

Good Morning

Kashmir

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Growing Pressure To Infiltrate

Pakistan Ramps Up Drone Activity Along LoC



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has been using drones extensively against India in the past couple of years. Drones have been used to smuggle arms, ammunition and narcotics, especially into Punjab. In the last couple of weeks, the security agencies have noted that there have been drone sightings along the Line of Control (LoC).

In August, the security forces had launched a massive search operation along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district following the sighting of a suspected Pakistani drone along the border areas.

An official said that these drones are flying along the border areas to stage an attack. They are also being used to gather information about the movement of the Indian security forces so that Pakistan can affect infiltration of its terrorists who are waiting at the launchpads, the official added.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that all conventional methods of infiltration have failed in the last many months. The situation in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), where protests are on for the last three months, is also not helping the ISI's cause.

The security forces, who usually guided the infiltrations by causing distractions along the border areas, too, are busy with the ongoing situation in PoK, the official said.

Further, there is a growing frustration as the terrorists are unable to infiltrate. Some of them have been waiting for over one year at the launchpads and this has added to both frustration and them being demoralised, the official added.

In the August incident, alert Indian security forces had fired at the drones, which forced them to retreat.

Pakistan would continue to send in drones on a larger scale as it is desperate to gather information about the movement and

● P-06

Kashmir's Fishermen Struggle To Make Living From Traditional Livelihoods

Weak Marketing Systems, Environmental Changes Threatening Livelihood Security

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Fishermen communities in Kashmir continue to face low incomes, limited education, inadequate infrastructure and weak institutional support despite the region's extensive aquatic resources, according to a review of existing research.

The review, titled "Socio-Economic Status of Fishermen Community in Kashmir: A Review", examines the demographic characteristics, education, occupations, income patterns, housing conditions, gender participation, fish marketing systems and constraints faced by fishing households in the Valley.

It draws on previous studies, government reports and other published literature on fisheries and fishing communities in Kashmir.

A study of the fishing com-



munity around Dal Lake, cited in the review, found that 65.6 per cent of 180 respondents earned less than Rs 15,000 a month from fishing, while the average monthly household income was Rs 13,393.

The study collected data

through structured interviews from fishermen in three villages located on the periphery of Dal Lake.

It found that 63.3 per cent of the respondents were in the 35-59 age group, while men accounted for 88.9 per cent and

97.8 per cent were married.

Educational attainment was particularly low, with 78.9 per cent of respondents having no formal literacy, according to the study. About 56.7 per cent lived in nuclear families with fewer than four members.

The study also found that 96.7 per cent of respondents owned their boats, while cast nets were the dominant fishing gear used in Dal Lake.

The authors of that study concluded that the fishing community was living on the margins and receiving limited attention from government and development agencies. They recommended coordinated measures by the fisheries, tourism and agriculture departments to strengthen fishermen's livelihoods through consultation with the community.

The new review said fishing remains a traditional

● P-06

Species Count Falls From 14 To 8

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Dal Lake loses its native fish diversity: Survey

SRINAGAR: Dal Lake recorded only eight fish species during a six-month survey, with researchers flagging a significant decline in fish diversity and calling for urgent conservation measures.

The study, published in the July 2026 issue of the Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR), accessed, exam-

ined the fish diversity and conservation status of the iconic Kashmir lake.

Researchers from Government Degree College Bemina and Government Degree College Uttersoo collected fish samples from three locations - Hazratbal, Nehru Park and Nishat - every fortnight between January and June 2025, with the help of local fishermen.

Only eight species were recorded during the study, the

● P-06

Opposition To Raise Public Issues In Assembly Session: LoP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Leader of Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Wednesday said the opposition will raise the voices of the poor and common people in the upcoming Assembly session, alleging that corruption and unemployment have reached alarming levels in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma, who is on a visit to Baramulla as part of his party's pre-session outreach programme, told news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) that the legislative group had decided to visit every district headquarters to listen to people's problems ahead of the session.

A lot of people have come from North Kashmir with their issues. Our legislative group has decided that before this Assembly session, we will go to every district headquarters and listen to the problems of the people.



Today we have come to Baramulla. People have come from different sections here," Sharma said.

"This is purely apolitical. We will not call this a political meeting. We have come here to listen to the problems of the people and raise them in the concerned quarters," he added.

On the BJP's stance in the Assembly session, Sunil Sharma said, "The opposition has to raise the voices of the poor."

● P-06

'Fulfilling Budget Promise'

Govt Sanctions Free Public Transport For Differently-Abled Persons

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Fulfilling a key Budget announcement made in March this year, the Government led by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has sanctioned free ridership for differently-abled persons in public transport across Jammu and Kashmir.

The facility will cover services operated by the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC), as well as e-Buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited.

Congratulating Transport Minister Satish Sharma on the initiative, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the decision reflects the Government's commitment to social justice and marks an important step towards ensuring greater acces-



sibility, ease of travel and inclusive mobility across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said the initiative will help make public transport more accessible and facilitate greater mobility for differently-abled persons.

"Fulfilling a key Budget announcement made in March

this year, the Government has sanctioned free ridership for differently-abled persons in public transport," the CMO said in a post on X.

