look like an ordinary career change. Nobody may know how difficult it was to let go of something they once imagined as their future. Nobody may understand the emotions behind that decision or the silent tears that may have accompanied it. Sometimes, life closes one door and forces us to search for another. The path may be different from what we imagined, but it can still lead somewhere meaningful. A changed dream can become a new beginning. What seems like a failure today may become an opportunity tomorrow. Sometimes, the unexpected path teaches us lessons that the original path could never have taught us. Students are constantly compared through marks, ranks, colleges, scholarships, careers, and achievements. One person succeeds early, while another takes more time. One student understands a subject quickly, while another needs more practice. One student may have access to better resources and support, while another may be struggling with circumstances that others know nothing about. Yet society often looks only at the final result and forgets the journey behind it. But different students have different circumstances, abilities, opportunities, and journeys. Behind a student who scores less may be

a story of countless hours of effort. Behind a student who fails may be the courage to try again. Behind a student who appears distracted may be a personal problem they are struggling to handle. Behind a quiet student may be responsibilities that nobody knows about. Behind a student who seems unsuccessful may be an individual who is fighting every day simply to keep moving forward. This is why students need understanding more than judgement. They need someone who notices their effort, not only their results. They need encouragement when they fail and guidance when they feel lost. They need someone who reminds them that one examination cannot define their entire future. Most importantly, they need to know that their worth is greater than a number written on a marksheet. Marks are important in education, but they do not completely measure a person's intelligence, character, determination, creativity, kindness, or potential. A student can be surrounded by classmates and friends and still feel completely alone. They may laugh, talk, attend classes, participate in activities, and appear perfectly normal while carrying worries that they do not know how to express. Sometimes they remain silent because they do not want to worry their parents, disappoint their teachers, or burden their friends. At other times, they may be afraid of being misunderstood or judged. They simply say, "I am fine," even when they are having a difficult day. A student may sit in a classroom physically present but mentally lost in their own thoughts. They may look at their books while thinking about their future. They may smile with their friends while worrying about their family. They may attend every lecture while secretly wondering whether they are good enough. These struggles are often invisible because students become skilled at hiding their pain behind ordinary routines. The journey of a student is not always about reaching the destination they originally imagined. Sometimes, it is about

learning how to survive difficult situations, discovering new possibilities, understanding oneself, and becoming stronger through experience. Education does not only teach subjects from textbooks; life teaches lessons through failures, sacrifices, responsibilities, disappointments, and unexpected changes. Every student carries a story. Some stories are about success. Some are about failure. Some are about sacrifice. Some are about dreams that changed. And some are simply about continuing despite everything. We may see a student walking into a classroom with a book in their hand, but we cannot see the weight they may be carrying in their heart. We may see their marks, but we cannot see the hours they spent struggling to understand a difficult subject. We may see their smile, but we cannot know how many worries they are hiding behind it. We may see their final result, but we cannot see the entire journey that brought them there. Therefore, before judging a student by their marks, career, failures, or achievements, we should remember one simple truth: every student is fighting a battle that may not be visible to us. Students do not always need someone to solve every problem for them. Sometimes, they simply need someone to listen. Sometimes, they need encouragement instead of criticism, understanding instead of comparison, and support instead of pressure. A few kind words can give hope to someone who is silently struggling. A little patience can make a student feel understood. A simple statement such as, "I believe in you," can sometimes become the strength a student needs to continue. Every student carries a story. Some stories are filled with success, some with failure, some with sacrifice, and some with dreams that had to change. But every story deserves to be heard with kindness. Every effort deserves recognition, even when the result is not perfect. Every failure can become a lesson, and every difficult phase can become a part of a person's growth. The journey may not always be easy. There may be moments of doubt, disappointment, fear, loneliness, and sacrifice. There may be dreams that change and plans that fail. But as long as a student continues to learn, grow, and move forward, there is still hope. A student is not merely a mark, a rank, a degree, or a career. A student is a person with dreams, emotions, responsibilities, struggles, and hopes. So, the next time we see a student sitting quietly in a classroom, carrying books and smiling at others, let us remember that there may be a story behind that silence. There may be sacrifices behind that smile, struggles behind those eyes, and countless dreams behind that determination. "The world may only see the destination, but only the student knows how many silent battles were fought along the way."

Author is Chemistry student at GDC Baramulla

Anthropic, AI And The Great Heist Of Human Thought

BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

Amidst all the chaos of life and the debate on the power of AI, there is an extra bonanza season for AI companies: their combined global revenue reached \$229 billion by August 2026, tripling in a year, with the potential to disrupt \$4.7 trillion of the profits of global businesses by 2035. There are also unfounded doomsday predictions that AI can kill people due to careless automation and misalignment of programmes. It reveals about the part of the propaganda to promote the AI. Yet something more sinister is going on, something more worrying than the profit-and-loss calculations of AI and its potentials and threats. I received an email on 29 April 2026 regarding the Anthropic Copyright Settlement in the case between Bartz, et al. v. Anthropic PBC, 3:24-cv-05417. The email says that Anthropic (the AI giant) used one of my books for its AI language modelling without my permission or the permission of the publisher of my book. The email also asks whether I wish to join as a Potential Class Member to claim my share of the settlement amount. I checked their website (https://secure.anthropiccopyrightsettlement.com/lookup/?_gl=11tdzd8_gcl_aunJgyODgxODk2LjE3ODU0N0N0czNjI), and I found that Anthropic has not only copied my book but also books of my friends, colleagues, and 500,000 books of fellow writers who are eligible under the settlement to claim around \$3,000 per work, prior to the deduction of any costs, fees, and expenses from the Settlement Fund of \$1.5 billion, based on the proposed Class Action Settlement between Authors & Publishers and Anthropic PBC in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Anthropic has downloaded more than 7 million books from shadow libraries like Library Genesis (LibGen) and Pirate Library Mirror (PiLiMi) without the



permission of their authors and publishers. Anthropic infringed protected copyrights by downloading books from online digital shadow libraries used by millions of researchers across the globe. These shadow libraries have helped millions to access expensive books that are otherwise not accessible to researchers from working-class backgrounds and beyond around the globe. However, corporate publishers took this issue to court and shut down these shadow libraries in the name of violating intellectual property rights and infringing copyright laws designed to protect the interests of corporate publishers. But when it comes to Anthropic, there was an immediate out-of-court settlement without the knowledge of authors and publishers. It was all settled in court without any involvement of authors and their opinions. There was no debate on plagiarism in the media, no one was imprisoned, and no one was accountable for this illegal act of copying 7 million books for Anthropic's language modelling. The issue of fair use goes into the dustbin. There were no American copyright laws and intellectual property laws that could protect against this great heist by a giant AI company. No one has taken any moral responsibility. There was no witch hunt against Anthropic the way the racist white media went after

