

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

Office of Chief Minister, J&K
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The inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) wrapped up after four remarkable days, marking a new chapter for Jammu & Kashmir. With floating cinema screenings, the event brought timeless classics back to Dal Lake while showcasing diverse international films, alongside new releases featuring high profile Bollywood actors.

GMK

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Govt Considering
Phased Regularisation
Of Daily Wagers: Dy CM



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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is considering a phased approach to regularising daily wagers and workers engaged across various departments, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said on Friday.

Speaking on the sidelines of Kashmir Expo 2026, Choudhary, said the demands of daily wagers were genuine and legitimate, but urged them to remain patient and not allow the issue to be politicised.

He said regularisation of daily wagers is a commitment made by the National Conference in its manifesto, while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had also assured the Legislative Assembly that the matter would be addressed. "Daily wagers are engaged across departments. They have the right to be regularised and deserve equal rights," Choudhary said.

The Deputy Chief Minister

ter said a committee headed by the Chief Secretary was examining the matter and that the government was working towards a phased solution for regularisation.

He also appealed to the workers not to go on strike, saying they were an important part of the government machinery and assuring them that their genuine demands would be addressed.

On Kashmir Expo 2026, Choudhary appreciated the efforts of artisans, officers and various departments in preserving Jammu and Kashmir's traditional heritage and promoting hand-made products.

He urged people to purchase traditional products, particularly Kashmiri shawls, saying they were no less valuable than branded goods and that supporting local artisans would encourage them to preserve the region's rich heritage.

On Vande Mataram, Choudhary said the

PM Modi Holds Bilateral Talks
With Russian President Putin

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met Russian President Vladimir Putin for wide-ranging talks that are likely to focus on enhancing annual bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030 and further strengthening cooperation in defence, energy and critical minerals.

Putin landed in New Delhi this morning on a three-day visit to participate in the BRICS summit.

The two leaders are also expected to delve into expanding the already strong defence cooperation.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday said both sides are also exploring BrahMos missile upgrades, and that Moscow remains committed to fulfilling its remaining S-400 system deliveries and discussing the proposed supply of Su-57 fighter jets.

The Russian official said the energy ties between the two countries remained robust and



that both sides are looking at holding negotiations for India's plan to set up new civil nuclear reactors.

Modi and Putin previously met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek last week, where the prime minister called

for an immediate end to the conflict and urged the Russian leader to shift from an "endless war towards the end of war".

The Ukraine conflict and roadmap to peace are expected to feature prominently in their upcoming talks.

There have been renewed efforts, including by the Trump administration in the last few days, to find a way to resolve the conflict.

Ahead of the Modi-Putin talks, sources said the two sides will also focus on

18th BRICS
Summit To Begin
Today In New Delhi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The 18th BRICS Summit will begin at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi today, with the national capital putting

its finishing touches in place for the grand event. The two day Summit will bring together eleven major emerging and developing

economies, including Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, India, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the UAE. The theme of

Northern Command
Committed To Maintaining
Peace: Lt Gen Sharma



UMAISAR GULL

PAHALGAM: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on Friday said the Army will continue to remain committed to nation-building while ensuring peace and tranquillity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a function at Army Goodwill School (AGS), here in South Kashmir, Lt Gen Sharma, said, "As we march towards Viksit Bharat, Northern Command

will continue to remain committed to nation-building while ensuring peace and tranquillity."

"Our commitment is towards the people of J&K. Your peace is our purpose, your aspirations are our missions, and your success is our pride," he said.

The Army Commander also lauded students for their achievements and credited their success to the guidance of parents and quality education provided by teachers.

He said AGS Wuzur secured third

Artisan's IFFJK Show Creates Buzz,
Capture Attention Of Tourists, Locals

Srinagar's SK Park Hosts Soulful Kashmir, Mesmerise Visitors

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Riding high on the success of its acclaimed 'Know Your Artisan' series, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, successfully organised its September edition on the sidelines of J&K's 1st International Film Festival at SK Park, Srinagar.

Focused on showcasing Kashmir's high-value GI-tagged and languishing crafts, the Department presented a vibrant blend of art, craft and heritage, drawing an overwhelming response from tourists, art aficionados, students and the general public.

In a press statement today, a spokesperson of the department stated that as many as 26 stalls were installed showcasing unique handcrafted creations, visitors to interact directly with



master artisans, explore authentic crafts and providing artisans a platform for direct marketing.

The School of Designs, Kashmir, facilitated LIVE craft demonstrations, while a dedicated 'Try Corner' offered hands-on experience in pottery, papier-mâché and needlework. Live music, organised in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages,

further enhanced the heritage ambience.

Students from various schools and colleges participated enthusiastically, mesmerised by the quality and intricate craftsmanship. They interacted with artisans, witnessed demonstrations and tried their hand at craft-making, gaining first-hand exposure to the skill and precision involved.

CS Reviews Framework For UT-Level
Project Monitoring Group

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir is set to establish a dedicated Project Monitoring Group (JK-PMG) on the lines of the National Project Monitoring Group (PMG) to ensure high-level monitoring of mega developmental projects and facilitate smooth, coordinated resolution of bottlenecks affecting their execution.

The institutional framework for replicating the national mechanism in the UT was presented before Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo, by representatives of the National PMG. The proposed system is aimed at strengthening project oversight, improving inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely intervention in matters involving land acquisition, statutory clearances, construction approvals and other implementation-related issues.

While speaking the Chief



Secretary maintained that we should leverage technology to move from periodic status reporting to real-time, milestone-based project monitoring. He exuded hope that this comprehensive digital platform will enable us to track progress, identify critical gaps and take informed decisions based on reliable data.

He further observed that a clearly defined escalation framework will ensure that issues are addressed at the level where they can be resolved, while matters requiring higher-

7- Years After Cross-Loc Trade Closure,
Salamabad Centre Set For Tourism Makeover

'Trade Facilitation Centre Can Drive Border Tourism; LoC Sightseeing, Amenities, Local Jobs'

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Seven years after the Centre suspended cross-LoC trade through Salamabad in Uri, the Trade Facilitation Centre is set to get a new role, with the Tourism Department planning to utilise the facility for promoting border tourism in North Kashmir.

According to the details available, the department has received the green signal to take over the Trade Facilitation Centre, along with the assets and facilities available there, for tourism-related activities and promotion of border tourism.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajjad said that the proposal has been



approved and said the move reflects the government's focus on reviving tourism in Kashmir, particularly in border areas.

He said the department will focus on developing facilities and amenities for tourists and coordinate with other agencies to ensure hassle-free movement of visitors

and facilitate LoC sightseeing.

The department will also assess the existing infrastructure and decide how the asset can be put to optimum use, the director said, adding that the plan is expected to create employment opportunities for local youth and support tourism-related economic activity in the LoC villages.

Pak Intruder Along
International
Border In Kathua



AGENCIES

JAMMU: A Pakistani intruder was arrested by security forces in a forward area along the International Border in Kathua district on Friday, officials said.

They said the intruder was caught near the fencing in the Bobiya area of Hiranagar sector.

According to reliable sources, the arrested person is a Pakistani national aged around 60-65 years.

Sources said the intruder was taken into custody for questioning, while further details regarding his identity, circumstances of border crossing and the purpose of his presence in the area are awaited.

NC-Led Govt Unlikely To
Go For Cabinet Reshuffle
For Now: Sources



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The National Conference-led government is unlikely to go for an expansion-cum-reshuffle in the council of ministers for the time being, sources said.

Sources said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would not immediately effect the expansion in his cabinet.

"There are no chances of cabinet expansion this month. The exercise will not be taken up given that the autumn session of the J&K Assembly is now just 10 days

away," they said.

The autumn session will begin on September 21 and conclude on September 30.

According to sources, there is a possibility that the expansion in the council of ministers could take place around the second anniversary of the NC-led government.

The government will complete two years in office on October 16.

It was widely expected that Omar Abdullah would effect a reshuffle-cum-expansion immediately after August 15.

He is also

DC Srinagar reviews for Urs at Ziyarat Dastgeer Sahib, Sarai Bala

Stresses seamless arrangements to facilitate devotees, smooth observance of Urs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Friday visited Ziyarat Dastgeer Sahib at Sarai Bala, Amirakadal to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth conduct of the annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jee-lani (RA).

The DC was accompa-nied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Suhail Ul Islam, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineer R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer KPDCL, Tas-saduq Nabi, Executive Engineer Water Works, Aijaz Rafiq, DySP Traf-fic, Mehboob Ul Haq, District Health Officer, Dr Rubeena, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, besides senior officers from SMC, Fire & Emergency Services, Police, UEED and other line departments.

During the visit, the DC took onsite review of the arrangements pertaining to drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, traffic and parking man-agement, street lighting and medical facilities. He directed all concerned Departments to ensure close coordination for the safe, peaceful and hassle-free observance of the Urs.

Interacting with mem-bers of the Shrine Man-agement Committee, the DC sought their sugges-tions regarding facilities and arrangements for devotees expected to partic-ipate in large numbers during the Urs.

While chairing a meet-ing with Officers at the Shrine, the DC stressed the need for all line Departments and stake-holders to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to facilitate dev-otees visiting the Ziyarat during the Urs days.

The DC emphasized uninterrupted power and water supply at the Shrine, besides ensuring proper sanitation and cleanliness around the venue. He also directed the concerned agencies to put adequate fire-fighting arrangements in place, particularly during the Urs days.

Regarding medical facilities, the Depart-ment of Health was asked to establish a First Aid-cum-Medical Camp at the Shrine to provide immediate medical aid to devotees.

The DC also asked for ensuring proper func-tioning of street lights and smooth regulation of traffic movement in the area during auspicious days of Urs.

JKRERA Portal gets GIS Project Tracker, Unregistered Projects Report features

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a major move to boost transparency and protect the homebuyers, the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) has upgraded its official web portal with two new citizen-centric features: an interactive GIS mapping tool and an online facility to report unregis-tered projects.

These digital interven-

tions aim to give the public easy access to verified property data while active-ly curbing unauthorized real estate developments across the Union Territory.

The newly integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tool allows the general public to visually locate the real estate developments. Through this interactive map, citizens can easily check the real-time status

of projects, including the details of all developments currently registered with JKRERA, as well as those whose applications are under process. To access the map, users simply need to visit the official JKRERA homepage and click on the “View on the Map” option.

In tandem with this, to eliminate unauthor-ized layouts and illegal real estate constructions, JKRERA has introduced

a "Report Unregistered Project" feature. This tool empowers the public to lodge direct complaints against any unregistered real estate project being developed in their vicinity.

The citizens can file a complaint by navigating to the JKRERA home-page and clicking on the "Report Unregistered Project" option located in the top menu bar. To initiate regulatory action, the com-

plainant is required to fill in the project details and upload photographs of the site as evidence.

The Authority has urged the citizens to uti-lize these digital tools to verify project credentials before investing their hard-earned money. It also impressed upon them to actively report violations to ensure a transparent, secure real estate sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

Budgam admin starts trainings on eye screening of school children

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The District Administration Budgam Friday started the training programmes for school-level screening facilitators as part of the district-wide Children’s Eye Health Pro-gramme in partnership with Health Department, Education and Nayonika Eye care.

The programme aims to equip screening facilitators with the necessary skills to conduct preliminary eye screening of students at the school level, enabling early identification and timely referral of children with vision-related problems. Under the program basic screening is being done in schools to identify kids with difficulties in eye sight. And then detailed tests and daignosis at Sub District Hos-pitals and District Hospital.

Speaking on the occa-sion, Deputy Commis-sioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, emphasised the crucial role of school-level screeners in early identification of health and learning-related dif-ficulties among children.