"Congratulating Transport Minister @satishsharmajnk on the initiative, the Chief Minister said it reflects the Government's commitment

● P-06

CS Directs For Time-Bound Revival Action For Recoverable MSMEs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and functioning of the J&K MSME Health Clinic, a digital initiative aimed at monitoring, diagnosing and revitalizing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the Union Territory through timely assessment and targeted interventions.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu/ Kashmir; Director Handloom & Handicrafts, Kashmir/ Jammu; Representatives from IIM-Jammu, J&K Bank besides other senior officers of the Industries & Commerce Department.

The meeting reviewed the expansion of the pro-



gramme's diagnostic coverage, the status of field-level assessments, institutional arrangements for rehabilitation, financial interventions and the use of digital tools for monitoring and follow-up of stressed industrial units.

Taking stock of the progress achieved, the Chief Secretary directed the Industries and Commerce (I&C) Department to accelerate field visits and strengthen the operational capacity of Small Business

● P-06

Urges Early Restoration Of Peace

India Voices Concern Over Attempted Drone Attack On Mecca

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday expressed concern over the drone attack near Mecca and expressed hope for early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

In response to media queries regarding the drone attack near Mecca, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal termed the incident "particularly concerning", considering the religious significance of the Saudi Arabian city.

"We are deeply concerned at the drone attack near Makkah (Mecca). India reiterates its condemnation of attacks on the sovereign territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and of actions that endanger civilian lives and infrastructure. The incident near Makkah is particularly concerning, given the special



significance of the city to Muslims across the world," Jaiswal said in a statement.

"We hope for the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," he added.

The MEA's statement comes after Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces intercepted and destroyed a hostile drone launched by the Houthis before it entered the prohibited airspace area of the Holy City of Makkah. The hostile drone was intercepted in southern Makkah," the Saudi Press Agency reported.

In a statement, the Coali-

tion to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen's official spokesperson, Major General Turki Al-Malki, said: "At 18:50 on Tuesday evening, September 15, 2026, the Royal Saudi Air Defence Forces intercepted and destroyed a hostile drone launched by the terrorist Houthi militia before it entered the prohibited airspace area of the Holy City of Makkah. The hostile drone was intercepted in southern Makkah," the Saudi Press Agency reported.

"This hostile and terrorist act is the second attempt to target Makkah, following the first attempt with a ballistic missile on July 27, 2017. This can only be described as a disgraceful act, an attempt to target the birth-place of revelation, the land of the message, and the destination that draws the hearts of millions of Muslims from around the world," he added.

Al-Malki said that the incident was an attempt to terrorise Umrah performers and described it as a "deliberate act" intended to provoke the feelings of Muslims, Saudi Press Agency reported.

"The security of the Two Holy Mosques and the Umrah performers is a red line, and the Joint Forces Command of the Coalition will not hesitate to take the necessary and deterrent measures against the terrorist Houthi militia and its hostile and terrorist behaviour."

UPI MDR Changes Govt Debunks 'Foreign Influence' Claims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Finance Ministry on Wednesday debunked claims which suggested that the MDR change in the UPI ecosystem is due to foreign influence, stressing that India's digital payments decisions are made independently.

Since its launch in 2016, UPI has grown into the world's largest real-time interoperable payment system — entirely on India's own terms, the ministry posted on social media platform X.

Such claims are "false. India's UPI policy decisions are made independently, with the clear goal of building a self-sustaining, inclusive, and affordable digital payments ecosystem," it noted.

UPI processed 24.5 billion transactions in August 2026 alone. To keep this system self-sustainable, secure and innovative, a small fee on high-value merchant transactions helps fund better infrastructure and cybersecurity, support for small merchants in Tier III-VI towns and rural areas, and

● P-06

'Over 55% J&K Students Lack Grade-Level Skills' UT Among Weakest Performers In Foundational Learning



RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: In a worrisome development, Jammu & Kashmir has been listed among the weakest performers nationally in foundational learning outcomes, with fewer than 45 percent of its students demonstrating grade-level skills in one or more subjects.

According to the official documents available, Jammu and Kashmir, alongside other regions of India like Meghalaya, Mizoram, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh record

some of the lowest outcomes. The documents said that these regions have lowest outcomes with fewer than 45 percent of children demonstrating grade-level skills in one or more subjects.

"Kerala, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh emerge as the strongest performers, with more than two-thirds of students achieving grade-level expectations across subjects. Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Odisha also perform above the national average, reflecting

● P-06

Cabinet approves hike in EPFO wage ceiling to Rs 25,000

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to enhance the wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 per month, a move expected to bring more than 51 lakh additional employees under mandatory social security coverage.

The decision, taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is aimed at widening social security protection for workers and strengthening the formalisation of employment.

The EPFO wage ceiling had remained unchanged throughout the decade from 2004 to 2014 before being enhanced to Rs 15,000 in September 2014. The latest revision seeks to align the ceiling with sustained wage growth, rising incomes and the expansion of formal employment.

At present, a fresh employee joining employment at a wage above Rs 15,000 per month is not automatically covered under the EPF framework and may remain outside mandatory provident fund, pension and associated insurance protection.

With the ceiling raised to Rs 25,000, employees in the Rs 15,000-Rs 25,000 wage band will be brought within the statutory social security framework, subject to applicable provisions.

The expanded coverage will provide access to provident fund savings, pension protection



under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and insurance protection under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI), in accordance with the applicable scheme provisions.

The government said the move will also enable the statutory contribution and pensionable-wage framework to better reflect prevailing wage levels.