Prof. Jason Arday and killed him with their false allegations of plagiarism. Anthropic can manage an out-of-court settlement by paying \$1.5 billion American dollars. But when it comes to China and Chinese companies, Anthropic has accused Chinese e-commerce and technology firm Alibaba of illegally extracting its Claude AI model's capabilities. Such hypocrisy and double standards are beyond the legal, financial, and moral calculations of the court or out of court. Anthropic is demanding that the US Congress penalise Chinese companies to protect US technology from being stolen. The American corporate thief is asking to protect stolen wealth from being stolen and to prevent stealing by another corporate thief. Such is the situation when it comes to AI companies and their primitive accumulation of wealth by copying the words and thoughts of writers who burn many nights and days to write a book with their labour of love. This is not merely the grand heist of AI companies and their inter-corporate rivalry. What is at stake here is more sinister than stealing books of authors and revenue of corporate publishers. What Anthropic has done is a conscious strategy of the Silicon snatch, which is robbing not only digital libraries and plundering authors and their works but also creating conditions for the potential shutting down

of real libraries. Anthropic is turning stolen goods into the foundation of its profit-making pyramid in the name of building language models and AI training data and language. It is a strategy of enclosure of intellect supported by codes, courts, and capital, which is fundamentally against knowledge production and dissemination for public good. It furthers the consolidation of wealth in the hands of AI companies at the cost of authors and their labour of love. Such digital strategies of AI companies will shut down physical libraries across the globe to ensure the profits of their digital platforms and digital libraries controlled by AI companies. The silence of the present, without resistance, can destroy our libraries, the depositories of knowledge, the public and private memories of the past and present—thereby depriving future generations of their ability to understand the past and face the challenges of the future. By killing libraries, AI companies are killing the past and future of humanity in terms of knowledge production and dissemination for the public good. Therefore, it is time to protect public libraries both in their physical and digital form and ensure that no one steals authors' work and their readership. The collective ownership of AI and its knowledge traditions is the only alternative available against the digital robbery of AI companies like Anthropic. It is a collective struggle to ensure knowledge stays as a product of collective experience and enterprise for the greater good of the collective welfare of human beings. The collective foundation of knowledge can't be privatised for profit. This is simply the greatest corporate heist, which needs to be stopped in defence of the collective foundations of knowledge to empower and emancipate people from the plunderous regimes of AI companies and their digital platforms.

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■ At Home In Neither

When The Home Becomes A Verdict



ASIYA AKHTER

There is an unspoken belief that women carry within themselves, deeply rooted in socialization: a woman leaves her parents' home to find her permanent sense of belonging in her marital family. Within this socio-cultural arrangement, it is treated as almost normal that, when serious conflict arises between a couple, it is the wife who is expected to be displaced.

Yet when this becomes the accepted solution, we stop asking what it means for a woman who has given years to that home. Her emotional labour, domestic care and the countless forms of unpaid work through which she has sustained the household are rarely recognised as contributions. A woman may spend twenty or twenty-five years of her youth, her most productive years, raising children and building a household, but when the marriage reaches a point of conflict, the immediate solution society often imagines is that she should leave.

I have observed such a case closely over the last few days. A woman who had spent more than twenty years in her marital home, with children now in adolescence, had suffered a serious deterioration in her health, and years of disrespectful treatment by her husband and in-laws had left her physically and psychologically vulnerable. At one point, she was so unwell that she was unable to work and had nearly reached a life-threatening condition. Yet even in that state, her husband repeatedly told her to leave and return

to her parents' home.

Her parents, however, were themselves ageing and dependent. Months have passed without a call or visit from her husband or in-laws. I suggested that if she now had to bear her expenses alone, she could consider seeking maintenance through the law. She initially said nothing. Later, she agreed, but still could not bring herself to take the step.

What stayed with me was her hesitation to pursue legal action. I began to realise that she no longer seemed to feel that she belonged to her natal home. I think this is where our socialisation begins to reveal its psychological consequences. Her experience made me think of how many women are left feeling the same way. Girls are raised with the understanding that their parents' home is temporary and that their real or permanent home will be their marital home. A woman therefore does not just move into another house after marriage. Over the years, she develops routines, relationships, memories, and an identity around that home. Motherhood further deepens this attachment.

After two decades, being told to leave is therefore not purely displacement from a physical structure. It can become a disruption of identity and belonging. The question then becomes a troubling one at fifty, after having spent the greater part of her adulthood in her marital home, where does such a woman psychologically belong?

Deep within, she may still wish to remain with her children, in the home where she has spent years nurturing and raising them, in the home she helped build through years of care and devotion. Yet culturally, she has been taught that she no longer belongs to her parents' home either.

This is why economic independence, although essential, cannot be the entire answer. Women today are increasingly entering education, employment, entrepreneurship, and public life amid persistent social bar-



riers. But alongside economic independence, there is another form of preparedness we rarely discuss that is about: psychological independence from the idea that a woman's belonging is conditional upon the continuation of her marriage.

The consequences can extend to children as well. Prolonged parental conflict can increase the risk of aggression and delinquent behaviour. Weakened parental supervision and a lack of emotional support may also leave children more vulnerable to antisocial behaviour, including substance abuse, and can affect their academic adjustment. The child, therefore, should not disappear from our understanding of marital conflict.

I am not arguing that couples should remain in harmful or toxic relationships for the sake of children. Nor am I arguing that every marriage must be preserved at any cost. My question is different. Why is the displacement of the woman so readily accepted as a cultural solution? Why do we so easily overlook the emotional labour and unpaid services she has contributed to the household for decades? Why are

her identity and psychological impact overlooked?

And why does separation so often become a moral verdict on the woman herself, like "she could not sustain her marriage," "she failed as a wife," rather than an opportunity to examine the social conditions that made her unsafe, economically vulnerable, or psychologically unprepared for displacement? This is where Hannah Arendt's idea of the "banality of evil" becomes worth reflecting upon. Arendt's argument, developed while observing the Eichmann trial, was not that ordinary people are necessarily monsters. Rather, she drew attention to how destructive acts can become ordinary when people stop critically examining the systems, rules and assumptions they simply follow.

Our situation is obviously not comparable to the historical crimes Arendt was analysing. But her broader warning about unthinking conformity offers a useful lens. A harmful social practice does not become harmless solely because generations have treated it as normal. When we

unquestioningly accept that a woman should leave, when we tell her to adjust until she can no longer endure it, when we reduce decades of domestic and emotional labour to a woman's duty with no reward, and when we judge her for failing to preserve a marriage without questioning the conditions within it, we participate in a social pattern that is harmful beneath the surface yet appears ordinary, and therefore deserves critical examination.

The question is larger than whether a woman has rights on paper. We frequently speak about women's rights, dignity and empowerment. But rights lose their meaning when social behaviour continues to communicate the opposite. A woman needs legal rights, and the psychological assurance that her belonging does not disappear with the breakdown of a marriage, economic resources that prevent displacement from becoming destitution, and a social culture that does not treat her as a temporary resident of every home she enters.

Where does woman belong psychologically? Only when this question is addressed at both the individual and societal level can we meaningfully speak of the psychological, social and economic well-being of women and, ultimately, of healthier families and a more humane society. The question is for women who are yet to marry: if one day she is asked to leave her marital home and her natal home also does not feel like hers, where will she go? How can she make sure that she does not become another woman with nowhere to belong? The answer lies in building a life where marriage is a part of it, rather than the only place where a woman finds her security, identity, and sense of home. This also requires a closer examination of the social norms through which women learn to understand where they belong.

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Less Patience

Understanding The Changing Nature Of Young Minds



FAZILA MUSHTAQ

In today's fast-changing world, patience has become one of the most difficult qualities for many young people to maintain. We live in a time where almost everything is available within seconds. Food can be ordered with a few taps, messages can be delivered instantly, entertainment is available at any moment, and information can be found immediately through the internet. Because of this fast lifestyle, many young people have become accustomed to getting what they want quickly. When something takes time, they may become bored, frustrated, or unwilling to wait. This raises an important question: Why does today's youth seem to have less patience than previous generations?

One major reason is the influence of technology. Smartphones and the internet have changed the way young people experience time. Earlier, people waited for letters, television programmes, photographs to be developed, or even for a friend to arrive at their home. Today, young people can communicate instantly through messages and video calls. Movies, music, games, shopping, education, and entertainment are available at the touch of a button. This convenience is useful, but it can also make waiting feel unnecessary and uncomfortable.