Asserting on screening



of all school children, the Deputy Commissioner said that the timely detection of vision problems can signif-icantly improve children’s participation in classroom learning and educational activities.

Launched in collabora-tion with Nayonika Eye Care Charitable Trust and Help Foundation J&K, the initiative envisages screen-ing around 1.67 lakh stu-dents across 917 schools in the district.

During the training, teachers were sensitised on the correct use of the Snellen Eye Chart, screening procedures, recording of observations and referral of students requiring further assess-

ment to Sub District and District Hospitals.

Students identified with suspected vision prob-lems will be referred to concerned District and Sub-District hospitals for rescreening and detailed examination. Those requiring spectacles will be provided eyeglasses free of cost, while cases requir-ing specialised or surgical treatment will be facil-itated at GMCs and other tertiary-care eye hospitals.

The programme was attended by ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal, CMO, CEO, ZEOs and School wise screening facilitators, and representatives from Nay-onika eye care and other collaborating organisations.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of development works in ULBs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Com-missioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Friday chaired a meeting with concerned officers to review the progress of ongoing development works in Municipal Coun-cil Kulgam and Municipal Committees of Devsar, Yaripora and Frisal.

The DC took a detailed stock of the physical and financial progress of vari-ous development works being executed in the Municipal Council and Municipal Committees of the district.The meeting also focused on assess-ing the present status of works, identifying issues and bottlenecks, and ensuring their timely completion.

The concerned officers presented updated status reports of ongoing and completed works includ-ing beautification & drain-

age works, development of vending zones, development of street parkings and green spaces in all municipal areas.The projects proposed under Finance Commission (FC) Grants, Integrated Development of Municipal Towns (IDMT), and other works were discussed in detail.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to closely moni-tor the pace and quality of work and ensure that all ongoing projects are com-pleted within the stipulat-ed timelines.

The meeting was attend-ed by Chief Planning Offi-cer, Malik Suheel, Execu-tive Engineer, PW (R&B) Division Kulgam, Javid Ahmad, along with con-cerned AEEs; Chief Exec-utive Officer of Munic-ipal Councils of Kulgam, Devsar, Yaripora and Frisal and other concerned officials.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Friday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Airforce line will be observed due to which power supply to Peerbagh, Cooperative Colony, Jeelanabad, Hyderpora, Nadru, PHQ, Airport, Sheikhpora, Friends Colony, Hum-hama Heights, Tawheed Bagh and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 01 PM on 14 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Batapora-Gagren Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Shopian Town, Gagren, Memandhar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 13 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Alasteng Nagbal line (Gadoora Tapline) will be observed due to which power supply to Fethapora, Gadoora, Tulbagh, Tulbagh, Shairpathri, Kachan and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 AM to 12 Noon on 14 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Saral Akhura Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Anchidora, Chee, Prakash-pora, Nambal, Akhura and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 12 September 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Lassipora-Reshipora line, 33 kV Lassipora-Keegam line and 33 kV Lassipora Bulditch (Pul-wama B) line will be observed due to which power supply to Zainapora, Chitragam, Awneera, Reban, Aglar, Suggan, Turkawa-ngam, Nagbal, Pakherpora, Hawal, Rajpora, Rahmoo, Keegam, Gulshanabad, Akhal, Chararipora, Hotline, Tengarh, Koil, Tengg-na, Pinglena, Gundipora, Gangoo, Aihal, Achan, Oudoora, Ahgam, Lassipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 13 & 20 September 2026.

Alyas Ahmad Naisroo assumes charge as CEO GDA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG: Alyas Ahmad Naisroo, Friday assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA).

On assuming charge, the newly appointed CEO interacted with officers and officials of the Authority and took an overview of the ongoing developmental works and various activities being under-taken by the GDA.

Alyas Ahmad Naisroo emphasized the need for coordinated efforts, efficient implementation of development projects and improved delivery of services to visitors and stakeholders. He also stressed maintaining the ecological and aesthetic character of Gulmarg while ensuring sustainable and planned development of the world-renowned tourist destination.

The CEO called upon all officers and officials to work with ded-ication and professionalism to further enhance infrastructure, facil-ities and visitor experience in Gulmarg.

Indu Chib reviews Water Conservation Plan, stresses coordinated action

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Friday chaired a meeting to review the Water Con-servation Plan and progress of related measures in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the status of water conservation initiatives and sought feedback from the concerned departments on measures being undertaken to conserve and efficiently manage water resources.

The DC stressed the need for close coordination among Jal Shakti, Agriculture, NHPC, Municipal Committees and other stake-holders to ensure effective implementation of the Water Con-servation Plan. She called for focused efforts at the field level and timely completion of planned interventions for sustainable water management.

Senior officers from Jal Shakti, Agriculture, NHPC, Municipal Committees, Planning department and other concerned depart-ments attended the meeting.

Rural Mart coming up at Pethkoot Bandipora

DC calls for local participation; Rural Mart to promote native food, crafts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: With an aim to promote the local livelihood by providing multiple facilities under one roof for the tourists visiting various tourism attraction places at Bandi-pora including Gurez, the District Administration Bandipora is setting up a one of its kind Rural Mart at a beautifully located Yaali Pethkoot area of the district.

The Rural Mart shall be a wonderful facility for the tourists, as well as locals which will provide a range of amenities, including food and refreshment facili-ties, washrooms, parking, seating and resting spaces under a single roof. Besides it shall give impetus to the local livelihood by creating a sustainable and eco-friendly economic opportunities for the residents.

In order to monitor and expedite the ongoing con-struction work on the Rural Mart for its timely comple-tion in next 45 days, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today visited the Mart site and took spot inspec-tion of the work progress.

Executive Engineer R&B, informed that the Rural Mart is being con-structed under the SSY at an approved cost of Rs 47 lakh. He informed that around 40 percent of the work has been completed so far and the project is



expected to be completed by October 2026.

On the occasion, the DC held an interaction with the locals of Yaali Pethkoot, and apprised them about the purpose and potential of the Rural Mart being established in their locality. She called for active participation of the local community esp women in making the ini-tiative successful.

The DC said the initia-tive is expected to provide an important platform for local artisans, entre-preneurs, food-preneurs, self-help groups and other community members to showcase and sell their articles directly to visitors, thereby creating avenues for income generation and employment in the sur-rounding villages.

With its beautiful strat-egic location on the route towards Gurez, and over-looking Wular, the facility is also being conceived as a

tourist attraction in its own right, encouraging visi-tors to spend time in the area while offering them a meaningful introduction to the region’s local products, hospitality and culture.

“The broader objec-tive is to create a model where tourism and local livelihoods grow together, ensuring that increased tourist movement trans-lates into tangible eco-nomic opportunities for the communities living around the destination,” the DC said.

She further informed that the business opera-tions of the Rural Mart will be run by locals on a rotational basis.

The DC said the women entrepreneurs will be pro-vided proper training for managing the business and day-to-day operations of the Rural Mart, enabling them to effectively run the facility and generate liveli-hood opportunities.

Model Youth Gram Sabha held at EMRS Salia

DC Anantnag highlights virtues of participatory local governance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Model Youth Gram Sabha was organized Friday at Eklavya Model Residen-tial School (EMRS), Salia, Anantnag, under the aegis of the National Education Society for Tribal Stu-dents (NESTS), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govern-ment of India.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, attended the program as the Chief Guest. Tehsildar Mattan, Principal EMRS Salia alongwith officials, staff, and students of the school attended the event.

At the outset, the Prin-cipal briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the functioning of the school, the facilities available, and various activities being undertaken for the wel-fare and development of the students. She stated that the school is on the right track to function as a premier institution for the education and overall development of students from the tribal community.

Addressing the gather-ing, the Deputy Commis-sioner appreciated the initiative and encouraged the students to work hard, remain focused on their



studies, and actively par-ticipate in other mean-ingful activities. He interact-ed with the students and urged them to acquaint themselves with various aspects of local governance so they can become agents of positive change in their community. He further advised them to enthusias-tically take part in games and sports besides pursu-ing innovative and creative ideas with full passion and confidence.

Dr. Bilal asked the school authorities to work with sincerity and dedica-tion for the welfare of the students. He assured them of the District Adminis-tration’s full support for the institution’s further growth and development.

Highlighting the role of the Gram Sabha as a vibrant democratic plat-form, the DC said these institutions provide people with adequate opportuni-ties to participate in the governance process at the grassroots level according

to their requirements and aspirations. He noted that during the proceedings, fruitful discussions are held where people pres-ent their ideas and plans regarding various projects and schemes. The same are then curated in a more practicable manner, often in tune with their require-ments and aspirations, he observed.

The program provided students with an oppor-tunity to participate in a simulated Gram Sabha and gain an understanding of grassroots democratic institutions, civic respon-sibilities, and local gover-nance. Students actively participated in discussions on various issues related to local self-governance, education, and community development.

On the occasion, a series of cultural items on multiple themes showcas-ing tribal traditions and way of life besides yoga sessions were presented by the students.

Forest Deptt observes Forest Martyrs Day at Shankaracharya Hills

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Forest Depart-ment Friday observed Forest Mar-tyrs Day at Shankaracharya Hills, Srinagar, paying solemn tribute to forest personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

The gathering was headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Sarvesh Rai, and was attended by senior officers of the Department, including the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; Conserva-



tor of Forests, Srinagar Circle; Joint Director, FPF Kashmir; Joint Director, Soil Conserva-tion, Kashmir; Divisional Forest

Officers (DFOs); Deputy Director, FPF Srinagar; Range Officers; and other field staff. The gather-ing was also attended by Nazir

Benazir, CAMPA NGO Member.

The PCCF, along with senior officers of the Department, paid floral tributes at the Martyrs Memorial in honour of the fallen.

Speaking on the occasion, the PCCF highlighted the challeng-ing conditions under which forest per-sonnel discharge their duties rang-ing from encounters with wild ani-mals to confrontations with timber smugglers. He paid rich tributes to the Forest Martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice in the perfor-mance of their duties, ensuring the ecological security of the Union

territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

As a mark of remembrance, the Department also planted conifer saplings under the banner "Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam" in honour of the Forest Martyrs at Balwan Srinagar.

A similar event was organized at Kashmir Forest Training School, Chitternarr Bandipora wherein the Principal of the Kashmir Forest Training School along with the concerned staff and trainees paid rich tribute to Forest Personnel who laid their lives in the line of duty.

NHM employees extend 72-hour strike for another 72 hours across J&K

Seek pay revision, job security, retirement benefits; cite 18 years of service

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees continued across Jammu and Kashmir for the third consecutive day on Friday, with the employees deciding to extend their ongoing 72-hour strike by another 72 hours from September 12, citing failure of the government to take concrete and time-bound action on their long-pending demands.

The decision was taken by the Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) UT-Level Coordination Committee, which said the extension was necessary as the issues raised by NHM employees had remained unresolved despite repeated representations, meetings and assurances from the authorities.

According to details obtained, employees associated with different NHM programmes and health services continued their peaceful protest at district, block and field-level establishments across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The protesting workforce includes employees working under various NHM programmes, including the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), who have been seeking a comprehensive policy address-



ing their remuneration, employment security and social-security concerns.

The Association said thousands of NHM employees have served the public healthcare system under contractual arrangements for nearly 18 years, often performing responsibilities comparable to those of regular employees, but without a clear and sustainable framework governing their long-term service conditions.

Among the major demands are revision and enhancement of salaries and remuneration, a comprehensive policy for job security, retirement benefits and social-security measures, besides resolution of other long-pending service-related issues through a transparent and time-bound mechanism.

The employees are also seeking a dignified and workable retirement bene-

fit or "Golden Handshake" policy for those who complete their service, along with welfare measures that can provide financial protection after retirement.