Since the last revision in September 2014, India has witnessed sustained wage growth, rising incomes and continued expansion of formal employment. In several states and occupations, minimum wages have also moved closer to the existing threshold.

The enhancement is expected to provide further impetus to employment formalisation, worker retention and long-term retirement security. Wider social security coverage is also expected to support employee retention, workforce stability and morale among employees.

The proposal underwent detailed inter-ministerial consultations and was recommended by the Expenditure Finance Committee at its meeting held on June 16, 2026.

The annual government outgo under the measure is estimated at about Rs 11,339 crore, against the existing annual budgetary support of around Rs 10,250 crore. The estimated expenditure over five years is approximately Rs 56,696 crore.

EPFO operates one of the world's largest social security systems, administering the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI).

According to the latest EPFO data, the organisation has around 7.98 crore contributing members across about 7.68 lakh contributing establishments, while the EPS provides pension benefits to around 82 lakh pensioners. EDLI provides insurance protection linked to EPF membership.

The government said the measure will ensure that the social security framework keeps pace with rising wages and expanding formal employment, enabling a larger number of workers to receive statutory social security protection.

It said the decision marks another step towards building an inclusive, resilient and future-ready social security architecture as India moves towards Viksit Bharat@2047.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment and EPFO will undertake the necessary statutory and administrative steps for implementation of the decision.

Eco-Park construction at Ningli Sopore faces delay; contractor served notice

BILAL DAR

SOPORE: Authorities have served a notice to the contractor executing the Eco-Park project at Ningli in Sopore over the alleged non-commencement or extremely slow progress of construction work and for the reported unauthorised use of site material for extracting sand.

According to an official notice, the work was allotted under allotment No. 17 of 2025-26 dated November 1, 2025, with directions to commence and complete the project within the stipulated timeframe. However, officials said the work has either not been started in the required manner or is progressing at an "extremely dismal and unsatisfactory pace".

The notice states that the progress achieved at the site is not commensurate with the prescribed completion schedule and other contractual requirements. Authorities said the delay could adversely affect the timely completion of the project



and that the matter has been viewed seriously by higher authorities.

The contractor has been directed to immediately mobilise adequate manpower, machinery, materials and other resources to accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion within the stipulated period.

In a separate notice, officials alleged that the contractor was sieving earth and other material available at the project site to extract sand for use

in the construction work. The practice was reported by field staff of the Ningli Zone and was described by authorities as being contrary to approved specifications and procedures.

Officials said the use of such material could compromise the quality of the project and violate contractual obligations.

The contractor has been asked to explain within two days why the practice was adopted and under whose authority the material was processed. The notice

warns that failure to furnish a satisfactory explanation could invite action under the applicable rules and contract conditions without any further notice.

Meanwhile, local residents have also sought intervention from the Forest Department over the delay in completion of the project. In a representation addressed to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, & (CED Wucma) residents of Ningli Bala, Tarzoo, alleged that the Eco-Tourism Park project

has witnessed negligible progress over the past three years and urged authorities to take action against the contractor.

Social and environmental activist Ajaz Ahmad Dar, who forwarded the representation on behalf of local residents, said the prolonged delay had deprived the area of a key eco-tourism facility. "The project was envisioned as an important recreational and tourism asset for the locality, but there has been virtually no progress on the ground. Residents are concerned about the delay as well as the alleged use of substandard material, which could affect the quality of the project. We have requested the department to investigate the matter, take strict action if any violations are found and ensure the project is completed at the earliest," Dar said.

The residents have also sought the imposition of penalties, if warranted, and the timely completion of the Eco-Park for the benefit of the local community.

JKEDI organizes District-Level Startup Idea Challenge at CIED IUST

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), in collaboration with the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, successfully organised a District-Level Startup Idea Challenge and Boot Camp at CIED IUST Awantipora under the J&K Startup Idea Challenge 2.0.

The programme, themed "Ignite Ideas. Build Startups. Create Impact.", aims to nurture creativity among students and aspiring entrepreneurs and equip them with the confidence and support needed to transform innovative ideas into viable business ventures.

It forms part of JKEDI's broader initiative under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 to foster a robust startup ecosystem across the Union Territory through a series of district-level boot camps. Distinguished guests

present on the occasion included Chand Kishore Sharma, Joint Director, JKEDI; Prof. Parvaiz Ahmad Iust, Director, CIED, IUST; Dr. Tariq Hossain Ganie, Associate Professor, Food Technology, IUST; Dr. Sajaad A. Lone, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering and Coordinator, AICTE IDEA Lab; Dr. Basit, CEO, CIED IUST Foundation, along with other dignitaries, faculty members, and guests.

Joint Director, JKEDI, guided the participants to embrace entrepreneurship and become job creators rather than job seekers.

Addressing the gathering, the organisers encouraged the students to present their ideas with confidence. They emphasised that the Boot Camp serves as a vital platform and starting point for young innovators to begin their entrepreneurial journey. Drawing inspiration from the poetry of Allama Iqbal and other motivational verses, speakers highlighted that with the right support, even a simple idea

can grow into a remarkable enterprise.

Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, also interacted with the participants and encouraged them to work diligently on their innovative ideas and transform them into viable business solutions.

During the event, students pitched their start-up ideas before a panel of experts. The most promising ideas have been shortlisted for intensive mentoring, pitch training, and further evaluation leading to the Grand Finale of the J&K Startup Idea Challenge 2.0. Selected innovators will receive opportunities for mentorship, incubation support, and pathways to convert their concepts into sustainable ventures.