Social media has further contributed to this change. Young people are constantly exposed to short videos, quick messages, trending content, and rapidly changing information. Platforms provide new content every few seconds, which encourages people to move quickly from one thing to another. As a result, sitting quietly, reading a long book, listening to someone for a long time, or waiting for results can sometimes feel difficult.

Another important reason is the culture of instant success. Young



people often see stories of people becoming successful at a very young age. Social media shows successful entrepreneurs, influencers, athletes, celebrities, and content creators who appear to achieve fame and wealth quickly. What is often hidden are the years of struggle, failure, hard work, and patience behind their success. This can create unrealistic expectations. Some young people begin to believe that success should come quickly, and when it does not, they may lose motivation.

Education and career competition can also affect patience. Young people today face pressure to perform well in examinations, build careers, earn money, and become independent. They may compare themselves with their classmates, friends, or people they see online. When progress is slow, they can become disappointed. Instead of understanding that growth takes time, they may feel that they are falling behind.

Family and social environments also play an important role. Many children today grow up with greater comfort and convenience than previous generations. Parents naturally want to provide the best for their children, but sometimes fulfilling every demand immediately can reduce opportunities for children to learn how to wait. If a child receives everything whenever they ask for it, they may find it difficult to accept situations where something cannot be obtained immediately.

Another reason is the fear of boredom. Earlier generations had fewer

sources of entertainment, so they were more comfortable spending time doing nothing, talking with family members, playing outside, or simply waiting. Today, whenever young people feel bored, they can immediately pick up their phone. A few seconds of boredom can be replaced by a video, game, message, or social media post. Because of this, many young people have fewer opportunities to experience and tolerate boredom.

Patience is also tested in relationships. In the past, people often took more time to understand one another. Today, many relationships begin and end through messages and social media. If someone does not reply quickly, a person may become upset or start making assumptions. Small misunderstandings can become serious because people sometimes expect immediate replies, immediate attention, and immediate emotional responses.

The fast pace of modern life has also changed our expectations from others. We may expect teachers to respond quickly, friends to reply immediately, services to be delivered instantly, and problems to be solved without delay. When reality does not match these expectations, frustration develops. The problem is not always that young people are unwilling to work hard; rather, many have become accustomed to a world where waiting is less common.

However, it would be unfair to say that the entire younger generation has

lost patience. Many young people are hardworking, responsible, disciplined, and willing to struggle for their goals. Students prepare for competitive examinations for years, athletes train for long periods, entrepreneurs continue despite failures, and many young people work hard to support their families. Therefore, the issue is not that youth completely lack patience, but that modern life constantly tests and weakens this quality.

From an Islamic perspective, patience has a very important place in human life. Islam teaches Sabr, which means patience, perseverance, and remaining steadfast during difficulties. The Qur'an says: "Indeed, Allah is with the patient." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:153)

This teaching reminds us that patience is not a sign of weakness. It is a strength that helps a person remain steady during difficult situations. Life cannot always provide immediate results. Education, relationships, success, personal growth, and meaningful achievements require time. The Qur'an also reminds human beings about the value of time: "By time, indeed mankind is in loss." (Surah Al-Asr 103:1-2)

This teaches us that time is valuable and should be used wisely. Instead of constantly searching for instant entertainment, young people can learn to invest their time in education, skills, family, health, worship, and personal development. Patience does not mean sitting silently and doing nothing. It means continuing to make an effort even when the result is not immediate. A student who studies regularly without seeing immediate improvement is practising patience. A person who continues working after failure is practising patience. Someone who controls anger instead of reacting immediately is also practising patience.

Young people can develop patience through small daily habits. They can spend some time away from their phones, read books, complete tasks without constantly checking notifications, exercise, spend time with family, learn a skill, and practise waiting without immediately searching for entertainment. Even simple activities such as travelling without constantly using a phone or sitting quietly for a few minutes can help a person become more comfortable with waiting.

Parents and teachers also have an important role. Young people need guidance rather than constant criticism. Instead of simply saying that "today's generation has no patience," adults can teach young people the value of effort, delayed results, discipline, and perseverance. At the same time, young people should also recognise that not everything in life can happen according to their preferred timing.

The modern world is not going to become slower. Technology will continue to develop, information will continue to move quickly, and new forms of entertainment will continue to appear. Therefore, the solution is not to reject modern technology but to learn how to live with it without allowing it to control our expectations.

Patience is especially important because many of the best things in life cannot be rushed. Trust takes time. Education takes time. Success takes time. Strong relationships take time. Personal growth takes time. Even a tree that eventually gives fruit must first grow through different stages.

Today's youth have many opportunities that previous generations did not have. They have access to education, technology, global information, communication, and countless possibilities. But with these opportunities comes the responsibility to develop qualities such as patience, discipline, gratitude, and perseverance.

The real challenge for today's youth is not simply learning how to move faster. It is learning when to slow down and wait. Instant results may provide temporary satisfaction, but lasting achievements usually require consistent effort over a long period.

Patience is not about waiting for life to become easy. It is about becoming strong enough to continue when life does not give immediate answers. The world may offer everything quickly, but meaningful success still takes time. If today's youth can learn to balance speed with patience, technology with discipline, and ambition with perseverance, they can make better use of the opportunities available to them. The future belongs not only to those who can move fast, but also to those who know when to wait, when to work, and when not to give up.

The Author is Psychology student at Govt. Degree College, Baramulla

CM Omar Defends

also be seen in the context of the progress made by Kashmiris, who, he said, had moved from poverty to educating their children and producing doctors and engineers.

“Maybe this was his intention: that we have come here from that poverty, where we educate our children. We are making our children doctors and engineers,” Omar said.

The CM also alleged that the BJP and PDP were playing the “match” together and had a common agenda in raising the issue. “Tanvir does not need to apologise for this. Nor does he need to give any clarification. Nor does my party need to apologise for this. Tanvir did not do anything wrong,” he said.

On the Congress opposing the singing of the full stanzas of Vande Mataram at government functions, the Chief Minister said the government was bound to follow the law as long as the existing legal provisions remained in force.

He said the National Conference had never accepted Vande Mataram as a party and would not accept it in the future, but said it would fulfil its legal and statutory obligations.

“If the Congress government comes, I pray that the Congress government comes as soon as possible and abolishes this in Parliament. Let them do it. We have no objection,” he said. “However, as long as the law exists, we have to follow it.”

Omar said the function involving two Governors, the Lieutenant Governor and the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court, would necessarily include the National Anthem. He said under the existing provision, the full stanzas of Vande Mataram had also become compulsory at such government functions.

He said the provision was applicable across the country and not merely to Jammu and Kashmir, including in states governed by the Congress.

He further said failure to comply with the provision could lead to legal action. “So what does the Congress want? For Kashmiris to be imprisoned with this excuse? This is a statutory obligation,” Abdullah said.

Responding to a protest by Kashmiri Pandit employees over accommodation, Omar questioned the basis of the protest, saying those for whom transit accommodation was ready had already been allotted accommodation.

“Not a single one is on the road. Not one of them is homeless. Where the transit accommodation is ready, they have been allotted,” he said.

He asked which Kashmiri Pandit employee was currently without accommodation and said anyone genuinely facing the issue should approach the authorities.

The Chief Minister reiterated the government’s efforts to create opportunities for local youth in filmmaking and related fields. “I said on the first day itself that we are trying to get our local kids to do camera work, production, all these things. They should do courses in this. And there should be film shootings here,” he said.

He said local youngsters should be given opportunities to work in the film and production sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the upcoming summit in Delhi, the CM said a major event was scheduled for September 12, with leaders from Russia, China, South Africa and Brazil among those participating.