A protesting employee said the prolonged contractual nature of their employment had created uncertainty among thousands of workers despite their years of service.

"We have served the health sector for years and have performed our duties in hospitals, health centres and at the field level. Our demand is not only about salary enhancement; we want a clear policy that gives us job security, social protection and dignity after years of service," the employee said.

Another employee said NHM workers had repeatedly approached the government hoping for a permanent solution but were yet to see a concrete policy

decision.

"We have received assurances at different stages, but assurances alone cannot resolve the uncertainty faced by employees and their families. We want a written, time-bound and sustainable mechanism through which these issues are finally settled," the employee said.

The Association maintained that NHM employees have remained an important component of healthcare delivery in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly during public-health emergencies, disease-control programmes and other situations requiring sustained manpower at hospitals, health centres and field institutions.

The employees said their agitation should not be viewed as being against the healthcare system or the public, asserting that their objective was to secure a sustainable future for the workforce while ensuring that the government addresses their concerns through dialogue.

The UT-Level Coordination Committee said the latest agitation followed the expiry of an ultimatum issued to the government after its September 5 meeting. It maintained that the decision to extend the strike was taken only after repeated representations and dialogue failed to result in a concrete road-

Kashmir Expo connects artisans with wider markets: I&C Secy Vikramjit Singh

'J&K has secured 18 GI tags for handicraft products, 17 more under process'

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is working to connect its artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs with wider domestic and international markets through exhibitions, trade promotion programmes and product-authentication initiatives, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, said on Friday.

Speaking about the Kashmir Expo, Singh, said such events provide artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs a platform to showcase their products while interacting directly with potential customers and understanding changing market demands.

Singh said the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) has been organising various programmes to create market opportunities for artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs across



the Union Territory. "Our endeavour is to provide opportunities to artisans, self-help groups and entrepreneurs so that they can bring their products to exhibitions, showcase them to the public and market them," he said.

He said a 'Know Your Artisan' campaign was organised near Polo Ground last week, while a similar programme is currently being held in Kashmir. A programme will also be organised in Jammu from September 18, providing artisans, self-help groups

and startups from the Jammu region an opportunity to exhibit and sell their products.

Singh said such trade promotion programmes help artisans reach new customers and receive direct feedback on market requirements, enabling them to improve, redesign and innovate their products.

He said efforts were also being made to organise exhibitions within J&K as well as in other parts of the country, particularly at locations frequented by tourists and potential customers, to

give local artisans access to larger markets.

On protecting handmade products and ensuring their authenticity, Singh said the Handicrafts Department had introduced a QR-code mechanism and secured 18 Geographical Indication (GI) tags for handicraft and handmade products, while 17 more were under process. "These efforts are aimed at protecting the unique intellectual property of our products and giving customers confidence that the handmade product they are purchasing is genuine and meets the required standards," he said.

Singh said the capacity of testing laboratories had also been substantially enhanced, with the facilities now conducting more than 150 tests a day, compared to around 20 tests two years ago.

He said funds from the Government of India had been utilised to install machinery and deploy manpower to further strengthen the testing infrastructure.

Residents seek immediate OPD services at AIIMS Awantipora

Seek Union Health Minister's intervention as August deadline misses



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: With the promised deadline of August 2026 for commencement of Outpatient Department (OPD) services at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Awantipora having passed without the facility becoming operational, residents across Kashmir have urged the government to immediately start at least the OPD services and sought the intervention of the Union Health Minister in expediting the process.

Residents said that the repeated postponement of deadlines has caused widespread disappointment among people who had hoped that AIIMS Awantipora would provide advanced and affordable treatment within the region and reduce their dependence on hospitals outside Jammu and Kashmir.

They said the government had earlier stated that OPD services would commence by August 2026, while MBBS courses were expected to start from July this year. However, with the August deadline now over, there is growing concern over when patients will actually be able to access the institution.

Locals questioned the disparity in the pace of operationalisation of the two AIIMS projects sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir in 2019—one at Vijaypur in Jammu and the other at Awantipora in south Kashmir.

"Both projects were sanctioned at the same time, but AIIMS Jammu has been functioning for the last two years, while people in Kashmir are still waiting even for basic OPD services at AIIMS Awantipora. We want to know why Kashmir is being subjected to such stepmotherly treatment," residents said.

They said the issue should not be viewed merely as a matter of infrastructure but as a question of access to specialised healthcare for millions of people living in Kashmir.

"For a patient from Kashmir suffering from cancer, heart disease, neurological disorders or other serious illnesses, travelling outside J&K is not an easy option. It involves huge expenditure on transportation, accommodation and treatment and puts an additional burden on already distressed families," they said.

Residents urged the government to start OPD services in the portions of the institute that are ready instead of waiting indefinitely for every component to be completed.

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School Edu Dept bans early exit on monthly last working day

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department has banned schools from letting students leave early without permission on the last working day of every month.

Directorate of School Education Kashmir in a circular said that it has observed during visits to various schools in North Kashmir including Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara that in some educational institutions an unauthorized practice of dispersing students before the prescribed closing time on the last working day of every month is being followed.

DSEK said that the practice of observing an unauthorized 'half-day' on the last day of every month is strictly prohibited.

"The last working day of the month is a regular working day and the prescribed school timings shall be adhered to in letter and spirit," reads the circular.

It also said, "No Head of Institution or member of the staff shall curtail the instructional/working hours or disperse students before the prescribed closing time merely on the ground that it is the last day of the month."

The directorate further said that such practices result in loss of valuable instructional time, adversely affect the academic interests of students and reflect a serious lapse in the proper discharge of official duties.

"It has also been observed that during such curtailed hours, students may be left without

meaningful academic engagement while staff may indulge in activities not connected with their assigned duties," DSEK said.

DSEK directed all Chief Education Officers, Zonal Education Officers and Heads of Institutions of North Kashmir viz. Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara to ensure that the practice is stopped forthwith and that schools function strictly as per the prescribed timings on the last working day of every



month as well as on all other working days.

"The Heads of Institutions shall remain personally responsible for ensuring the proper attendance of staff and students, effective utilization of instructional time and adherence to the prescribed school timings," reads the circular.

It also said that any instance of unauthorized early dispersal of students or deliberate curtailment of school hours shall be viewed seriously.

"Any official found involved in, facilitating or permitting such unauthorized practice shall be liable for strict administrative/disciplinary action under the applicable rules, besides any other action warranted under the circumstances," DSEK said—(KNO)

Surinder Choudhary inaugurates Kashmir Expo 2026 at Zabarwan Park

3 day showcase celebrates J&K's craft, culture, cuisine, entrepreneurial talent

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) under the aegis of the Department of Industries & Commerce, organized three day Kashmir Expo, 2026 being held from 11th to 13th September 2026 under the theme "Celebration of Craft, Culture & Cuisine – Showcasing Rich Kashmir's Heritage by Empowering Golden Hands & Talent." The expo was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary today at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard Road here.

The Expo is being attended by the artisans, craftsmen, weavers, entrepreneurs, businesses and other stakeholders. The event will provide a platform to showcase the distinctive products, craftsmanship and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that Kashmir Expo 2026 is an important initiative to provide greater visibility and market access to the region's arti-

sans, entrepreneurs and local enterprises. "Kashmir Expo 2026 celebrates the exceptional craftsmanship, cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit of Jammu and Kashmir. The Expo is aimed at connecting our local talent and products with wider markets while creating meaningful opportunities for artisans, entrepreneurs and businesses to grow and thrive," he added.

Surinder Choudhary said that the event features a diverse showcase of handicrafts, handloom products, traditional crafts, local produce, cuisine and contemporary products, highlighting the creativity and enterprise of the region. He said the Expo also provides an avenue for the participating businesses and artisans to gain wider market exposure, interact with visitors and explore new business and market opportunities.

Pertinently, JKTPO has been working towards pro-

moting trade, commerce, investment and exports from Jammu & Kashmir by facilitating market linkages and providing platforms for local enterprises to connect with the buyers and business stakeholders. The Organization also serves as the nodal agency for ODOP promotion, trade fairs and exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, district export promotion initiatives and digital market linkages.

The Kashmir Expo 2026 is part of these continued efforts to strengthen the market access, promote local products, empower artisans and entrepreneurs and showcase the rich economic and cultural potential of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Expo will continue till 13th September 2026 at Zabarwan Park, Boulevard Road, Srinagar, and is open to visitors, offering an opportunity to experience the region's distinctive craft, culture and cuisine under one platform.

ACB arrests Patwari for accepting bribe in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested a Patwari after allegedly catching him red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a complainant for issuance of a Fard (revenue extract) in Budgam district.

The accused public servant has been identified as Bashir Ahmad Dar, Patwari Halqa Gund Ali Nayak, Waterrehal, Tehsil Khanshab, Budgam.

According to the ACB, it received a written complaint alleging that the Patwari had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for issuing the Fard. The complainant, a resident of Gund Ali Nayak, Waterrehal, had applied online for issuance of the revenue extract on July 21, 2026, on behalf of his grandfather, who was stated to be old-aged and unable to pursue the matter himself.

The ACB said that after submitting the application, the complainant approached the concerned Patwari to enquire about its status. The Patwari allegedly initially told him that the Revenue Department's online portal was not functioning and asked him to return later.

According to the complaint, the complainant subsequently visited the Patwari Khana several times, but the matter was allegedly delayed on different grounds. The Patwari eventually allegedly demanded Rs 12,000 for issuance of the Fard, which was later negotiated and settled at Rs 10,000.

Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the ACB and lodged a written complaint.

The ACB said it conducted verification of the allegations, which prima facie established the demand for illegal gratification. Subsequently, Case FIR No. 14/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

A trap team was constituted and trap proceedings were conducted. During the operation, the accused Patwari was allegedly caught red-handed while demanding and accepting Rs 10,000 from the complainant.

The bribe amount was recovered from the possession of the accused in the presence of independent witnesses, following which he was taken into custody in accordance with law.

Salaries of 10 Gurez doctors withheld over absence

SDM issues notices, says alleged absence caused inconvenience to patients

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: Ten doctors posted in Gurez have been issued notices by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Gurez, over alleged unauthorised absence from duty and dereliction of duty, an official order said.

The notices were issued following a surprise inspection conducted on September 10 by the MLA from Gurez along with the SDM, during

which the officials were allegedly found absent from duty.

It had also been reported that the doctors were "habitual" in remaining absent from their duties, the order states. The SDM said the alleged absence had caused inconvenience to patients and adversely affected patient care.

The doctors, including a consultant and medical officers, have been directed to submit written explanations within two days explaining why disciplinary action under the relevant service rules should not be initiated against them.

The order has been marked to the Deputy Com-

missioner, Bandipora, Chief Medical Officer, Bandipora, Block Medical Officer, Gurez, and Treasury Officer, Gurez.

The Block Medical Officer (BMO) Gurez has also been directed not to prepare salary bills of the officials until further orders, while the Treasury Officer has been asked not to entertain their salary bills during the period.

The notices have been issued in the names of Dr Ab Hameed (Consultant), Dr Syed Tufail (Consultant), and medical officers Dr Saleem Javid, Dr Bilal Ahmad, Dr Hilal Ahmad, Dr Amin Jagu, Dr Imtiyaz, Dr Farooq, Dr Lateef and Dr Tufail—(KNO)

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

When The Market Runs Ahead Of The Watchdogs

For an ordinary household in Jammu and Kashmir, inflation is not a statistic printed in a government report. It is the shrinking grocery bag at the end of the month. Milk at an average retail price of 62.67 per litre, sugar at 63.33 per kilogram, moong dal at 121.33 and masoor dal at 104.33 may appear as mere numbers in an official price table. For a family already struggling to balance food, electricity, education, healthcare and transport expenses, however, these numbers translate directly into a harder and more expensive life.