The organisers expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, faculty members, and students for their enthusiastic participation and reiterated JKEDI and CIED-IUST's commitment to empowering the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to become job creators rather than job seeker

PIB Srinagar organises 'Vartalap' on three-year roadmap for drug-free India

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Srinagar, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), on Wednesday organised 'Vartalap' to create awareness about the government's Vision Document 2026-2029 for a drug-free India.

The programme focused on the key aspects and salient features of the three-year roadmap aimed at achieving the goal of a 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' by 2029.

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah had launched the Vision Document 2026-2029 in June this year as part of the government's efforts to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

The 'Vartalap' was conducted by NCB Zonal Director for Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh region Piyush Kumar Ankit, PIB Srinagar Director Qazi Salman and Assistant Director (Media), Ministry of Home Affairs, Rajeev Kumar Rustagi.

During the interaction, media persons were briefed about the government's initiatives and key achievements in combating drugs, including seizures, arrests, deep-level investigations and destruction of seized narcotics.

The roadmap, covering the period from July



2026 to July 2029, is based on four pillars -- intelligence and operation-based enforcement, precursor and synthetic drugs control, demand and harm reduction, and capacity building and coordination.

The operational approach under the four pillars is based on the mantra of "Detect, Disrupt and Destroy".

Under the strategy, agencies will focus on identifying drug sources, routes, peddlers, technology, payment channels and kingpins; disrupting transit, logistics, precursor supply, darknet networks, hawala and narco-financing; and destroying clandestine drug laboratories, illicit cultivation, cartel assets, leadership and distribution networks.

The government has identified the fight against drugs as a national security priority, with special focus on dismantling clandestine drug laboratories,

tracing and bringing back drug offenders and fugitives, integrating systems and achieving measurable national outcomes.

The presentation also highlighted measures for supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction, besides targeting drug trafficking networks, financial channels and fugitives through a whole-of-government approach.

Strengthening the joint operational capabilities of agencies, from policy formulation to prosecution, has also been accorded priority under the Vision Document.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, along with educational institutions, is working towards making educational institutions drug-free. Through NCC, NSS and My Bharat initiatives, lakhs of 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Mitras' will also be prepared, the participants were informed.

Director Agri reviews activities at Seed Multiplication Farm Allowpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Wednesday visited the Seed Multiplication Farm at Allowpora and reviewed the ongoing activities and overall functioning of the farm.

During the visit, the Director inspected various ongoing farm operations and took detailed stock of the seed multiplication programme. He interacted with the concerned officers and field staff and sought a comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved, crop management practices, field operations and developmental works being undertaken at the farm.

Sartaj Ahmad Shah stressed the importance of strengthening departmental seed production infrastructure for ensuring the availability of quality seed to farmers at the appropriate time. He directed the



concerned officers to maintain strict adherence to prescribed technical standards and ensure timely execution of all farm operations for achieving optimum seed production.

The Director also emphasized the need for scientific and efficient management of departmental farms, judicious utilization of available resources and adoption of improved agricultural

practices. He called upon the field functionaries to maintain close monitoring of farm activities and ensure that the available infrastructure and resources are utilized to their full potential.

The concerned officers briefed the Director about the various activities being undertaken at the farm and apprised him of the progress and future course of action.

DCHB training programme held in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A training programme for the preparation of the District Census Handbook (DCHB) was held Wednesday at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Kulgam as part of the ongoing preparations for Census 2027.

The training programme was organised to acquaint the concerned officials with the procedures, formats and other technical aspects involved in the preparation of the District Census Handbook.

The training was imparted by officers from the Directorate of Census Operations (DCO), J&K, who provided detailed guidance on the collection, compilation, verification

and presentation of the requisite information.

During the training, participants were briefed about the structure and salient features of the DCHB, the information to be collected through revenue and other official records, preparation of village and town directories, identification of relevant fields, scrutiny of data and adherence to the prescribed schedules and timelines.

Speaking on the occasion, District Census Officer, Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri, emphasised the importance of the DCHB in providing a comprehensive statistical and administrative profile of the district and highlighted that the Handbook shall

serve as an important reference document containing valuable information relating to villages, towns, administrative units, demographic characteristics, civic amenities, infrastructure and other relevant indicators.

He further stressed upon the officials to undertake the assigned work with accuracy, diligence and a coordinated approach, ensuring that the information collected from the field and available through official records is properly verified before compilation.

The officers of DCO also interacted with the participants and addressed their queries regarding the various components of DCHB preparation.

Manasbal Lake faces growing ecological pressure from human activity: Study

‘Sewage, agricultural runoff, tourism, stone quarrying threatening water quality

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Manasbal Lake, one of Kashmir's important freshwater ecosystems, is facing growing ecological pressure from agricultural runoff, sewage, tourism, stone quarrying and expanding human settlements.

As per the details available, a recent scientific review published in the issue of Current World Environment, states that increasing nutrient inputs from household waste, sewage and agricultural activities have contributed to eutrophication in the lake, affecting its water quality and aquatic life.

Researchers from the University of Kashmir's Department of Zoology examined available studies on the lake's hydrology, water quality, biodiversity and human-induced pressures and called for comprehensive restoration and management measures.