He said a Cabinet meeting had also been called, noting that the government holds a Cabinet meeting every month. “The governance agenda cannot be stopped,” Omar said, adding that the summit would not affect the government’s functioning or its regular governance work—(KNO)

J&K’s Maiden

literature, music, traditions and young talent offered enormous possibilities for filmmaking and storytelling, while calling upon filmmakers, producers and investors to explore the opportunities available in J&K.

Murugan also underlined India’s growing ambitions in filmmaking, animation, gaming, music and emerging digital formats, stressing the need to “create in India and create for the world.”

The closing ceremony was also marked by a power-packed performance by veteran singer Usha Uthup, who enthralled the audience with her distinctive voice and energetic stage presence.

Adding a strong Kashmiri cultural touch to the evening, singer Gulzar Ganie performed the soulful Kashmiri Sufi kalam “Yaar Doad Naar Khoth”, penned by renowned Kashmiri poet and Sufi figure Wahab Khar.

The performance drew an enthusiastic response from the audience and added a local musical flavour to the closing celebrations.

The 4-day festival featured a diverse cinematic programme, including International Competition, Best Debut Director, Jammu & Kashmir Select, Bharat Panorama, Cinema of the World, Documentary/Hybrid and Short Films, besides masterclasses, in-conversation sessions, panel discussions, special screenings and retrospectives.

The festival’s programme also covered areas including direction and screenplay, cinematography, editing, acting, sound, animation and AI, documentary filmmaking, regional cinema, industry development and co-production, providing opportunities for interaction between established professionals and emerging filmmakers.

The festival opened on September 7 with Dead Dog, directed by Sarah Francis of Lebanon, while the closing film, Simsim, directed by Sodon Al-Smerat of Jordan, was screened at INOX Srinagar on Thursday afternoon.

The festival also featured the Floating Cinema programme, with screenings of films including Jungle, Kashmir Ki Kali, Arzoo and Kabhi Kabhie, adding a distinctive public-facing element to the festival programme.

With its inaugural edition, the IFFJK brought international cinema to Jammu and Kashmir while placing the region’s own stories, talent, culture and creative potential at the centre of its larger filmmaking ambitions.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, National Conference

President Dr Farooq Abdullah and other dignitaries attended the closing ceremony of the event—(KNO)

CM Calls For

Advisor to the Chief Minister, several J&K legislators, Chief Secretary J&K, Secretary, Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, and senior officers of civil and police administration were present on the occasion.

Addressing filmmakers, artists, members of the jury, delegates from India and abroad, students, young filmmakers and cinema enthusiasts, the Chief Minister said the first edition of IFFJK had demonstrated that the idea of creating a meaningful new platform for cinema in Jammu and Kashmir had found both an audience and a purpose.

“Four days ago, we gathered here to raise the curtain on the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir. At that time, the festival was an idea being tested—an invitation, an experiment and, above all, a hope that Jammu and Kashmir could create a meaningful new platform for cinema. Tonight, as this first edition comes to a close, we can say that the idea has found both an audience and a purpose,” he said.

The Chief Minister noted that over the four days, IFFJK had brought filmmakers and audiences together, connected established professionals with young aspirants and created a space where cinema from Jammu and Kashmir could engage with India and the world.

He said the participation of young people from J&K was particularly encouraging, with conversations during the festival extending across storytelling, filmmaking craft, technology and collaboration.

Referring to the participation of 120 films from over 30 countries, Omar Abdullah said the scale of the festival was important, but its deeper value lay in the connections created among people from different backgrounds and stages of their cinematic journeys.

“A young writer meeting a director, an aspiring filmmaker learning from a professional, or two people meeting here who may one day make a film together”—these encounters, he said, represented the enduring value of a festival such as IFFJK.

Congratulating those recognised and honoured during the festival, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the jury, filmmakers, delegates, film fraternity, organisers, volunteers and audiences whose participation gave the inaugural edition its energy and meaning.

He also highlighted the emotional significance of bringing iconic films associated with Kashmir back to the shores of Dal Lake during the festival.

Recalling his remarks at the opening ceremony about Jammu and Kashmir’s long association with cinema, he said films such as Jungle, Arzoo, Kashmir Ki Kali and Kabhi Kabhie had been screened against the very landscape that had helped make them memorable.

“For decades, Kashmir travelled to audiences through the cinema screen; this week, in a sense, the screen came back to Kashmir,” the Chief Minister said, describing the floating cinema as one of the defining memories of the first IFFJK.

However, he emphasised that nostalgia alone could not define the future of cinema in Jammu and Kashmir.

“Our ambition must go beyond being a beautiful filming location: Jammu and Kashmir must increasingly become a place from which stories emerge, talent is discovered, and films are conceived and created,” he said.

The Chief Minister stressed that J&K had far more to offer cinema than its landscapes, pointing to the region’s cities, towns and villages, languages, literature, music, crafts, history and everyday lives as a rich source of stories.

“Our landscapes may bring filmmakers here, but our stories, our people and a professional filmmaking environment can bring them back,” he said.

Calling for a two-way relationship with the wider film world, Omar Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir should continue to welcome filmmakers from India and across the world while simultaneously creating opportunities for local talent to find audiences, collaborators and opportunities beyond the region.

He placed particular emphasis on investing in young people and said the long-term success of IFFJK should not be judged merely by the number of films screened or personalities who participated.

“Ten years from now, IFFJK’s success will be measured not only by the films screened or the personalities who joined us, but by the careers that began here, the opportunities and collaborations it created, and the stories from Jammu and Kashmir that reached audiences across India and the world,” he said.

The Chief Minister said the presence of filmmakers and artists had given the first edition of IFFJK its stature, adding that the most meaningful tribute to their contribution would be to build on the inspiration and opportunities created during the festival and help a new generation from J&K find its place in cinema.

He called for IFFJK to evolve beyond a four-day annual event into a continuing platform for screenings, learning, training and collaboration throughout the year.

He said the future shape of the festival should be informed by the experiences and feedback of participants and audiences.

“Government can provide the platform and an enabling environment, but a vibrant film culture must be sustained by the creative community itself,” Omar Abdullah said.

Highlighting the wider economic potential of the film sector, the Chief Minister said cinema could support professionals, local services, artists, craftspeople and businesses.

He emphasised that filmmaking activity in Jammu and Kashmir should create a lasting local impact in the form of developing skills, generating employment and stronger capabilities.

“Films coming to Jammu and Kashmir should therefore leave behind not only memorable images, but also skills, employment and stronger local capabilities. Our mountains and lakes may bring filmmakers here once; the experience of working here must bring them back

again,” he said.

Extending an invitation to visiting filmmakers, actors and delegates, the Chief Minister urged them to return to Jammu and Kashmir to shoot, write, teach, collaborate and discover more of the region.

Addressing young filmmakers and storytellers, he encouraged them to learn the craft, experiment and begin telling stories rooted in their own surroundings.

“Tell the stories of your neighbourhoods, villages, families and generation. Some of cinema’s most powerful stories are intimate and local; what matters is that the voice is authentic and the craft is strong,” he said.

Concluding his address at the shores of Dal Lake, the Chief Minister said the setting was particularly appropriate for the conclusion of the first IFFJK.

He drew a parallel between Dal Lake’s reflection of the mountains, sky and changing seasons and cinema’s longstanding role in reflecting Kashmir to the world.

“Perhaps the opportunity before us now is for Jammu and Kashmir increasingly to reflect itself through cinema—to tell its own stories, in its own voices and with confidence, and to share them with audiences across India and the world,” he said.