What makes the situation more troubling is that J&K is not without a price-monitoring system. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics claims to collect retail prices of essential commodities from selected markets and shops across all 20 districts. The data is analysed to identify fluctuations and regulate supplies, while daily prices of 22 essential commodities are reportedly shared with the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

The obvious question is: if the government knows what commodities cost, why do consumers continue to feel helpless in the marketplace? Price monitoring cannot become an exercise in collecting figures and forwarding reports. The real test of a monitoring mechanism is whether it protects the consumer standing before a shop counter.

The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has a clear responsibility to monitor both the prices and availability of essential commodities. Its enforcement machinery, including Legal Metrology authorities, is empowered to check packaged commodities, weights, measures and pricing. Yet consumers frequently complain that the market operates with a confidence that suggests enforcement is either inadequate, irregular or simply too distant from their daily reality. There is a fundamental difference between monitoring a market and controlling violations in a market.

A department may know the prevailing price of a commodity. But if a consumer is charged more than the permissible or prevailing rate, the existence of a database offers little comfort unless there is immediate enforcement. A price list pinned to an office wall cannot protect a family at the cash counter. The government must therefore move beyond statistics and paperwork. Price surveillance needs to be visible, frequent and district-specific. Surprise inspections should not be ceremonial exercises conducted only when complaints become politically inconvenient. Violators must face penalties that actually deter profiteering, while repeat offenders should invite progressively stronger action.

There is also a need for greater transparency. Consumers should know the officially monitored prices of essential commodities and have an easy mechanism to report overcharging, under-weight supplies, manipulated packaging or artificial shortages. Complaints should not disappear into departmental files; their disposal should be measurable and publicly accountable.

The issue is particularly serious in a geographically challenging region like J&K, where transportation costs, seasonal disruptions and supply-chain constraints can legitimately influence prices. But legitimate cost pressures must not become a permanent excuse for arbitrary pricing. The administration cannot control every rupee spent by a household. It can, however, ensure that the consumer is not cheated in the name of market conditions. The kitchen is ultimately where government policy meets the common citizen. If milk, pulses, sugar and other necessities steadily become more expensive while enforcement remains invisible, then the credibility of the entire price-monitoring mechanism comes under question.

J&K does not need more price data alone. It needs price justice. The government already has the machinery. What is missing is the urgency to make that machinery work where it matters most, in the marketplace, before the consumer is forced to pay the price.

Beyond Headlines

Development, Dignity And The Politics Of Lived Experience



MOHD AMIN MIR

In the villages, politics is rarely discussed only in the language of Parliament, elections or television studios. It is measured in more immediate ways: whether a family has a house, whether a road has reached a previously neglected settlement, whether a poor household can access a bank account, whether a farmer receives support, whether a young person can imagine a better future. That is how many people in my village and the adjoining areas speak about Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

They may not follow every political debate in New Delhi. They may not know the details of every government programme. But they know the name Narendra Modi, and they associate it with a period of ambitious government schemes, expanding infrastructure and an increasingly digital relationship between citizens and the state.

For these villagers, the Prime Minister is not simply a distant political figure whose speeches appear on television. He has become a familiar presence in the political imagination of ordinary households.

The success of any government ultimately depends on whether its policies travel beyond official documents and reach ordinary people. This is particularly important in rural India. A policy announced in the capital acquires meaning only when a family in a village can actually experience its benefit. For many people, schemes connected with housing, sanitation, financial inclusion, cooking gas, electricity, roads, digital services, health care and welfare have changed the way they think about the relationship between government and citizen.

The transformation is not necessarily dramatic every day. Often it is gradual. A new road here. A bank account there. A government benefit transferred directly. A toilet constructed. A household receiving assistance. A digital service replacing a journey to an office. Individually, these developments may appear modest. Collectively, they can alter the character of rural life. That is why the name of the Prime Minister travels easily through villages.

Supporters of Mr. Modi often describe his leadership as unusually ambitious. His political appeal has extended beyond the traditional language of welfare and development to a broader vision of India as a confident, technologically capable and



globally influential country. In my village, as in many other parts of the country, people talk about this confidence. They see India appearing more prominently on the international stage. They hear about new infrastructure, digital technology, space achievements, highways, railways and efforts to expand India's economic and strategic influence.

For ordinary citizens, these developments can produce something that is difficult to measure statistically: a sense of national confidence. A villager may never attend an international summit, but he or she can still feel proud when India is discussed prominently around the world. This is one reason Mr. Modi's political image has become larger than individual government schemes.

Perhaps the most important change is the language with which people increasingly describe India's future. Previous generations often spoke primarily about survival, employment, food security and basic necessities. Those concerns remain important. But alongside them has emerged another vocabulary: opportunity, technology, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, global recognition and national ambition. Mr. Modi has consistently presented India through this language of

aspiration.

Whether one agrees with every aspect of his politics or not, it is difficult to deny the scale of the political narrative he has created around India's future.

For his admirers, this is precisely what distinguishes him from many other leaders. They see a leader who thinks not only about today's problems but about what India could become decades from now.

There is an important lesson here about political leadership. Leaders are remembered not only through history books. They are remembered through ordinary conversations. A mother remembers the government scheme that helped her family. A farmer remembers the assistance that reached his account. A young person remembers a new road, a digital service or an opportunity that did not exist before. An elderly villager remembers how difficult it once was to obtain a basic government service.

These memories eventually become political history. That is why the admiration expressed for Mr. Modi in villages deserves to be understood in its own context. It is not merely the result of political speeches or publicity. For many supporters, it is connected with what they believe they have seen happening around them.

People in my village often speak of

Narendra Modi as one of the world's foremost leaders. Some go further, describing him as the number-one leader in the world.

Such judgments are inevitably subjective. There is no universally accepted measurement that can rank the leaders of every country. But the sentiment itself is significant. It reflects the extent to which India's Prime Minister has become associated, among his supporters, with a larger national project. His admirers see his vision as extending beyond India's immediate challenges. They see him as attempting to position India as a major global power while simultaneously addressing the everyday needs of its citizens.

That combination, national ambition alongside welfare and development, is central to his appeal. Yet history will judge every government by more than popularity.

The lasting test of leadership will be whether development becomes broad-based, whether institutions become stronger, whether opportunities reach young Indians, whether rural communities prosper, whether public services improve and whether economic growth translates into dignity and security for ordinary families.

For a leader who has made such ambitious promises and set such a large national vision, the expectations are correspondingly high. That may ultimately be the greatest challenge, and the greatest opportunity, of the Modi era. Standing in an Indian village, the world's geopolitical debates can sometimes feel very distant.

Yet the villagers are not disconnected from them. They watch India's rise. They discuss government schemes. They observe new infrastructure. They use smartphones and digital services. They talk about India's place in the world. And, inevitably, they talk about the man who has led the country through much of this transformation.

Narendra Modi's supporters see him as a leader whose vision is ahead of his time. Whether history ultimately reaches that same conclusion will be decided by years, perhaps decades, of evidence. But there is already another kind of history being written, in villages, towns and cities, through the memories of ordinary citizens. In my village, the Prime Minister is remembered not merely as a name from Delhi. He is remembered as the leader whom many people believe gave India's development story a new ambition, and gave ordinary citizens a stronger sense that their village, too, belongs to the larger story of India's future. Jia Hind Jia Bharat

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Imagining Socialist AI



BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK

The lineages of AI, from the Turing Test to OpenAI's GPT-5, Anthropic's Opus 4.6, Microsoft's MAI-1 (Thinking 1), Alibaba's Qwen, and Google's Gemma, are flooding the new frontiers of AI development with multi-agent teams and workflows that solve complex problems while upholding the rent-seeking market of AI companies and their platform-capitalist system, which is deepening a culture worse than techno-feudalism at the cost of labour and labourers. Digital medievalism and its brutal, profit-driven AI regimes are not an option for human happiness and progress.

All technologies, and the input and output models of AI and all its generative designs, are based on the creativity of labour. It is the human hand and head that produce all technology to empower and emancipate human beings from tedious and boring work. However, current AI platforms and their ownership use the creativity of labour like disposables. This system uses human labour and discards it according to the needs and desires of platform capitalists without empowering labour. This is the fundamental problem of AI-led knowledge traditions, which are extensions of the duality (input and output) of Eurocentric knowledge traditions

that promote a culture of profit at the cost of people and planet. The causal relationship between input and output follows Eurocentric knowledge traditions; therefore, AI models have yet to understand and analyse the conditions and contexts of different issues confronted by the majority of working people across the world and to predict solutions that change those conditions and provide alternatives for permanent solutions to issues of inequality and exploitation.

The science of causality based on Eurocentric knowledge traditions ignores various contexts and conditions while developing AI models based on the world digital library, which is a repository of European languages, contexts, and conditions. It does not engage in detail with people and their problems across the world and their cultures, languages, and societies. This is the context in which one can imagine socialist AI, both in the form of skills and in the form of knowledge traditions, to ensure collective foundations of knowledge for collective welfare and empowerment. Socialist AI is more natural and normal than the current neo colonial rent seeking approach to AI led by platform-capitalist systems that exploit labour and nature at the same time and are unsustainable in the long run.

The languages, codes, numbers, algorithmic models, and mechanical designs used in current AI are not products of AI companies and their digital-capitalist systems. Human beings' interaction with nature and their immediate environment produced signs, languages, numbers, and codes to express, interact, and communicate with each other. So, human beings are the owners of all languages in their



different forms. Human creativity is central to the growth of all technological developments and innovations; therefore, human beings are the direct owners of all forms of knowledge, which should serve human beings in their path of progress. However, there is no difference between the mill owners of Manchester during the Industrial Revolution during 18th century and AI companies controlled technological revolution today. Stealing human labour and nature for profit is central to both the Industrial Revolution in the past and the AI revolution at present.

However, a Luddite rebellion is neither an alternative nor an option. Socialist AI is about reclaiming the power of labour over its own products, power, and creativity. It is about reclaiming and changing the system that separates labour from its own products and creative power, so as to realise the full potential of labour for its own empowerment. As human beings produce all forms of technology and technological skills and knowledge traditions, it is natural that human

beings collectively need to control AI technology in terms of its ownership, control, function, and distribution. This demands dismantling the knowledge market that promotes the buying and selling of knowledge, in the form of skills, as commodities. Collective control of AI in terms of its development, distribution, and redistribution can only ensure AI-led technologies in the service of human beings and the planet.

AI companies do not produce knowledge; they do not add value but control the processes of production and the pricing of products to generate profit. They create new forms of bondage, 'like, subscribe, and share', to generate rent-seeking revenue, even after consumers buy their packages, which are shaped by different generations of technologies and by consumers' ability to access them according to their purchasing power. They coordinate, collect, and control human creativity and treat the technologically advanced workforce as disposable, while their crony-capitalist networks help to create regimes, institutions, and processes of technological

accumulation with the support of the state, governments, laws, and judiciaries compliant with the requirements of AI regimes.

In a socialist AI regime, by contrast, there is no limit to human creativity, as human beings themselves control their own labour and creativity. This non-separation creates the conditions for the end of human alienation from themselves and from their own labour. Therefore, socialist AI is natural and normal, whereas digital and platform-capitalist systems are designed to exploit human beings and nature together. Digital medievalism and its brutal, profit-driven AI regimes are not an option for human progress. This system is neither normal nor natural but imposed on people by market forces who manipulate human beings with their propaganda to normalise the unnatural system of AI companies and their regimes of accumulation at the cost of human beings.