Manasbal, located in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, is described in the study as a deep freshwater lake with a maximum depth of about 13 metres. It covers approximately 280 hectares, including around



25 hectares of marshland, and receives water mainly from springs, precipitation and an irrigation channel. The lake has no distinct natural inlet, while excess water leaves through the Nunyar Nalla and eventually reaches the Jhelum River.

The researchers noted that Manasbal's catchment covers about 22 square kilometres and includes agricultural land, plantations, settlements and areas affected by quarrying.

"Human settlements, agricultural runoff, tourism, and stone quarrying" were identified among the major pressures affecting the lake.

According to the review, more than 31 per cent of the catchment comprises wasteland and bare-rock areas associ-

ated with quarrying sites. Limestone sediments from these areas can enter the lake system, contributing to sedimentation. The study also points to the role of Kondabal, an area known historically for kilns, quarries and mines. Quarrying activity has been associated with increased calcium entering the lake, which researchers say can contribute to sedimentation and nutrient accumulation.

Tourism is another pressure. The researchers said motorboat activity and oil spills can add to pollution, while increasing human activity around the lake has compounded waste-management problems.

The lake is also known for its aquatic biodiversity, including fish and

birds, and for its extensive growth of lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) during July and August.

The review said Manasbal is an important habitat for aquatic birds and has been recognised as one of Kashmir's major bird-watching sites. Its fisheries and other resources also support local economic activity.

The researchers warned that eutrophication, driven by excess nutrients, can promote algal growth and eventually deteriorate water quality and the wider aquatic ecosystem.

The study noted that Manasbal has a water residence time of about 1.2 years and a reported sedimentation rate of 0.44 centimetres per year, factors that are important for understanding how pollutants and sediments move through the lake.

The review also highlighted changes in land use around the lake, including agriculture, plantations and built-up areas, and recommended reducing erosion and sediment inflow through measures such as reforestation of degraded areas with native species, associated with the lake—(KNO)

CM Omar reviews Pulwama development scenario

Inaugurates, lays foundation stones for projects worth ₹86 Cr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the developmental scenario of Pulwama district, covering key sectors including Health, Rural Development, Education, Social Welfare, Infrastructure and Public Works, Heritage, Tribal Development, Housing, Rural Livelihoods, Jal Shakti, Power, HADP, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, and Industries, among others.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Basharat Qayoom gave a presentation highlighting the functioning of key departments and major developmental areas of the district.

During the meeting, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the district raised issues of public importance, with the Chief Minister giving them a patient hearing and assuring timely action on the issues raised.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for developmental projects



worth over ₹86 crore.

Works worth ₹23.12 crore were dedicated to the public through e-inaugurations, including the NTPHC Ratnipora (₹2.85 crore), WSS Augmentation at Ratnipora (₹5.07 crore), PHC Nawa (₹2.99 crore), road restoration projects, school infrastructure additions in Rajpora and Tral, the Milk Village at Sangerwani (₹3.35 crore), and a major bridge over the Lam Nallah (₹4.54 crore).

Foundation stones were also laid for projects worth ₹63 crore, encompassing extensive road network upgrades, high-capacity bridges over the Romshi Nallah and Batagund, a pasteurised compost unit at Kakapora, and a ruminant-cum-disease diagnostic centre at Pulwama.

Addressing the meeting,

the Chief Minister underscored the need for urgent execution and directed that all ongoing works be completed expeditiously in view of the limited working season drawing to a close. He laid specific emphasis on projects funded under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), directing the concerned departments to ensure their physical and financial completion without delay.

Highlighting Pulwama's strengths in saffron cultivation and milk production, the Chief Minister directed the departments to focus on transforming raw milk into high-value dairy products. He called for formulation of specialised projects, greater inter-departmental coordination and strengthening of coop-

erative models for processing and value addition in the dairy sector, aimed at increasing the earnings of local dairy farmers and generating employment.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare Departments, Sakina Itoo; Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmed Dar; Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings Departments, Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Members of the Legislative Assembly from Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi; Pulwama, Waheed ur Rehman Parra; Rajpora, Ghulam Mohuddin Mir; and Tral, Rafiq Ahmed Naik; Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, heads of the departments, besides senior officers.

Govt fixes deadlines for 6,000 PM Package flats

Rs 82.45 Cr Migrant Camp renovation to start shortly

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A meeting to review the ongoing and new projects of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) was held under the joint chairmanship of Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, PW(R&B) Department and Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, DMRR&R.

The meeting was attended by the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Chief Engineers PW(R&B) North/Central/South Kashmir, Chief Engineer KPDCL, Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Jammu and senior officers from the Public Works Department, DMRR&R, Jal Shakti Department and Divisional Administration Kashmir.

It was informed that out of 6,000 flats approved for accommodation of PM Package employees at 20 locations across Kashmir Valley, 5,176 flats have been completed. Besides, allied works including installation of lifts, internal roads, drainage and community

halls are also nearing completion at most sites.

Specific deadlines for completion of balance works and handover/takeover were fixed, with directions to hand over the possession of completed flats to the eligible employees in a phased manner as per allotments already made under the government norms.

Regarding major repair and renovation of various blocks at migrant camps in Jammu, for which the government has approved Rs 82.45 crore, it was informed that tender formalities have been completed and work is likely to start shortly.

Meanwhile, directions were also issued for finalization of a detailed project for upgradation of infrastructure in the migrant schools, health dispensaries, internal roads and parks in the migrant camps. Likewise, an extensive review of construction of PoJK Bhawan at Sukestar was also held with emphasis on completing the project in all respects within the current financial year.

The Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Jammu apprised the meeting that the DPR for construction of additional flats for Kashmiri migrants at Purkhoo, Jammu is being finalized and the Multipurpose Community Hall at Jagti with an estimated cost of Rs 6.50 crore has been completed. It was further informed that for new projects with an approximate financial implication of Rs 20.00 crore at migrant camps Purkhoo, Nagrota, Muthi and Jagti in the current financial year, tender formalities are in progress.

Besides, DPRs are being prepared for the new projects proposed for next financial year, including E-Learning Centres, Digital Libraries and Reading Rooms, Career Counseling and Guidance Centres, Skill Development and Vocational Training Centres, Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centres, Sports Infrastructure and Solar Power/Water Conservation projects in migrant camps.

AIMSA Flags Stipend Disparity Among PG Residents in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The All India Medical Students' Association (AIMSA) has raised concerns over what it described as a significant disparity in postgraduate stipends in Jammu and Kashmir compared with other states, as well as differences between stipends paid to postgraduate residents at SKIMS and those at government medical colleges across the Union Territory.

Dr. Mohit Choudhary, Chief Advisor of AIMSA and a postgraduate resident at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, said the disparity had created concerns among postgraduate residents regarding equitable compensation for their work and services.

AIMSA has urged Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo and the Jammu and Kashmir Government to urgently examine the issue and address the differences in postgraduate stipends.

The association has called for a fair and equitable stipend structure for postgraduate residents working in government medical institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

The association's demand comes in the context of postgraduate residents undertaking clinical duties and other responsibilities as part of their medical training. [KNT]

Statehood Being Used to Divert Attention From Governance Issues: LoP Sharma



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Wednesday accused the National Conference-led government of using the issue of restoration of statehood to divert attention from what he described as shortcomings in governance.

Speaking to reporters in Baramulla, Sharma alleged that corruption and unemployment had reached alarming levels and said the government should focus on issues directly affecting the people.

Sharma said the elected government had responsibilities to fulfil and alleged that the powers and resources available to it were not being utilised effectively.

"Let them pave the way for us. We will show how to

work. They have the work, but they are not using it," Sharma said while referring to the functioning of the government.

The Leader of Opposition also raised concerns over the employment situation, particularly among youth. He alleged that jobs were increasingly being filled through outsourcing and said unemployment remained a major concern.

Sharma said the opposition would continue to raise issues concerning different sections of society, including NHM employees, daily-wage workers and Anganwadi workers, and would use the Assembly and other democratic platforms to highlight public grievances and seek accountability.

He further alleged that funds released by the Centre were not being utilized effectively on the ground and linked the issue to delays in holding Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Body elections.

On electricity, Sharma criticized the government over increased power charges, alleging that higher tariffs had placed an additional financial burden on ordinary households.

The LoP said the opposition would continue to raise public concerns and seek answers from the government on governance, employment, development and delivery of public services. [KNT]

Amit Sharma reviews census preparedness in Poonch

Highlights digital, paperless Census at Press Conference



GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, Wednesday visited Poonch and reviewed the preparedness for the forthcoming Census during a meeting held at Poonch.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma briefed the CPCO on the district-level preparedness and arrangements for the Census operations.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed, DSEO Javid Ahmed and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on field arrangements, inter-departmental coordination, availability of resources and other preparatory activities.

Amit Sharma stressed proper planning, close coordination and timely execution for a hassle free conduct of the process. He directed the concerned officers to

ensure timely appointment, digital registration and training of Enumerators and Supervisors as per the prescribed guidelines.

Later, Amit Sharma held a press conference and briefed the media about the objectives, preparations and key features of the forthcoming Census. He highlighted that the Census will be the country's first fully digital and paperless Census, with special attention to remote, difficult and snow-bound border areas such as Poonch to ensure comprehensive coverage within the stipulated timelines.

He emphasized the importance of accurate Census data for demographic, social and economic planning and effective implementation of development programmes. He urged the media, civil society organizations and community leaders to create awareness about the Census, particularly the self-enumeration facility, and appealed to citizens to extend full cooperation to the Census authorities, Enumerators and Supervisors.

Army's solar lights end generations of darkness in Butapathri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: As part of its ongoing efforts to bring light and hopes by removing the darkness from many homes and provide an opportunity to enlighten the future of many children residing in far flung areas of Battalion AOR, Indian Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles conducted the second phase of Solar Lights Distribution under Operation Sadhbhavana at Butapathri on Wednesday.

The programme was organised as a continuation of the first phase of solar light distribution conducted in the Nagin Dhok complex, wherein 100 families were benefited with the solar lights provided by the Battalion. This initiative provided an excellent opportunity for



meaningful grassroots-level interaction with the Gujar and Bakarwal communities residing in and around Butapathri, Sochalpathri, Atar and Arian Dhoks.

A total of 160 villagers, including elders, women and children, participated in the programme. During the interaction, the Army engaged with members of the community and discussed various aspects of

their traditional lifestyle, seasonal movement patterns and the challenges faced by them, particularly due to adverse weather conditions, limited availability of tracks and other administrative constraints.

The interaction fostered a better understanding of the issues and challenges faced by the Gujar-Bakarwal community and further enhanced mutual trust, com-

munication and cooperation between the local population and the Indian Army.