Omar Abdullah said the conclusion of the first edition should not mark the end of the idea that brought the festival together.

“If, years from now, filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir are standing at festivals across the world with stories that first found encouragement or opportunity here, we may look back on these four days as the moment when something enduring began beside Dal Lake,” he said.

The Chief Minister thanked everyone associated with the inaugural edition of IFFJK and expressed hope of welcoming the filmmakers, artists, delegates and cinema fraternity back to Jammu and Kashmir.

Dry Weather

evening, although some activity could also occur during the early morning and morning hours, he said.

The forecast comes as harvesting of apples, paddy and other field crops is under way across Jammu and Kashmir, with farmers relying on stable weather for harvesting, drying, transportation and storage.

Mukhtar said farmers could continue harvesting and other field activities as no significant weather-related disruption was expected during the next 10 to 12 days.

“Harvesting can continue, and storage and drying work can also be carried out,” he said.

Predominantly dry conditions could provide farmers with time to bring mature crops and fruit from fields and orchards to safety. Rain during the harvesting period can affect drying, transportation and storage operations, particularly where produce needs to be moved soon after harvesting.

The forecast comes amid contrasting rainfall patterns recorded during the current monsoon season.

After a relatively deficient period, July recorded good rainfall in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including the Pir Panjal range, Jammu plains and parts of the Kashmir Valley.

According to the department, rainfall in July was around 35 per cent above normal, placing the month in the normal-to-excess category.

August, however, remained comparatively dry, with rainfall recording a deficit of around 25 per cent, the department said.

Despite the variation between the two months, the overall rainfall position has remained within the normal category.

From June 1 to September 10, rainfall in the Kashmir Valley was around 1 per cent above normal, while Jammu division recorded a departure of around 5 per cent above normal.

Mukhtar said the predominantly dry conditions expected in the coming period were likely to keep the overall rainfall situation in the below-normal to near-normal range.

DGP Commends Joint

of Police, Doda.

An official said that during the visit, senior officers reviewed security arrangements, operational preparedness and counter-terrorism measures being implemented by the joint forces in the region.

“They also assessed the prevailing security situation and discussed steps to further enhance inter-agency coordination, area domination and surveillance across the strategically sensitive belt,” he added.

The visit was part of ongoing efforts by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies to strengthen the security grid and reinforce arrangements in vulnerable and strategically significant areas—(KNO)

J&K Can Once

opportunities for local talent and foster collaboration with the wider creative industry.

On the occasion Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Chanchal Kumar said Jammu and Kashmir’s landscapes, literature, music and traditions offer significant potential to position the Union Territory as a destination for filmmakers and a hub for creative enterprises.

He said the region’s cinematic journey could be strengthened by connecting local talent with filmmakers, producers, mentors and audiences across India and the world. Referring to initiatives such as the Create Indian Challenge and WAVES Bazaar, Shri Kumar said young creators can develop skills, showcase their work and connect with industry, buyers, investors and collaborators.

He also encouraged young people from Kashmir to explore opportunities at the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Mumbai, and emphasised the need to take such opportunities closer to youth through outreach, workshops and guidance.

The Secretary said professional film productions

involving local talent as trainees and crew members could provide practical exposure and strengthen skills. He expressed hope that the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir would evolve into a sustained platform where local stories connect with producers, creative talent with mentors, and promising projects with opportunities.

PM-SETU To

into quality and well-paid employment.

He further stressed that the industry partners selected for the initiative should bring not merely financial participation but also technology, domain expertise, modern training practices, exposure to industrial processes and credible employment pathways for trained youth.

He observed that our objective should be to align our ITIs more closely with industry requirements so that the skills imparted translate into meaningful and high-paying employment for our youth. He called for close collaboration between government, industry and training institutions in designing the courses and training programmes.

Giving a detailed presentation on the scheme, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, apprised the Committee of the proposed institutional architecture, funding pattern, upgradation plan and the roadmap for implementation in J&K.

He also divulged that PM-SETU envisages an indicative investment of around 482 crore over a five-year period in J&K, with 241 crore earmarked for each hub-and-spoke cluster. Under the proposed model, 10 Government ITIs will be upgraded into modern, industry-oriented skill institutions.

Moreover the institutions will be organised into two hub-and-spoke clusters, with one Hub ITI in each administrative division serving as a central technology and resource centre for four Spoke ITIs.

The upgraded hubs will provide access to advanced technologies, modern training infrastructure, incubation facilities and capacity-building support for trainers, with the scheme targeting an institutional placement rate of 75 per cent.

A major feature of PM-SETU is its industry-led implementation framework, under which Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) will facilitate closer participation of industry in institutional governance, course selection, technology adoption, training and placement. It would also ensure that the training offered is demand-driven rather than supply-driven, with courses periodically aligned to market trends and actual manpower requirements.

The priority training domains under the proposed transformation include Advanced and Smart Manufacturing; Heavy Engineering and Automotive; Electricals, Electronics and Telecom; Process Industries and Food Processing; and Textiles, Garments, Construction and Building Interiors, besides other emerging areas having strong employment potential here.

The Committee was informed that the financial architecture of PM-SETU follows a tripartite contribution model, with 74.7 per cent contribution from the Central Government, 8.3 per cent from the UT Government and 17 per cent from Anchor Industry Partners (AIPs). The average estimated cost is around 81 crore for each Hub ITI and 40 crore for each Spoke ITI.

Among the prescribed baseline parameters for participating companies are an average annual turnover of at least 200 crore during the preceding three financial years, positive net worth and a regular workforce of 500 or more employees.

Concluding the Chief Secretary underscored that the real measure of the success of PM-SETU would be the ability to create a steady pipeline of industry-ready skilled manpower and connect J&K’s youth with better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, thereby making skill development a stronger pillar of the UT’s economic growth.

'Unique Governance

subsequently explained that this model has its limitations. Therefore, the Central Government is willing to go ahead and offer something more. That ‘more’ is coming through Article 371,” he said.

He added that the proposed framework would be provided to Ladakh through a constitutional amendment, which would require a two-thirds majority in Parliament for approval, and stressed that political consensus across parties would be necessary.

During the sub-committee meeting on Wednesday, Kundra said members of the LAB and KDA were asked a set of questions about the powers of the proposed UT-level body and the LAHDC.

“There are certain questions regarding the relationship between the UT-level body and the LAHDC - for instance, what powers will come under the jurisdiction of the LAHDCs and what powers will come under the UT-level body,” he said.

He added that there was a discussion yesterday regarding the UT-level body to be constituted under Article 371 of the Constitution.

“In the previous meeting, which was held on July 3, it was decided that a UT-level body should be constituted under Article 371, and the discussion moved forward in the same direction,” he said, adding that there was consensus on direct elections for the UT-level body.

“The issue that came up for discussion was whether there should be direct elections from constituencies or indirect elections through the LAHDC. The view of everyone from the Apex Body and the KDA was that there should be direct elections from constituencies, and there was consensus on this issue,” he said—(KNO)

‘J&K’s Peak Power

Units (MU) in 2014-15 to 20,185 MU in 2025-26.

It also said that the peak power demand at 20,374 MU was recorded in 2024-25.

The GoI had also said that the actual power supply position of the region jumped from 13,119 MU in 2014-15 to 20,166 MU in 2025-26 that amounts to a massive 53.7% increase in available energy—(KNO)

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

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DAR MATTING SHOP

DEALS IN:- BLANKETS, BED SHEETS, BED COVERS, PILLOW COVERS, DOOR MATS, ROOM SHEETS, GRAPHICS, LINING, ROTTERY & MUCH MORE

SKUAST-K holds 46th Academic Council meeting

Sets roadmap to become India’s first global agricultural university

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHALIMAR: The 46th Academic Council meeting of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) was held Thursday at the Vice-Chancellor’s Conference Hall, Main Campus, Shalimar, with deliberations focused on academic transformation, research and innovation for University’s transition from ‘National to Global’ by 2030.