In this context, socialist AI needs to create emancipatory conditions to accelerate egalitarian human freedom, happiness, leisure, and pleasure, conditions in which human creativity flourishes without hindrance, discrimination, or exploitation. Socialist AI can also facilitate the decolonisation and democratisation of knowledge and the deepening of citizenship rights and freedoms, thereby empowering labour and celebrating its creative power. Socialist AI is the sustainable future in which AI serves all human beings and equally serves all other living and non-living beings on the planet.

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80s RETRO AI PHOTO TREND

Nostalgia Today, Your Face Forever



RAHUL TRAKROO

Instagram and other platforms have been swept up this month by a new AI photo craze: upload a current selfie, and a chatbot hands back a “retro” version of you — big hair, disco lighting, grainy film stock, straight out of 1986. The trend spread fast through Instagram’s “Add Yours” sticker, with users worldwide, including celebrities in South Asia and Pakistan, joining in with Bollywood-glam versions of the format.

It’s fun. It’s shareable. And according to digital rights activists and cybersecurity experts, it’s also quietly one of the more consequential mass data-collection events of the year — because what’s actually being uploaded isn’t just a picture. It’s biometric data: the unique geometry of your face.

What’s Really Happening When You Upload Your Photo

The mechanics look simple: you send a photo, the AI model returns a stylized version that preserves your facial features while changing hair, clothing, setting, and lighting. But every step of that process involves your image leaving your device and landing on a company’s servers, where it can be:

- Stored for an unknown length of time, often with no clear deletion policy communicated to users
- Used to improve or train future AI models — meaning your face may become part of the training data the model uses to get better at generating other people’s faces too
- Shared with third parties, including data analytics or advertising firms, depending on the platform’s terms of service
- Combined across multiple photos

of you to build an increasingly detailed facial profile, especially if you keep re-uploading different angles trying to get “the perfect shot”

Digital rights activist Usama Khilji summed up the core objection bluntly, warning people that they’re effectively training AI systems on their own faces, making it easier for those same systems to be misused later, including for deepfakes.

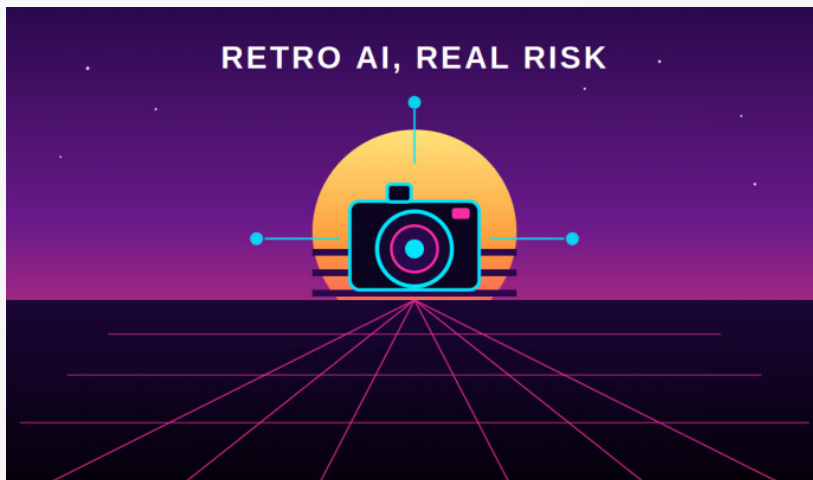
Inside the Trend: What People Are Actually Prompting For

Look at how-to guides circulating around the trend and a pattern emerges. The most popular prompt categories being shared — particularly aimed at women — ask the AI to recreate the subject as a glamorous 1980s Bollywood heroine, a retro Indian magazine cover model, a couple in a vintage wedding album, or a late-80s disco portrait. Nearly every version of these prompts includes an explicit instruction to preserve the person’s real facial features, identity, and skin tone while changing everything around them — hair, clothing, jewellery, lighting, and film grain.

That instruction is worth pausing on. Users are, in effect, telling the AI system exactly which parts of the image are the biometric anchor and asking it to render everything else as fiction around that anchor. It’s a strikingly literal demonstration of the same concern regulators and researchers keep raising: the fashion and lighting are disposable, but the face — the one thing being deliberately locked in place — is the part with lasting identity value once it’s on a server.

Why Faces Are Different From Other Data

A leaked password can be changed in five minutes. A leaked face cannot. Forensic IT expert Prof. Dr. Ali Murat Kırık has pointed out that facial structure — the lines, eyes, nose, and jaw — is data that uniquely distinguishes a person, and that uploading many photos of the same face from different angles and times only sharpens that digital profile. Once that profile exists somewhere on a server, there’s



no way to reset it the way you’d reset a compromised login.

That permanence is what separates this trend from an ordinary app permission request. It’s also why regulators have started paying close attention.

Regulators Are Already Alarmed

This isn’t a fringe concern. In February 2026, 61 data protection authorities from around the world issued a rare Joint Statement on AI-Generated Imagery, warning about AI systems that can generate realistic images and videos of identifiable people without their knowledge or consent. The statement specifically flagged risks to children and other vulnerable groups, including cyberbullying and exploitation, and called on organizations building these tools to put stronger safeguards in place.

Separately, privacy watchdogs have flagged near-identical trends before — a similar “AI yearbook” craze in 2023 prompted the Philippines’ National Privacy Commission to publicly caution users while it assessed the app’s data-handling practices.

What Can Actually Go Wrong

Security researchers and journalists covering this wave of the trend point to a few concrete downstream risks:

- Deepfake generation. High-resolution images with clear, well-lit faces are ideal raw material for deepfake

videos and images — the same fraud category that has surged sharply in recent years as generative tools have gotten better and cheaper to access.

- Identity-based scams. Cloned faces (and increasingly, cloned voices) can be used to create fake social media accounts or impersonate someone for financial fraud, including scams that target a victim’s own family or contacts.

- Non-consensual imagery. The same generation pipeline that produces a fun retro portrait can, in the wrong hands, produce harmful or intimate imagery of a real person who never consented to it — a core reason regulators cited urgency in their joint statement.

- Opaque data retention. Users generally have no visibility into whether their uploaded photos are deleted after processing or retained indefinitely.

- Provenance gaps. Not all platforms label AI-generated content the same way. Some services embed visible or invisible watermarks (like Google’s SynthID) to flag synthetic images; others, including some chatbot-based tools, don’t apply similar markers — making it harder to tell later which images are real.

- Psychological side effects. Repeated exposure to “flawless” AI-generated versions of yourself can quietly distort self-image and confidence over time.

How to Actually Protect Yourself

None of this means the trend is inherently forbidden territory — but a few habits meaningfully reduce the risk:

- Check who built the tool. A known company with a published privacy policy is a different risk category from an anonymous app that appeared last week.
- Read what happens to your image after upload. Look specifically for whether photos are deleted post-processing, and whether they’re used for model training.
- Avoid uploading photos of children, official documents, or anything showing your home, workplace, or other identifying surroundings in the background.
- Don’t re-upload the same face from many angles chasing a “perfect” result — each additional image sharpens the biometric profile being built.
- Watch app permissions. Deny access to contacts, location, or your full camera roll if the filter doesn’t need them.
- Assume it’s stored somewhere. Treat every uploaded selfie as effectively permanent, because in practice, deletion promises are rarely verifiable from the outside.

The Bigger Picture

The 80s photo trend is unlikely to be the last of its kind — these viral filter waves recur every year or two, from “AI yearbook” in 2023 to this one in 2026, each time normalizing a little more casual handoff of biometric data to unknown systems. The nostalgia is real and harmless in isolation. The infrastructure it feeds — facial datasets, deepfake pipelines, unclear retention policies — is the part worth being deliberate about, one upload at a time.

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Fresh Date, Old Food?

The Question Every Consumer Deserves Answered

Call For Honest Labelling, Scientific Verification And Stronger Food-Safety Inspections



ABROO MUSHTAQ

Food is something we trust without question. Every day, we purchase products such as ketchup, sauces, biscuits, chips, Kurkure and other packaged snacks. When we pick up a packet from a shop, we naturally rely on the information printed on it especially the manufacturing date, expiry or best-before date, batch number and other required details.

For most consumers, that date is a simple assurance that the product is within its stated shelf life. But what happens when a consumer notices an older date along with a newer sticker, seal or date marking? What happens when the packaging appears unusual, and after opening the product, its smell, appearance or quality does not seem normal? These are questions that deserve attention.

If a food product has reached the end of its stated shelf life, it should be removed from the market and handled according to applicable food-safety requirements. So when a consumer notices a newer date or sticker over, near or in place of an earlier marking, a simple question naturally arises: Why is the new date there? Is it part of the manufacturer’s original and authorised packaging process? Was it applied later? Does it correspond with the actual manufacturing and distribution records? Can the authenticity of that marking be verified?

These questions do not automatically mean that a company or retailer has done something wrong. A suspicious-looking label is not, by itself, proof of fraud or illegal relabelling. But a genuine concern deserves a genuine investigation. Consumers should not be expected to determine the truth simply by looking at a packet.

Science makes one thing clear: food does not remain unchanged forever. Food quality can be affected over time by factors such as temperature, moisture, oxygen, light, micro-organisms and chemical reactions. The effect



depends on the type of food, its formulation, processing, packaging and storage conditions. Fats and oils, for example, can undergo oxidation over time, which may affect their quality and smell. Moisture can change the texture and stability of food, while unsuitable conditions can contribute to microbial growth in certain products. This is why manufacturers establish a product’s shelf life by considering its ingredients, processing, packaging and expected storage conditions. The date printed on a packet therefore has a purpose. A new sticker cannot scientifically make an old food product fresh again.

Food safety depends on the actual product, its processing, packaging, storage conditions and compliance with applicable requirements not simply on the appearance of a newly printed date. If a packaged food has an unusual smell, appearance, taste or texture after opening, consumers should not simply ignore these warning signs. They should avoid consuming a questionable product and consider reporting it to the appropriate food-safety authority.

Consumers may sometimes notice a new date or sticker appearing over, near or in place of an earlier marking. Some consumers may also notice that a marking appears to become disturbed when the packet is rubbed or handled. However, this alone does not prove that a sticker is fake or that an expiry date has been illegally changed. Different printing and labelling technologies are used in food packaging. That is precisely why

proper verification matters.

Instead of consumers trying to investigate packaging themselves, authorities should be able to determine:

- Whether the date is part of the original packaging.
- Whether the marking was authorised.
- Whether it matches manufacturing records.
- Whether the batch number is traceable.
- Whether distribution records support the stated date.
- Whether the product meets applicable safety and labelling requirements.

If everything is genuine, an inspection should be able to establish that clearly. If original information has been improperly covered, altered or replaced, appropriate action should follow under the applicable rules. The answer should come from evidence—not assumptions or rumours.

Food is not merely a product being sold for profit. It is something that enters another person’s body. That creates a serious ethical responsibility. Islam places great importance on honesty, justice, transparency and trust in trade. The Qur’an states: And give full measure and weight in justice.

(Qur’an 6:152) Surah Al-Mutaffifin (83:1-3) also gives a strong warning against unfairness in commercial dealings.

The Prophet Muhammad • also emphasised truthfulness and transparency in business transactions. Authentic narrations in Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim explain that when a buyer and seller are truthful and

clearly disclose relevant information, their transaction is blessed; when they conceal or misrepresent matters, that blessing is lost. This principle becomes especially important when the product being sold is food. A food label is not just ink on a packet. It is information on which a person’s health decision may depend. If a consumer is given misleading information about a product’s date or condition, that trust is put at risk. At the same time, Islam teaches us not to accuse people without evidence. Therefore, the correct approach is: Do not accuse without proof. Do not ignore genuine concerns. Investigate and establish the truth.