As part of the initiative, 137 solar lights, one per family, were distributed among Gujar-Bakarwal families. These solar lights are a heartfelt attempt to address the urgent requirement of illumination in the Dhoks to facilitate studies of the children living in dhoks and meeting basic daily necessity such as charging of mobile phones in areas where conventional electrical connectivity is unavailable.

The community warmly welcomed the initiative and expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the continued outreach and welfare measures undertaken by the Indian Army under Operation Sadhbhavana.

Teacher Suspended Over Alleged Harassment of Student in Ramban

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: A government teacher in Ramban district has been placed under immediate suspension following allegations of harassment of a female student, officials said. The action was taken against Raiz Ahmed, posted at Government High School Harroge in Zone Gool, following a report submitted by an inquiry committee constituted on September 14, officials said.

The inquiry was initiated after a girl student lodged a complaint alleging harassment by the teacher at the school.

According to an order issued by the Chief Education Officer, Ramban, Ahmed was placed under suspension under Rule 31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956. During the suspension period, Ahmed has been attached to Government Primary School Bhatta in Zone Khari, according to the order.

The department has indicated that further administrative action will be taken in accordance with the findings of the inquiry. The allegations against the teacher have not been established through a final disciplinary or judicial finding, and the inquiry process is continuing. [KNT]

Media Delegation from Kashmir Calls on LG Puducherry

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PUDUCHERRY: A media delegation from Kashmir on a five day exposure tour to Chennai organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Wednesday called on the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Kuniyil Kailashnathan, at Lok Niwas, Puducherry.

During an hour-long interaction, Kailashnathan reflected on his long administrative career and also shared his vision and roadmap for the development of Puducherry. The LG said that he envisions transforming the Union Territory into a major medical tourism hub. As informed, Puducherry with a population of only fifteen lakhs currently has seven medical colleges including the prestigious Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) an institution of national importance.

The delegation was informed that work is ongoing to expand the runway of the airport to



2500 meters from the present 1500 meters to support larger commercial aircrafts which will boost direct air connectivity and is expected to increase the tourist inflow. In addition to this, works for railway and roadways expansion are also expected to be completed by 2028.

While discussing the industrial developmental scenario in Kashmir, the LG opined that the government of Jammu and Kashmir needs to offer various sops to attract industrial investment ranging from tax holidays to cheap power in addition to further improvements in the

transportation infrastructure which has to a larger extent improved with the railway connectivity with the rest of the country.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the visiting journalists to gain insights into the administration and development initiatives in Puducherry.

The delegation is on a press tour to Chennai from September 13 to 19, organised by PIB Srinagar. As part of the tour, the delegation is visiting various institutions and projects in Chennai to meet the senior officials and beneficiaries. Later in the day, the delegation also visited Auroville Foundation - an experimental spiritual township and interacted with the residents and the members.

The delegation is visiting different institutions and infrastructure projects in Chennai to witness first hand the developmental journey for Viksit Bharat 2047 and also document the impact of various public welfare schemes at the grassroots level.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Continuity At The Helm

For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, however, administrative continuity must ultimately translate into visible improvement in everyday life. The return of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should bring renewed focus to issues that directly affect citizens, employment, roads and infrastructure, healthcare, education, tourism, electricity, prices and responsive public services. Stability at the top has meaning only when it is reflected at the grassroots.

The administration now has an opportunity to build on the continuity maintained during the period of additional charge and accelerate decisions that have a direct bearing on public welfare. Citizens expect not merely a functioning government, but a government that listens, responds and delivers.

The return of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should therefore be more than a routine administrative transition. It should mark a renewed commitment to people-first governance, faster delivery of services and stronger accountability across the administrative machinery. For Jammu and Kashmir, that is where the real measure of continuity, and good governance, lies.

Who Are We Really Remembering?

Beyond The Applause: What Does Legacy Ask Of Us?



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

I came to the late Prof/Dr. ____ Memorial Lecture expecting to encounter something of the person we had gathered to remember, his ideas, his work, his values, and perhaps a conversation about how his legacy could be carried forward. What was delivered made me pause. The chief guest, though accomplished, seemed largely disconnected from the life and work of the person being commemorated. The address could have belonged to almost any public gathering. There was little engagement with what the deceased stood for, or with the mission he left behind.

To the organisers' credit, there was an effort to keep the memory alive. But keeping a name alive is not the same as carrying a legacy forward. And this raises a larger question: what is the purpose of a memorial lecture? Is it to hold an annual meeting, exchange praises, reassure family and friends that the name is remembered, and demonstrate that we remain relevant? Or is it to revisit a life, understand its purpose, and ask what we can continue?

A memorial should not merely tell us that someone mattered. It should ask what their life now requires of us. Otherwise, remembrance risks becoming ritual—an event completed, rather than a legacy continued.

Beyond the Memorial: What Makes a Legacy Worth Remembering? When remembrance becomes ceremony, the real test is what we carry forward. There are moments when we attend a memorial not merely to remember someone who is no longer with us, but to ask ourselves what remains of that person in us. I found myself thinking about this while attending a memorial lecture held on the death anniversary of a senior doctor whose life represented something increasingly rare: simplicity without display, conviction without noise, and empathetic service without the constant need for an audience.

Beyond the Memorial: What Makes a Legacy Worth Remembering? The hall was prepared as such occasions usually are. Posters announced the event. Lights illuminated the stage. Microphones were tested. Chairs were arranged. A guest lecture was scheduled. Citations were

prepared. There was a chief guest, guests of honour, felicitations, shawls, mementos, photographs and the familiar choreography of a formal public gathering.