The meeting was chaired by Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K and Chairperson of the Academic Council, and attended by members of the Academic Council, representatives from sister universities and institutions, and officers and heads of various Divisions of the University. Shri Ram Niwas, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, attended the meeting as special guest.

In his address, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai said the University has achieved the goal set in



2022 of moving from ‘Local to National’ and was now repositioning its goalpost from ‘National to Global’. He said that the next phase of transformation would be driven by six key pillars: student diversity, faculty diversity, curriculum transformation, research and innovation, world-class infrastructure, and financial sustainability.

Prof Ganai outlined the milestones to be achieved by 2030, including increasing the international students enrollment to 5% and students from other States/UTs of the country to 35%, taking the University’s IPR portfolio to over 250 and H-index to 250+, and strengthening faculty

diversity by attracting 50+ faculty members from outside the Union Territory, including Professors of Practice and Adjunct Faculty.

He further stressed the need for a sustainable mountain development policy, keeping in view the changing global climatic scenario and the growing challenges confronting mountain ecosystems. He said the University should contribute its expertise towards developing sustainable and climate-resilient approaches for mountain agriculture and development.

Prof Ganai expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj

Sinha; Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah; Minister for Agriculture, Shri Javid Ahmad Dar; Chief Secretary, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; other Administrative Secretaries; and ICAR for their continued support and guidance to the University. He also thanked Shri Ram Niwas for his valuable suggestions and inputs during the Council deliberations, which, he said, would help the University advance its vision of becoming a globally recognized institution.

Addressing the Council, Shri Ram Niwas said SKUAST-K has demonstrated how an agricultural university could take on a larger role in the higher

education landscape and acknowledged the University’s shift in its goalpost from national to the global level. He said the proposed Centre for Faculty Training and Pedagogy at SKUAST-K has the potential to serve as a model for universities across the country. He also suggested the creation of an Indian Teachers Service on the lines of other national services such as IAS, IFS and IES, to strengthen academic capacity-building across the country.

Shri Ram Niwas further suggested that universities should develop predefined five- or ten-year action plans, with clear goals and measurable outcomes, to provide a structured roadmap for institutional development and long-term transformation.

Earlier, Prof. Mohd. Altaf Bhat, Director Education, SKUAST-K, delivered the welcome address. Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar and Member Secretary, Academic Council, presented the University Progress Report, followed by the Agenda and Action Taken Report of the previous Academic Council meeting.

Baramulla Youth urged to lead Journey towards Viksit Bharat@2047

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: District Youth Officer Baramulla, Sri Jan Singh Patel, Thursday addressed a press conference to highlight the objectives and significance of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) being organised under the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) initiative.

Speaking to the media, District Youth Officer said that VBLYD provides a national platform for young people to share their ideas, perspectives and innovative solutions and actively contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. He said the initiative is aimed at fostering leadership, creativity, innovation and a strong sense of responsibility among the youth.

He emphasised that

the youth are not merely the future of the country but important stakeholders in its present development journey. Their ideas, aspirations and active participation can play a significant role in shaping a progressive, inclusive and developed India.

The District Youth Officer further highlighted that VBLYD offers young participants an opportunity to express their views on matters of national importance, showcase their talents and cultural heritage, and engage in meaningful activities related to nation building. He encouraged the youth of Baramulla to actively participate and utilise the platform to put forward their ideas and perspectives.

He also called upon educational institutions, youth organisations and other

stakeholders to facilitate wider participation of young people in MY Bharat and VBLYD activities. He said that collective efforts are essential to ensure that the benefits and opportunities offered through such youth-centric initiatives reach maximum numbers of young people.

Appealing to the youth of the district, SriJan Singh Patel urged them to come forward with confidence, creativity and a spirit of service, stating that the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 can be realised through the meaningful participation and contribution of the country’s young generation.

He also sought the cooperation of the media in creating greater awareness about the initiative and encouraging youth participation across the district.

Director Mission Poshan attends Poshan Maah celebrations at Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Director, Mission Poshan J&K, Sajad Hussain Ganai, Thursday attended the Poshan Maah celebrations organized at ICDS Office Budgam, wherein various activities were held to highlight the importance of nutrition, early childhood care and education, maternal health and the overall well-being of children.

Addressing the gathering, Director Mission Poshan J&K, said that the primary aim and objective of the programme is to ensure that the benefits and services of ICDS reach every eligible citizen. He said that the department is providing a range of services aimed at ensuring the holistic development of children and the well-being of mothers, including early childhood care and education, nutrition support and assistance in immunization of newborns in coordination

with the Health Department.

The Director emphasized the importance of providing proper nutritional guidance and support to expectant and lactating mothers, stating that adequate nutrition and care during pregnancy and lactation play a vital role in ensuring the healthy growth and development of children.

As part of the celebrations, Director Mission Poshan administered an oath to the participants, urging them to work collectively towards the goal of making Budgam a malnutrition-free district. The participants pledged to contribute towards promoting healthy nutritional practices and ensuring that the benefits of various Poshan and ICDS initiatives reach all eligible beneficiaries.

Sajad Hussain further said that the department is committed to ensuring the enrolment of every eligible child under the programme so that appro-

priate care and support are provided from the early stages of life. He stressed that proper nutrition, healthcare, early childhood education and a supportive environment are essential for ensuring the mental, physical and overall healthy development of children. He also called upon field functionaries to strengthen community outreach and ensure that the intended benefits of various schemes and services reach the grassroots level.

Programme Officer, Budgam, Samar Naik, highlighted the significance of observing Poshan Maah. She stressed the need for creating greater awareness among the public regarding proper nutrition, child care, maternal health and the importance of early childhood development. She also underlined the role of the department in ensuring effective delivery of services to beneficiaries through the network of Anganwadi Centres across the district.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Thursday informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV Nowbugh Chadoora line will be observed due to which power supply to Sogam, Ropore, Chadoora Town, Wathoora, Bugam, Dawlatpora, Hospital, Gud-suthoo, Panzan, Lalgam, Ranger, Kathaigund and adjoining areas will

be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 14 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Qazigund line will be observed due to which power supply to Chowgam, Lammer, Kargund, Waltengoo, Baitengoo, Razloo, Qazigund, YK Pora, Nussu, Manzmoh, Bonigam, Vessu, Mir Bazar and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 01 PM on 17 & 19 September 2026.

ADDC Shopian Chairs Meeting to Review Implementation of NAPS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Shopian today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in the district.

ADDC held detailed discussions with the concerned departments regarding the effective implementation of NAPS and stressed the need

for close coordination among all stakeholders to maximise apprenticeship opportunities for local youth.

ADDC directed the concerned officers to take necessary measures for wider participation and ensure that eligible youth and establishments are suitably facilitated under the scheme. He also called for regular coordination and timely action to achieve the intended objectives of the apprenticeship programme.



Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in



NO: T-1/EEA/6111-15

Dated: 10/09/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: - 1. Macadamization of Panner Kathwar Gujjar Basti Road.

Reference: - 1. This office e-NIT No.Fresh-104/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/5257-67 Dated: 25-08-2026.

The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	16-09-2026 up to 4:00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	17-09-2026 up to 12:00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-

Technical officer

DIPK-5542-26

DT: 10/09/2026

sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Awantipora



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES

DISTRICT GANDERBAL

RE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE.