Packaged snacks are frequently consumed by children. They may not understand expiry dates, packaging marks or labelling practices; they simply trust the adults who buy the food for them. Parents should therefore be able to trust the information provided on food packaging. If a product has genuinely passed its shelf life, it should not reach consumers through misleading labelling or packaging. Children’s health should never become secondary to commercial interests. This does not mean that every packaged snack is unsafe. Nor does it mean that every unusual-looking sticker represents wrongdoing. It means that every legitimate concern about food safety deserves a proper answer.

An ordinary consumer cannot inspect manufacturing records. A consumer cannot trace a packet through every stage of its supply chain. A consumer cannot perform laboratory tests on every product they purchase. Therefore, food safety cannot be placed entirely on the shoulders of consumers.

Where complaints or concerns about suspicious dates, stickers or labels arise, responsible authorities should have an effective system to:

- Inspect the actual packaging.
- Verify batch and manufacturing information.
- Examine the printing and labelling process.
- Trace relevant distribution records.
- Conduct laboratory testing where scientifically necessary.
- Take appropriate action when violations are established.

Consumers should also have an accessible and reliable way to report questionable products. This concern is not an attempt to declare any particular company, retailer or brand guilty. It is a question for the

wider food-safety system: Are the systems in place strong enough to ensure that the dates consumers rely upon are accurate, authentic and properly regulated? If a product has genuinely crossed its shelf life, is it being removed from the market appropriately? If a new date or sticker appears on a packet, can its authenticity be verified? If a consumer reports a suspicious product, will the complaint receive proper attention? These questions deserve answers based on records, inspections and scientific evidence.

Consumers should not have to become detectives before buying something as basic as food. We should not have to wonder whether a date is original, whether a sticker was added later, or whether the information on a packet accurately represents the product inside. At the same time, responsible journalism requires us to distinguish between an observation and a proven fact. A suspicious label is a reason to investigate not a reason to make an unsupported accusation.

Likewise, the absence of proof of wrongdoing should not become an excuse to ignore a legitimate consumer complaint. We need a system where concerns are investigated before they become public-health problems. Science tells us that food can deteriorate under certain conditions. Islam teaches us that honesty, justice and trust are essential in trade. Food-safety regulations provide mechanisms for protecting consumers. These principles must work together.

We do not want rumours. We want verification. We do not want accusations without evidence. We want accountability when violations are proven. We do not want consumers guessing about the food they eat. We want transparency. Manufacturers should maintain accurate and traceable labelling systems. Retailers should follow proper storage and distribution practices. Authorities should investigate genuine complaints. And consumers should have access to reliable information.

Abroo Mushtaq is an author and anthology contributor whose work is rooted in a deep love for literature and creative writing. A dedicated student and storyteller, she is author of ‘The Voice I Hold’ and continues to explore the intersection of narrative and emotion in all her work. She can be mailed at abroomushtaquani@gmail.com

Deadlock over Singhpora–Vailoo tunnel project ends, project set to move ahead

10.36-Km Twin-Tube Tunnel To Connect Chhatroo With Vailoo; 60-Month Completion Period

UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: The long-pending Singhpora–Vailoo twin-tube tunnel project under Sinthan Pass is set to move ahead, with the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) inviting bids for its construction along the Kishtwar–Vailoo–Khanabal section of National Highway-244.

The project, estimated to cost Rs 3,567.51 crore, is aimed at providing an all-weather connectivity link between Kishtwar in the Chenab Valley and Anantnag in south Kashmir, offering an alternative to the treacherous Sinthan Top route that frequently remains closed during winter due to heavy snowfall.

According to a Notice Inviting Bid issued by NHIDCL, the 38.611-km highway package will be executed in Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.

The package includes construction of a 10.331-km left tunnel tube and a 10.363-km right tunnel tube, along with approach roads and other associated infrastructure. The stipulated construction period is 60 months, followed by a 120-month maintenance period.

The project will connect Chhatroo in Kishtwar district with Vailoo in Anantnag district. The eastern approach from Chhatroo to the tunnel portal will cover 17.088 km, while the western approach towards Vailoo will extend for 11.160 km, including the portal section.

The eastern portal, proposed near Singhpora in Kishtwar district, will be located at an elevation of around 2,243 metres, while the western portal at Gadole will be at approximately 2,404 metres.



The tunnel will have a nine-metre carriageway, footpaths and dedicated emergency facilities. The two tubes will be interconnected through cross-passages at intervals of about 500 metres to facilitate pedestrian movement and emergency evacuation.

As per the project documents, 20 cross-passages, each 6.1 metres wide and 18.5 metres long, have been proposed.

The tunnel will be equipped with semi-transverse ventilation, fire detection and firefighting systems, CCTV surveillance, emergency communication facilities, traffic-control systems, lighting, drainage and waterproofing arrangements.

Fire hydrants will be installed at intervals of 250 metres, besides hose connections and fire extinguishers at shorter intervals.

The project package also includes construction of approach roads, bridges, viaducts, culverts, drainage systems, safety installations and other ancillary works.

A total of 21 major and minor bridges, viaducts and viaduct-cum-bridge structures have been proposed, with the longest being a 1,345-metre viaduct at design chainage 139+660.

The approach roads will be developed as two-lane highways with paved shoulders. The project also provides for roadside and catch drains extending over

26 km and 28 km, respectively.

The tunnel has been proposed to comply with relevant Indian and international standards, including applicable IRC guidelines for road tunnels, CIE standards for tunnel lighting and NFPA provisions relating to fire safety.

The Vailoo–Singhpura tunnel project, approved in 2017 and reaffirmed in 2021, has faced repeated delays over the years.

Once completed, the tunnel is expected to provide a reliable all-weather alternative to the Sinthan Top route, improve connectivity between Kashmir and the Chenab Valley, reduce travel time and facilitate greater movement of people and goods.

The project is also expected to give a boost to tourism, trade and economic activity in both regions while strengthening strategic and inter-regional connectivity along NH-244—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Govt Considering

song had a historic association with India's freedom struggle and described it as the song of martyrs and freedom fighters.

He said people had the right to raise legitimate demands, referring to the demands being raised in Ladakh and reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir too was seeking restoration of statehood—(KNO)

PM Modi Holds

reaching the ambitious trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.

Expanding Industrial cooperation with Russia, collaboration in the rail sector and tunnelling, developing the steel value chain and broadening access to the Russian market for Indian exporters are also set to figure in the talks, they said. History

The two leaders are also expected to deliberate on strengthening civil nuclear cooperation, including fuel cycle and life cycle support. Increasing mobility of Indian skilled labourers to Russia and cooperation in critical minerals are also set to be discussed, the sources said.

18th BRICS

India's Chairship 2026 is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

World leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan and Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed Ali will participate in the Summit. Brazil will be represented by Foreign Affairs Minister Mauro Vieira. Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud will also participate in the Summit.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung are the other Heads of State who will attend the Summit. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres, Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and President of New Development Bank, Dilma Rousseff are among the Heads of International Organisations who will participate in the event.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin today.

The President of Russia and Foreign Minister of Brazil arrived in the national capital last night to participate in the Summit. The President of South Africa is set to arrive this morning. Presidents of Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Philippines, and Burundi, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and Prime Ministers of Malaysia and Ethiopia, are scheduled to arrive later today.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit. Akashvani correspondent reports that the grouping was formalised during the BRIC Foreign

Ministers' Meeting, held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2006.

The First BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on 16th June 2009. BRIC expanded into BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa following the BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New York in September 2010. South Africa participated first time in the Third BRICS Summit, held in Sanya, China, in April 2011. BRICS further expanded in January 2024, when Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE became full members of the grouping.

India assumed the BRICS Chairship on 1st January this year. This marks India's fourth Chairship of BRICS. India had earlier chaired BRICS in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

MeT Predicts

above normal at several places in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius, 5 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 16.4 degrees Celsius, 2 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 30.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.5 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 27.8 degrees Celsius and 10.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In North Kashmir, Kupwara recorded a maximum of 32.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.4 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded a maximum of 30.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.8 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 24 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 10.6 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 34.3 degrees Celsius, 1.4 degrees above normal, while the minimum was 25.4 degrees Celsius.

Among other stations, Banihal recorded a maximum of 28.6 degrees Celsius, Batote 27.7 degrees Celsius, Katra 31 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 29.9 degrees Celsius.

No significant rainfall was recorded across the listed stations during the 24 hours ending at 8:30 am on Friday, the weather department said—(KNO)

Northern Command

position and AGS Uri sixth position nationally in Young Scientist India 2025, while AGS Wuzur recently figured among the top 10 schools in the Innovation category.

Sharing his own experience as a student and the challenges he faced, Lt Gen Sharma exhorted students to dream big and remain committed to their goals.

"Irrespective of the place, irrespective of the environment, continue to work hard. A time will come when you will prove yourself," he told the students.

Pertinently, the event also marked ten years of educational partnership between the Army Goodwill Schools and Bharti Airtel Foundation. The partnership, which initially covered 14 schools, has now expanded across all 43 AGS in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The initiative has focused on strengthening institutional leadership, classroom practices, academic management, teach-

er capabilities and technology-enabled learning in line with NEP 2020. The partnership has also promoted creativity and scientific temperament, with AGS Innovation Clubs facilitating more than 160 student-led projects and participation in platforms including ISRO YUVIKA, INSPIRE-MANAK and Young Scientist India," said an official.

Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel Foundation Co-Chairman Rakesh Bharti Mittal announced continued support for the next decade, including library books, sports coaching, additional smart classes, higher-education scholarships and cash incentives for meritorious Class 10 and 12 students.

Regional President AWWA, Northern Command, Shinei Sharma also called upon parents and teachers to nurture students for future challenges and stressed the need to promote education of the girl child for an inclusive society—(KNO)

Artisan's IFFJK

A spokesperson said the initiative provided artisans a platform to showcase their skills and connect directly with tourists, buyers, students and the public.

"Know Your Artisan' is aimed at creating awareness about the heritage value, authenticity and craftsmanship of Kashmir's traditional crafts while strengthening the artisan-consumer connect," he said.

He said the encouraging response had strengthened the Department's resolve to carry the initiative to prominent tourist-centric and other high-footfall locations, ensuring greater visibility, recognition and market access for artisans.

The Department urged tourists, buyers and craft enthusiasts to support Kashmir's craft maestros by purchasing authentic products and joining the 'Vocal for Local' initiative to help preserve and revive the region's rich craft heritage.

CS Reviews Framework

level intervention are brought up without unnecessary delay. This will strengthen both administrative responsiveness and project accountability, he appreciated.

The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the National PMG team to undertake additional capacity-building sessions for local stakeholders, ensuring that they are fully conversant with the system, its workflow and the escalation mechanism along with adequately equipping them to take over its operations efficiently here.

Highlighting the significance of this monitoring group the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R.Alice Vaz revealed that currently the National PMG monitors 61 projects in J&K, involving investments of 3.91 lakh crore with 130 active issues currently under review through National PMG portal.

She further added that the proposed JK-PMG would function under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary, with a dedicated team of project experts and a designated administrative department responsible for day-to-day operations and coordination.

The group would monitor identi-

fied mega and strategically important projects, track milestones and pending approvals besides facilitating coordination among executing agencies and district administrations, and escalate unresolved issues for appropriate intervention.

The framework envisages a structured review mechanism comprising fortnightly departmental-level reviews by Administrative Secretaries/Heads of Departments, monthly reviews chaired by the Chief Secretary, besides the reviews at the highest government level chaired by the Chief Minister himself for matters requiring such consideration. This graduated arrangement would ensure that project-related issues are examined at the appropriate level and escalated wherever necessary.

It was demonstrated by the team that the proposed JK-PMG would leverage a digitized, cost-free portal with automated reporting and analytical capabilities. Under the envisaged workflow, project proponents would register projects and bottlenecks, sponsoring departments would verify the issues, and the concerned district administration or departments would undertake action for their resolution. Critical unresolved matters would be escalated to higher forums involving the concerned stakeholders for instant resolution of the issues at hand.