Applications are invited from ST unemployed youth from Community Forest Resource (CFR) Holders of Tribals, Tribal Fishermen /population living in tribal majority villages and Tribal Fishermen /population living tribal villages of Aspirational blocks of District Ganderbal belonging to ST villages viz Kashnambal, Wangath, Barnbugh, Margund, Satrina, Thune, Mammer, Dardwudur, Hariganian, Sarfraw, Sumbal Bala, Nilgrath, or (tribal majority villages having a population of at least 500 with 50% or more as per census 2011) for establishment of below mentioned components in private sector under Dharti Aaba Janjaitya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan,(DAJGUA) centrally sponsored scheme “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna ” (PMMSY) during the year 2026-27 The details of units are as under:

S. No	Component	No of units	Unit cost (In lacs)	Pattern of funding	
				Govt. share 90% of unit cost	Beneficiaries share 10 % of unit cost
03.	Providing of Three wheeler / E Rickshaw with Ice box for Fish vending	01	3.00	(2.70 lacs)	(0.30 lacs)
05.	Cycle with Ice Box	05	0.10	(0.09lacs)	(0.01 lacs)

The application be submitted in the office of the undersigned by or before 21st of September 2026. The terms and conditions laid down as under shall be strictly followed while submitting the application.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

01. The Applicant will submit Domicile Certificate, schedule Tribe Certificate and Driving License (LMV) in respect of three wheeler issued by Competent Authority. .

02. The final selection list of the beneficiaries will be made by the District level steering committee headed by the District Development Commissioner.

Further details can be had from the office of the Assistant Director Fisheries District Ganderbal during office hours or visit pmmsy.dof.gov.in

NO.- ADF/Gbl/2 026/1268-72

Dated:- 10-09-2026

DIPK-5538-26

DT: 10/09/2026

Sd /-

Assistant Director Fisheries,

District Ganderbal.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT 79 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/6890-99, DATED 08-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.(in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of R wall at Various spots on Aung to Nowbugh Road	79.85 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 67.67 + (18% GST Amount 12.18)	1600	159700/-	02 Working Seasons	Capex Budget (Road Sector 2026-27)	AAY Class Only

Project Authority : R&B Circle Anantnag.

Position of AAA : Accorded vide Order No. 24 of SE/R&B/Ang/AAA of 2026-27, Dated 06.08.2026.

Position of TS : Accorded vide Order No. SEA (R&B) 48 of 2026-27, Dated 03.09.2026.

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-09-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 08-09-2026 (03:00 PM) To 15-09-2026 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 08-09-2026 (03:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 15-09-2026 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	16-09-2026 (10:30 AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

1. Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/ Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

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

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get ‘Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)’ as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

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

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and receipt of EMD deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, Bidder Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned on the Receipt. (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original receipt of Cost of Tender Document, EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use “My Documents” area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-5557-26

DT: 10/09/2026

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)

Executive Engineer,

R&B Division Anantnag

'Law Must Be Followed'

Omar Hits Back at Congress Over Vande Mataram Row

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday hit back at the Congress over its objection to the full rendition of Vande Mataram at official functions in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the government has to follow the law as long as it remains in force.

Speaking to reporters, Omar said, "Do Congress want more people should go to jail?" while responding to the Congress position on the rendition of the national song.

"We have to follow the law. If Congress comes to power, they can repeal the law. But as long as the law exists, we have to follow it," Omar said.

He said that at the party level, the National Conference did not recognize the full version of the song, but the position was different when it came to government functions and the law.

"At party level we don't recognize this song, but now it is a law and anybody who doesn't sing it can face action under law," Omar said.

The Chief Minister said Congress, which was raising objections to the government's position,



should have opposed the legislation in Parliament. "Congress that talks about it should have stopped it in the Parliament," Omar said, adding that he hoped a Congress government would come to power and repeal the law.

The remarks came amid a growing row between the National Conference and its alliance partner Congress over the rendition of the full six-stanza version of Vande Mataram at official functions.

The dispute began after the complete version was played at the inaugural ceremony of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir in the presence

of Omar Abdullah and NC president Farooq Abdullah. The full version was subsequently played at the swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court.

J&K Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra had criticized the NC's position, saying the adopted version of the song reflected a balance between its historical significance and India's plural ethos. NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq responded by maintaining that the government had to follow the law and that nobody would be forced to sing the song. Sadiq had also pointed

to instances in Congress-ruled Karnataka and Telangana where the full version of Vande Mataram was played at official functions, asking Karra to comment on the position taken by Congress chief ministers there.

The legal dispute relates to the 2026 amendment to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, which extended specific legal protection to Vande Mataram. According to the government's explanation of the amendment, the law penalizes intentionally preventing the singing of the National Song or causing disturbance to an assembly engaged in its singing. [KNT]

Secretary I&B Reviews Functioning of Media Units at Srinagar

Emphasises stronger digital outreach, audience engagement

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Chanchal Kumar, IAS, Thursday reviewed the functioning of various media units of the Ministry at Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) Srinagar. Representatives and officials of Doordarshan, Akashvani, Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) participated in the review meeting.

The Secretary reviewed the news and programme content of Akashvani and Doordarshan and the campaigns and outreach activities undertaken by PIB and CBC. He expressed satisfaction over the overall functioning of the media units.

Emphasising stronger digital outreach, the Secretary stressed on strength-



ening social media presence and audience engagement, particularly on Instagram, and called for creation of engaging, audience-friendly video content on digital platforms.

The media units were advised to undertake aggressive and sustained campaigning under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and strengthen Swachhata campaigns through news, programmes, social media and

outreach activities. The Secretary also stressed better coordination and synchronisation among all media units for effective dissemination and greater public outreach.

The meeting was attended by heads and senior officials of Doordarshan, Akashvani, PIB and CBC Srinagar, besides other officers and employees associated with the media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Man dies after falling from walnut tree in Kulgam

AGENCIES

KULGAM: A 46-year-old man died after falling from a walnut tree while plucking walnuts in the Jaibal Lammara area of Kulgam district, officials said.

An official said that the man sustained serious injuries in the fall and was shifted to a hospital for treatment, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

The deceased was identified as Mukhtar Ahmad Najar (46), son of Ghulam Nabi Najar, a resident of Jaibal Lammara.

Meanwhile, an inquiry has been initiated and an investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

16 sheep killed, 17 injured in leopard attack in Budgam

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: Sixteen sheep were killed and 17 others injured after a leopard attacked a flock in the Chadoora area of Budgam district during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Chopan, owner of the flock, said that he believed a leopard had attacked his sheep, though the animal's identity is yet to be confirmed.

He said the animal entered the livestock enclosure in Badipora village of Chadoora during the night and attacked the flock. "We depend on livestock for our livelihood, and the incident has caused significant financial losses for us," he said.

Chopan appealed to the government and concerned departments to provide immediate assistance and compensation for the loss of livestock. —(KNO)

Usha Uthup's power-packed performance closes IFFJK 2026 in style

Veteran singer enthralled audience, interacts with crowd

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Vetran singer Usha Uthup enthralled the audience with her power-packed performance at the closing ceremony of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) in Srinagar on Thursday, bringing the four-day festival to a rocking and memorable close.

Uthup, known for her distinctive and deep singing voice and her work across pop, jazz and playback music, captivated the audience with her energetic performance, while her interaction with the crowd from the stage added to the excitement of the evening.

Uthup's performance emerged as one of the major highlights of the



closing ceremony, with the audience responding enthusiastically as she took the stage and added a vibrant musical finale to the inaugural edition of IFFJK.

Her energetic stage presence, distinctive voice and interaction with the audience kept the closing

ceremony lively, with filmmakers, artists, delegates, young filmmakers and cinema lovers joining in the celebrations.