Later, the National PMG team conducted a sensitization workshop for officers and officials of the Planning Department and other concerned stakeholders, apprising them of the working, institutional architecture, digital workflow and escalation mechanism of the proposed JK-PMG. The workshop focused on the roles of various stakeholders in identifying, tracking and resolving project-related bottlenecks, while facilitating a common understanding of the operational processes required for its smooth implementation in the UT.

7- Years After

Chakan-da-Bagh, citing reports that the routes were being misused for the movement of illegal weapons, narcotics, fake currency and other activities.

Now, the Tourism Department plans to put the government asset to a different use.

The proposed tourism utilisation is expected to focus on visitor amenities, border tourism activities and facilitation for tourists visiting the Uri sector and nearby LoC viewpoints.

Officials said the department will work out the detailed utilisation plan in the coming days, including the available facilities and the scope for creating livelihood opportunities for local residents—(KNO)

NC-Led Govt

understood to have approached the Congress high command to ascertain whether they would avail a ministry. The Congress high command subsequently discussed the offer of the NC-led government with its J&K-based leaders.

Currently, the strength of the council of ministers in J&K is six. It can have three more ministers, as the J&K Reorganisation Act restricts the strength of the council of ministers to one-tenth of the total strength of MLAs—(KNO)

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Waste piles, foul smell near Jhelum may soon be thing of past in Baramulla

50 TPD MRF, 20 TPD composting units planned to tackle Baramulla, Sopore's 58 MT waste crisis

WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: The long-standing waste management crisis in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Sopore is set for a major overhaul, with an integrated Solid Waste Management facility proposed at Jetty in Baramulla to scientifically process the waste generated by the two townships.

The proposed facility will include a 50 tonnes per day Material Recovery Facility (MRF), along with 20 tonnes per day composting units. The project is expected to provide a structured mechanism for waste segregation, recovery and processing, reducing the dependence on open dumping at the Jetty site.

Sources within the Urban Local Bodies said that Jetty has been designated as the site for the integrated waste management facility catering to both Baramulla and Sopore.

The development comes amid a severe waste management challenge in the two densely populated and commercially important townships. Baramulla generates around 24 metric tonnes of municipal waste every day, while Sopore produces more than 34 metric tonnes, taking the combined daily generation to around 58 metric tonnes.

In the absence of adequate scientific waste processing infrastructure, a major portion of the waste



has been transported to the Jetty site in Baramulla for disposal.

The site, located close to the Jhelum river, has over the years turned into a massive waste accumulation point. Lakhs of metric tonnes of waste are currently accumulated at the site, officials said, highlighting the scale of the problem facing the civic authorities.

The accumulated waste has also become a source of concern for residents living around the area. The presence of large quantities of unprocessed waste has resulted in foul smell and unhygienic conditions, while the site's proximity to the Jhelum has raised environmental concerns.

Garbage has also frequently been seen scattered along roads and open spaces in and around the townships, with civic authorities facing difficulties in handling the steadily increasing volume of municipal waste.

The situation has been particularly challenging

for Sopore, which generates around 34 metric tonnes of waste every day but has lacked adequate infrastructure for comprehensive processing and disposal. The township has consequently depended on Baramulla's designated Jetty site for waste disposal.

Officials, however, say the continued dumping at the site is largely a consequence of the lack of alternative infrastructure rather than a deliberate policy of indiscriminate disposal.

"We are not dumping the waste there deliberately, but that is a designated site," an official, wishing anonymity, said.

The official said the government and concerned departments were now working towards creating a systematic mechanism to address the problem. "Remediation works for accumulated waste are underway, while works for the SWM plant will commence soon," the official said.

The remediation work is significant given the huge quantity of legacy waste accumulated at Jetty. The proposed intervention is expected to deal with both the existing waste and the daily generation of fresh municipal waste from Baramulla and Sopore.

The 50 TPD MRF will facilitate the recovery and segregation of recyclable material, while the 20 TPD composting units will process biodegradable waste. The objective is to reduce the quantity of waste requiring final disposal and shift the two townships towards scientific waste management.

For residents, the project could mean an end to years of foul smell, visible waste piles and concerns over waste being accumulated close to a major water body.

With remediation of the accumulated waste already underway as per the Municipal Council and the proposed SWM plant expected to commence soon, authorities are hopeful that Jetty can eventually move from being a major dumping point to a scientifically managed waste processing site.

The project, once completed and fully operational, is expected to provide a long-term waste management mechanism for Baramulla and Sopore and address the crisis created by the daily generation of nearly 58 metric tonnes of municipal waste—(KNO)

Min Rana reviews development, flood relief measures in Surankote

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SURANKOTE: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Friday chaired a meeting to review development works and post-flood relief and restoration measures in Surankote.

The meeting at was attended by MLA Surankote, Chowdhary Akram, SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, and senior officers and Heads of Departments from Jal Shakti, Rural Development Department (RDD), PWD, Irrigation & Flood Control, PDD, Agriculture, Horticulture and other allied departments.

While chairing the meeting, Minister directed the Jal Shakti Department to submit a detailed DPR for strengthening and improving the water supply system of Surankote town. He also directed the department to formulate detailed



proposals for lift irrigation schemes, particularly in areas where irrigation kuls have been damaged due to the recent floods, resulting in disruption of agricultural activities, especially paddy cultivation.

The Minister directed the Forest Department to further intensify its efforts and ensure visible progress on the ground. He also impressed upon all departments to adopt a people-centric approach, remain accessible and responsive to public grievances, and ensure timely delivery of services.

The departments were further directed to organise awareness and facili-

tation camps at the grass-roots level and disseminate information regarding government schemes, relief measures, assistance and developmental initiatives through various channels so that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

Emphasising the need for coordinated and result-oriented functioning, the Minister called upon all officers to work with dedication and remain committed to the welfare and betterment of the people.

Earlier, MLA Surankote highlighted various key issues and developmental concerns pertaining to his constituency and sought timely intervention for

their resolution.

SDM Surankote Farooq Khan made a detailed presentation on the damages caused by the recent floods and cloudbursts, the corrective and restoration measures undertaken by the administration so far, and the future course of action. The presentation covered damage to residential houses, agricultural land, irrigation infrastructure, roads, power and water supply systems and other public infrastructure, besides the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken by different departments.

HoDs of various departments also presented the status of works undertaken, ongoing restoration activities, proposed works and future plans in their respective sectors. The meeting reviewed the progress of restoration and rehabilitation works and identified key areas requiring immediate attention.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR/JAMMU.

Subject: Select list for the posts of Medical Officers (Allopathic) in Health & Medical Education Department - Online Submission of Personnel Verification Rolls (PVRs) for verification of character and antecedents thereof.

NOTICE

The Health and Medical Education Department has received a select list for the posts of Medical Officers (Allopathic) from the J&K Public Service Commission vide communication No. PSC/DR/Medical Officer (Allopathic)/H&ME/2024 dated 19.07.2024.

Accordingly, all the concerned selectee Medical Officers as detailed in ANNEXURE are, hereby, informed through the medium of this notice to submit their email address & mobile number in the Health and Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu in person for registration under "Employee Verification System (EVS)" for verification of character and antecedents within a period of 07 days positively from the date of issuance of this notice in terms of Circular No. 18-JK (GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022 issued by the General Administration Department.

In case, any candidate, fails to submit his/her email address & mobile number within a prescribed period of 07 days, it shall be presumed that the candidate is not willing to opt for such appointment in Health and Medical Education Department and shall forfeit the right of appointment, without any further notice.

No. HD-Gaz0Gen/597/2025-02- (E - 7677658)
Dated: 07.09.2026

DIPK-5601-26
DT: 11/09/2026

(Neha Bakshi) JKAS
Deputy Secretary to the Government

ADDC Bandipora reviews implementation of NAPS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, Friday chaired a meeting in his office chamber to review the progress and implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) – PRAGATI in the district.

The ADDC, who has been designated as the Nodal Officer for NAPS in District Bandipora, took a detailed review of the progress made under the scheme and held discussions with the concerned officers regarding the measures required for its effective implementation.

During the meeting, the ADDC emphasized the importance of strengthened coordination among all concerned departments, institutions and stakeholders for ensuring wider coverage of the scheme and creating maximum apprenticeship opportunities for the youth of the district.

The ADDC directed the concerned officers to

ensure that the targets assigned under NAPS are achieved within the stipulated timelines and, preferably, well before the prescribed deadlines. He called for regular monitoring of progress and timely follow-up at every level so that the assigned targets are accomplished in a result-oriented and time-bound manner.

He further stressed upon the officers to identify and facilitate suitable apprenticeship opportunities and ensure active participation of eligible establishments and institutions, with the objective of providing youth with practical skills, workplace exposure and better employment prospects.

The ADDC underscored that effective implementation of NAPS would play an important role in bridging the gap between skill development and employment and called upon all stakeholders to work with commitment and a coordinated approach for realizing the objectives of the scheme in the district.

ADDC Kupwara reviews progress under NAPS-2

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In order to review the progress achieved through the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS-2) in district Kupwara, the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool, Friday chaired a meeting of concerned officers at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Kupwara.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various aspects concerning the effective implementation of NAPS-2 in the district.

The ADDC took a comprehensive review of the progress made by different departments and institutions and stressed the need for coordinated and timely action to achieve the assigned targets.

The meeting discussed, among other issues, the identification of establishments and their registration on the NAPS Portal; registration of apprentices/candidates on the portal; uploading of actual Appren-

ticeship Contract documents; completion of e-KYC of all registered apprentices; and review of the progress achieved by each department/institution.

The ADDC also reviewed the bottlenecks, if any, being faced by the concerned departments in the implementation process and called for their timely resolution. He emphasized the importance of close monitoring and inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the benefits of the apprenticeship programme reach eligible candidates in the district.

He directed the concerned officers to formulate and adhere to a time-bound action plan for completion of the assigned targets and ensure that all pending activities, including registration, documentation and e-KYC, are completed within the stipulated timelines.

The ADDC underscored that effective implementation of NAPS-2 would provide valuable apprenticeship opportunities to local youth while strengthening their employability and industry-oriented skills.

DC B'pora visits Kuloosa to oversee rescue operation of drowned boy

Urges parents to keep children away from water bodies

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib visited Kuloosa on Friday morning to personally assess and monitor the intensive search and rescue operation underway following the unfortunate drowning of a young boy in Nallah Madhumati yesterday evening.

Expressing profound sorrow over the tragic incident, the DC extended heartfelt sympathies to the aggrieved parents and

family members. Terming the incident heart-breaking, she stated that the child had reportedly stepped near the bank to retrieve a ball while playing and slipped into the rapid stream.

The DC reviewed the ongoing joint search operation, which was launched swiftly within an hour of the incident by teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu & Kashmir Police, District Administration, and local volunteers.

While speaking on the

occasion, Deputy Commissioner informed that the District Administration had coordinated with NHPC authorities last night to temporarily halt the downstream flow of water. To further expedite the operation and assist the divers and rescue personnel, NHPC has been directed to completely stop the discharge from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM today, ensuring that the water level recedes sufficiently for thorough scanning of the stream bed.

The DC observed that

while wire mesh barricades and fencing are in place along most sections of the embankment, designated openings remain for daily domestic chores like washing clothes.

Issuing a stern advisory to the public, she appealed to parents and residents residing along riverbanks to maintain strict vigilance over their children and prevent them from venturing near hazardous water channels, emphasizing that heightened caution at home is vital to averting such painful tragedies.