Usha's performance turned the concluding evening into a celebration of music and cinema, with the singer engaging directly with the crowd from the

stage and receiving loud applause throughout her appearance.

She further provided a fitting finale to an event that brought together the film fraternity, young talent and cinema lovers from Jammu and Kashmir, India and abroad.

The first edition of IFFJK brought together filmmakers, artists and cinema enthusiasts from India and abroad, with 120 films from over 30 countries screened during the four-day festival.

With music, cinema and enthusiastic audience participation coming together on the final evening, the inaugural IFFJK signed off on a celebratory note, setting the stage for a larger and more vibrant festival in the years ahead—(KNO)

Comm SMC Launches Online Waste Bin Booking Service for Srinagar City

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, along with Joint Commissioner SMC, Suhail Ul Izzam, Thursday launched the Online Waste Bin Booking Service, a digital facility aimed at making the process of requesting waste bins simpler, faster and more accessible for citizens.

The service enables residents to submit their requests online without physically visiting SMC offices. The initiative is part of SMC's efforts to expand digital services and make civic service delivery more transparent, efficient and citizen-friendly. The system will also help the Corporation maintain a structured digital record of requests, monitor their status and facilitate better deployment of resources and field staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner said the initiative reflects SMC's commitment to citizen-centric governance and technology-driven service delivery.

"Our focus is to bring municipal services closer



to citizens through technology. The Online Waste Bin Booking Service is a simple yet significant step towards ensuring that residents can access essential civic services conveniently, while SMC is able to respond to their requirements in a more efficient, transparent and accountable manner."

Citizens can submit their waste bin requirements along with necessary details, including their location and contact information, through the official SMC website: smc-srinagar.jk.gov.in

The Commissioner directed the concerned officers and field functionaries to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the service. He also stressed the need for wider public awareness so that residents can make full use of the digital facility.

13 of 14 ventilators at GMC Baramulla non-functional for 9 months: RTI

JAHANGEER GANAIE

BARAMULLA: Thirteen of the 14 ventilators available in the Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla have remained non-functional for the past nine months, an RTI response has revealed.

The information was furnished in response to an RTI application filed by Inam Un Nabi Soudagar, seeking details about the availability, procurement and functioning of ventilators at the medical college.

According to the response, only one of the 14 ventilators is currently functional, while 13 are out of service due to the non-availability of consumables and pending replacement of certain components.

The hospital stated that

five Hamilton C1 ventilators were procured in 2020, five Evolution 3e ventilators in 2021 and four ventilators under a Central Government scheme through NHM in 2022.

The RTI response further revealed that no expenditure had been incurred on repair and maintenance of ventilators since January 2020. It also stated that none of the machines had been declared condemned or beyond repair.

An official from GMC Baramulla said that repair work has been ordered and the hospital is awaiting some spare parts from outside.

"Some spare parts are required from outside and have been ordered. Once these are received, the non-functional ventilators will be made operational at the earliest," the official said—(KNO)

TASK Welcomes Centre's Extension of LTC Facility for J&K Visits

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Travel Agents Society of Kashmir (TASK) on Thursday welcomed the Centre's decision to extend the special Leave Travel Concession (LTC) facility for Central Government employees visiting Jammu and Kashmir by another two years.

TASK President Waseem Gosani said the extension would encourage more Central Government employees and their families to visit Jammu and Kashmir and provide a boost to the tourism and travel sectors.

"We welcome the Centre's decision to extend the LTC facility for Jammu and Kashmir till September 25, 2028. This will provide Central Government employees an added opportunity to visit J&K and give further impetus to tourism, travel and allied sectors," Gosani said.

He said the decision would benefit travel agents, hoteliers, transporters and other stakeholders associated with the tourism industry.

Gosani expressed hope that the extension would encourage more visitors to choose Jammu and Kashmir as a travel destination and contribute to the growth of the region's tourism economy.

The Centre, through the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), has extended the special LTC facility for visits to Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, the North-Eastern Region and Andaman and Nicobar Islands until September 25, 2028.

Under the scheme, eligible Central Government employees can convert one Home Town LTC into an LTC for visiting the covered regions, subject to the prescribed rules and conditions. [KNT]

ACB arrests ASI for accepting Rs 5,000 bribe in Reasi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) for allegedly demanding and accepting a Rs 5,000 bribe at Police Post Talwara in Reasi district, officials said.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said that the ACB had trapped and arrested ASI Talib Hussain, posted at Police Post Talwara, in a bribery case.

He said a case under FIR No. 08/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was registered against the accused public servant at ACB Police Station, Udhampur. ASI Hussain, acting as the Investigating Officer (IO), had allegedly demanded illegal gratification from a complainant in exchange for presenting a charge sheet (challan) against the accused persons before a court of law.

The spokesperson said

the complainant, unwilling to pay the bribe, approached the ACB seeking legal action. Upon receiving the complaint, the Bureau conducted a discreet verification, which corroborated the officer's demand for a bribe. Subsequently, a specialised trap team led by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP)-rank officer was constituted.

He said that during the operation, the ACB team caught ASI Talib Hussain red-handed while allegedly demanding and accepting Rs 5,000 from the complainant. The arrest was made on the spot in accordance with due legal process, while the bribe money was recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses.

"Further investigation into the case is currently ongoing. This incident marks the second successful trap operation laid by the ACB at Police Post Talwara, District Reasi, in 2026," the spokesperson said.

DAY 2: MHM employees continue strike across J&K; seek pay parity, job security

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The 72-hour strike by National Health Mission (NHM) employees continued across Jammu and Kashmir for the second consecutive day on Thursday, with employees staging protests at district, block and field-level health establishments over their long-pending demands, including pay parity, job security and social protection.

According to the details available, the strike, called by the UT-level Joint Coordination Committee of NHM

employees, has brought together workers associated with various NHM programmes, including the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. Reports from different parts of the Union Territory indicated participation of employees at multiple health institutions and administrative units.

The employees are seeking revision of their remuneration on the lines of NHM workers in

other states, besides a comprehensive policy for job security and protection of their long-term service interests.

They are also demanding implementation of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), insurance coverage and post-retirement financial support, maintaining that years of service under NHM have not been accompanied by adequate employment and social security benefits.

A protesting employee said NHM workers have continued

to shoulder a significant part of the public healthcare system, particularly during emergencies and health campaigns, but remain uncertain about their future.

"We have remained on the frontline of healthcare delivery for years, but our wages, employment status and future security continue to remain uncertain. We want a policy-based solution rather than repeated assurances," the employee said.

Another employee said the agitation was not merely about

seeking an increase in salary but about securing basic service and social-security rights.

"Many of us have given years of our lives to the Health Department. We are demanding a fair remuneration structure, job security and benefits that can provide some financial protection to our families," the employee said.

The Joint Coordination Committee has announced the 72-hour strike after its September 5 meeting, following the expiry of an ultimatum to the government without what the

employees termed a concrete or satisfactory response.

The employees maintained that the present agitation was preceded by repeated representations, meetings and assurances, but said these efforts had failed to result in a comprehensive policy addressing their concerns.

NHM employees had also held a 48-hour strike earlier this year over similar demands.

The latest agitation, they said, was undertaken only after other avenues of dialogue failed to produce a concrete resolution.

The employees have appealed to the administration to initiate meaningful negotiations and resolve their demands through a time-bound mechanism.

"We do not want confrontation with the government. We want a written and sustainable solution to the issues that have remained pending for years. If our concerns are addressed seriously, there will be no reason to continue the agitation," another protesting employee said—(KNO)