DPHQ UDHAMPUR

No: - CB/Look Out Notice/2026/61361-71

Dated: 10.09.2026

LOOK OUT NOTICE

As requested by SHO P/S Chenani that on 28.07.2026, applicant namely Ram Rattan R/O Gharian Kalian, Tehsil Chenani District Udhampur lodged a missing report at P/S Chenani to the effect that his daughter namely Manisha Devi, age 21 years is missing since 27.07.2026. The applicant has conducted her search, but she has not been traced out. Accordingly, a missing report has been entered by P/S Chenani vide DDR No. 20 dated 28.07.2026 and search started. The Photograph with descriptive roll of missing girl is as under

Photo	Description
	Name: Manisha Devi
	Age: 21 yrs.
	Complexion: Fair
	Height: 5 feet

It is therefore requested that a sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of said missing girl is received an information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned Telephone Nos./Fax/e-mail address for further course of action.

Email: sspoudh@jkpolice.gov.in

Fax: 01992-270027

Phone: 01992-2270210

PCR Udhampur: 01992-276915

SHO P/S Chenani: 9419158371

DIPK-5580-26
DT: 11/09/2026

SSP Udhampur

DPHQ UDHAMPUR

No: - CB/Look Out Notice/2026/61372-81

Dated: 10.09.2026

LOOK OUT NOTICE

As requested by SHO P/S Chenani that on 25.08.2026, applicant namely Tjuba Ahirwar S/O Jhalla Ahirwar R/O Pathhari Lal New Colony Bijawar, Chhatarpur MP A/P Bashat Tehsil Chenani District Udhampur lodged a missing report at P/S Chenani to the effect that his daughter namely Geeta, age 32 years is missing since 24.08.2026. The applicant has conducted her search, but she has not been traced out. Accordingly, a missing report has been entered by P/S Chenani vide DDR No. 08 dated 25.08.2026 and search started. The Photograph with descriptive roll of missing girl is as under

Photo	Description
	Name: Geeta
	Age: 32 yrs.
	Complexion: Wheatish
	Height: Normal

It is therefore requested that a sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of said missing person is received an information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned Telephone Nos./Fax/e-mail address for further course of action.

Email: sspoudh@jkpolice.gov.in

Fax: 01992-270027

Phone: 01992-2270210

PCR Udhampur: 01992-276915

SHO P/S Chenani: 9419158371

DIPK-5583-26
DT: 11/09/2026

SSP Udhampur

CM congratulates Para Archer Sheetal Devi on World Archery Para Series Gold



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday congratulated Indian para archer Sheetal Devi on winning the Gold Medal in the Women's Compound Individual Event at the World Archery Para Series 2026, Stage III, held

in Ahmedabad. The Chief Minister said Sheetal's remarkable achievement, which also includes a Bronze Medal in the Compound Mixed Team Event, is a proud moment for the entire nation. He wished her continued success and greater laurels in all her future endeavours.

The 19-year-old World Champion defeated Kazakhstan's Aizada Seidan in a shoot-off after the gold medal contest ended in a 144-144 draw. Sheetal shot a 10 with her shoot-off arrow, while Seidan managed a 9, securing the title for the Indian archer at the Sabarmati Riverfront.

Poonch hosts Division-Level Table Tennis Championship

GMK SPORTS DESK

POONCH: The Inter-District Provincial-Level Table Tennis Competitions for U-14, U-17 and U-19 Boys and Girls commenced Friday at the Indoor Sports Stadium.

The championship has brought together promising young table tennis players from different districts, providing them with a valuable platform to showcase their skills, gain competitive exposure and strive for excellence at higher levels.

The tournament was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, who interacted with the participating players and extended his best wishes to all the teams. He encouraged the young athletes to compete with discipline, confidence, dedication and true sportsmanship. He highlighted the significance of sports in nurturing discipline, teamwork, confidence, leadership and a positive competitive spirit among youth.

The participating players expressed enthusiasm and determination to perform



their best in the championship. They said that competitions at the provincial level provide valuable exposure and experience while motivating them to pursue their sporting goals with greater dedication.

District Youth Sports and Service Officer Mohammad Qasim said that the competitions are being conducted in a systematic and disciplined manner while ensuring adherence to rules, fair play and proper sporting standards. He appreciated the enthusiasm and cooperation of the participating players, coaches, officials and supporting staff during the event.

Meanwhile, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Poonch also continued its youth-centric initiatives under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue. Today, around 2,379 individuals took part in activities associated with the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, while approximately 327 registrations were recorded for the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, reflecting the active participation of youth in awareness, nation-building and community-oriented initiatives.

The Inter-District Provincial-Level Table Tennis Competitions will continue till September 19, 2026, providing participants with opportunities to showcase their talent and compete with players from different districts.

India beat Malaysia as Anmol leads defending champions to Junior men's Asia Cup final

AGENCIES

MOQI (CHINA): In-form captain Anmol Ekka struck twice as defending champions India defeated Malaysia 3-1 to storm into their fourth consecutive AHF Men's Junior Asia Cup final here on Friday.

Drag-flicker Anmol once again led from the front, scoring twice from penalty corners to take his tournament tally to an impressive 16 goals and strengthen his position at the top of the scoring charts.

Goalkeeper Vivek Lakra was equally influential, making a series of outstanding saves, including stopping a penalty stroke, which kept India in control of the contest.

The defending champions, chasing a fourth consecutive and sixth overall title, will face the winners of the second semi-final between Pakistan and South Korea.

India began the match on the front foot, with Ajeet Yadav coming close twice inside the opening two minutes after intelligently getting to the end of long balls played out from deep



defence.

India soon earned three penalty corners, but Malaysian goalkeeper Amsyar Mohamad Adib stood firm with a couple of good saves to keep India at bay.

A turnover in the 12th minute almost presented India with the opening goal, but they were unable to convert the opportunity.

Malaysia came close in the final minute of the quarter, although the attempt from the top of the circle lacked both power and direction.

India finally broke the deadlock early in the second quarter when they earned their fourth penalty corner in the 16th minute.

Skipper Anmol, positioned at the first battery,

unleashed a hard, low flick that beat Amsyar to his right and crashed into the board to give India a 1-0 lead.

Malaysia responded immediately, forcing a brilliant save from Lakra in the 17th minute before earning their first penalty corner.

However, India's first rusher made an important block to deny the Malaysians.

Lakra then produced one of the defining moments of the match early in the third quarter.

In the 34th minute, he made a stunning double save, followed by another stop moments later, as Malaysia increased the pressure.



DGYSS Kick Starts UT Level Boxing Competitions at Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta on Friday kick started the Inter-District UT Level Boxing Competitions at the Indoor Sports Complex, Wazir Bagh, here.

She was accompanied by Deputy director Planning YSS, Megha Baogia.

14 districts of the UT of J&K, consisting of 279 boys of all age groups along with 52 technical officials, have reported to participate in the competition. The first phase of the boys' competitions for all age groups commenced today and is scheduled to culminate on 13th September 2026.

Before the commencement of the competition

DG YSS administered a pledge reaffirming drug de-addiction among the youths and young athletes. The initiative reflected the department's continued emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles, discipline and sportsmanship among young participants.

The competition is being hosted by District Youth Services & Sports Office Srinagar under the "Campaign Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan". The DYSSO Srinagar has put forth all the necessary facilities for the participating athletes, technical officials and escort teachers to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

The inaugural boxing bout of the competition was played between Ramban and Rajouri, marking the beginning of the UT-level sporting contest. The participation of athletes from 14 districts is expected to provide a competitive platform for young boxers to demonstrate their skills, determination and sporting talent.

The UT-level competition is also aimed at providing young athletes with valuable exposure to higher-level competition while strengthening the sporting culture across Jammu & Kashmir. The event brings together players, technical officials and escort teachers from different districts on a common platform and provides an opportunity for promising boxers to showcase their abilities.

Army Concludes Aman Aur Awam League

Young Boys Saloosa Crowned Champions

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: The grand finale of the prestigious 'Aman Aur Awam Cricket League', organized by the Indian Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), concluded on a high note at the Gohan Playground, with Young Boys Saloosa emerging as the champions after defeating Young Star Panjipora in an action-packed final.

The high-stakes tournament witnessed mas-



sive local participation, featuring 48 teams from various villages across the operational jurisdiction of 52 RR. The initiative aimed to promote sportsmanship, engage local youth constructively, and strengthen community bonds.

The final match was attended by several distinguished guests, including the Commanding Officer (CO) of 52 RR, the Second-in-Command (2IC) 52 RR, the Station House Officer (SHO) Chandoosa, and the Commander of Gohan Camp, alongside local sports enthu-

siasts and village elders. Following the match, the Commanding Officer of 52 RR felicitated both the finalists and distributed trophies and prizes. While addressing the gathering, the CO congratulated Young Boys Saloosa on their triumph and made the landmark announcement that the winning team has earned qualification to represent the area in the upcoming Kashmir Premier League (KPL).

Expressing gratitude during the post-match presentation, Naveed Bashir, Captain of Young Boys Saloosa, thanked the 52 Rashtriya Rifles for providing a vital platform for grassroots athletes: "We are deeply thankful to the Indian Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles for organizing such competitive tournaments for the youth. This platform has given us an opportunity to showcase our talent, and the chance to compete in the Kashmir Premier League is a dream come true for our team."

Pattan crowned U-17 Football Champions, defeats Sopore in thrilling Final

GMK SPORTS DESK

BARAMULLA: Zone Pattan emerged victorious in the Inter-Zonal District-Level Football Championship for Under-17 Boys, clinching the coveted title with a 1-0 win over Zone Sopore in the final held Friday at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh,

Baramulla. The championship was organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Baramulla, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote sports, nurture young talent and provide competitive platforms to budding athletes.

The final ceremony

was graced by Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori, District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO), Baramulla, who lauded the participating players and officials for their commitment, discipline and sporting spirit. He also presented trophies to the victorious and runner-up teams.

Meanwhile, the Inter-Zonal District-Level Football Competition for Under-19 Boys is scheduled to commence tomorrow at the same venue, with teams from different zones set to compete for the district-level title.

In another sporting event held today, the Inter-Zonal District-Level

Handball Competition for Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 Girls was organised at the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 100 girls, reflecting the growing interest and participation of young sportspersons in the district.

CM Trophy: Raina, Mohanty named brand ambassadors for Odisha T20 League

IANIS

CUTTACK: Former Indian cricketers Suresh Raina and Debashish Mohanty have been announced as the brand ambassadors of the Odisha T20 League 2026 - CM Trophy, which is scheduled to be held from September 20 to 29 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack.

The appointment of the two former Indian cricketers will add further value to the tournament, which aims to provide a platform for young and emerging cricketers from Odisha to showcase their talent and gain valuable experience.

Six teams, Bhubaneswar Tigers, Puri Titans, Keonjhar Miners, Rourkela Superstars, Sambalpur Warriors and Kataka Panthers, will battle it out for the ultimate glory.

The tournament will get underway on September 20, with Sambalpur Warriors taking on Kataka Panthers in the opening game. The competition will feature a mix of league-stage action and knockout matches, with the team finishing at the top of the points table earning a direct place in the final at the Barabati Stadium, which has hosted international matches in the past.

The teams finishing second and third will face each other in the Qualifier, with the winner advancing to the summit clash. A women's exhibition match will also be played on September 28, adding another attraction for cricket fans.

The grand final of the Odisha T20 League 2026 - CM Trophy is scheduled to be played on September 29 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, where the two best teams will battle for the title.

IN LOVING MEMORY

5th Death Anniversary

Dr. Aziz Hajini

Writer • Poet • Critic • Educator

11-12 September

"Your words remain our light; your wisdom still speaks across time."

Five years without you, yet your love for Kashmiri language and culture lives on.

Deeply remembered by

Azhar Hajini & Family