Nothing about this was unusual. Perhaps that was precisely what made me pause. The caring and compassionate doctor we had gathered to remember was, in life, almost the opposite of ceremony. He was down to earth. He did not appear particularly interested in cameras, applause or manufactured importance. There was a quietness about him—a humility that did not need to announce itself. His work spoke more loudly than his presence. His sincerity had a direction, his



passion a purpose, and that purpose seemed larger than himself.

So I began to wonder: What does it really mean to commemorate such a person? Is remembrance about putting up a poster with a familiar photograph, inviting dignitaries, presenting citations and wrapping shoulders in ceremonial shawls? Or is there something deeper that we owe to those whose lives gave us a vision worth continuing?

Memorial lectures, at their best, can be valuable institutions of collective memory. They can become bridges between generations. They can remind us not merely that someone once lived, but that a certain way of thinking, serving and caring once existed—and perhaps still deserves to exist. A good memorial should therefore ask the living: What remains unfinished? What can we carry forward? Where can we renew the mission? That, perhaps, is the real meaning of legacy. Legacy is not simply what is written in an obituary, preserved in a citation or repeated in an annual speech. It is what continues to breathe after the person is gone.

It is the young professional who adopts an ethical principle. It is the patient who receives compassionate care because someone was inspired by that doctor's example. It is an institution that continues an important programme. It is philanthropy that reaches someone who may never

appear on a stage. It is service performed quietly, without expectation of recognition. It is an idea that gathers renewed energy. It is a mission that finds new hands.

And yet, sitting at that memorial lecture, I could not escape an uncomfortable thought: Can a memorial itself become a ritual that slowly replaces the legacy it was created to preserve?

Perhaps this happens gradually. An event begins with sincere intention. Over the years, it becomes an annual tradition. The date is fixed, the stage familiar, the format predictable, and the names of speakers and dignitaries become part of the ritual. Then something subtle can happen. The event itself becomes important. Remembrance becomes secondary to the occasion. Legacy becomes secondary to visibility.

The question shifts from "What can we continue?" to "Who is visible?" From "What can we contribute?" to "Who is on the stage?" From "What did this person stand for?" to "How significant does this event make us appear?" This is not an accusation against anyone. Public occasions require organisation. Institutions need visibility. Recognition and media coverage are not inherently wrong. The concern begins only when the means quietly become the end—when the stage becomes more important than the mission, visibility more important than relevance, and association more important than contribution.

Sometimes, without intending to, we may make the memorial more memorable than the person being remembered. A truly meaningful memorial should make us uncomfortable in the best possible way. It should invite self-examination. What happened to the values this person represented? Did the vision grow? Did the mission reach further? Did compassion become institutional practice? Did philanthropy continue? Did the next generation understand why the work mattered? Or have we reduced a living legacy to a few paragraphs brought out once a year?

Perhaps every memorial lecture should contain two moments: one for remembrance and another for accountability. The first should ask: Who was this person? The second should ask: What are we doing with what they left us? Perhaps there should be fewer questions about who occupied the front row and more about who benefited from the work. Fewer questions about the size of the gathering and more about the size of its impact. Fewer declarations of being a torchbearer and more evidence that the torch is actually lighting someone's path.

A torch is not inherited through a title. It is carried through responsibility. The most authentic tribute to a humble person may therefore be not to make ourselves prominent in their memory, but to make their values

relevant in the lives of others. There is a quiet danger in confusing association with inheritance. Being connected to a legacy does not necessarily mean continuing it. Speaking about a mission does not necessarily mean serving it. Standing beneath a banner does not necessarily mean carrying its purpose. Appearing beside a name does not necessarily mean understanding what that name stood for.

As the formalities continued that day, I found myself looking beyond the stage. I wondered what the doctor might have valued if he were sitting quietly at the back of the hall. Would he have noticed the posters first, the cameras, the dignitaries, the shawls and mementos? Or would he have looked for the person who needed help but could not afford it? The young professional who needed encouragement? The forgotten cause that still required support? The patient who needed compassion? The unfinished programme? The idea that deserved another chance?

Perhaps that is the question every memorial should leave us with: Not "How impressive was the event?" but "What will be different tomorrow because we remembered?"

There is nothing wrong with ceremony. But ceremony should open the door to substance, not close it. There is nothing wrong with honouring a name. But honour should lead us towards the values behind that name. There is nothing wrong with celebrating a legacy. But celebration should never become a substitute for continuing it. Maybe the greatest memorial is not an annual lecture at all. Maybe it is a life changed quietly. A cause sustained faithfully. A young mind inspired sincerely. A patient helped without publicity. A poor family supported without ceremony. A principle defended when nobody is watching. A mission continued when there is no applause. If that happens, the person we remember has not really left us. Their photograph may appear on a screen and their name may be read from a podium. But their real memorial will be elsewhere—in the work that continues, the people who benefit, and the values that survive.

Perhaps that is the only torch worth carrying. Not the torch that illuminates the stage, but the torch that lights the way. That would be a legacy worth remembering. Why My Pen Does Not Stop... Not another number. Yet Another concern. Sometimes the mirror must be held up—not to accuse anyone, but to help all of us see ourselves more honestly.

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

The Moral Test Of Power



ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

When we turn the pages of human history we find that it is usually narrated as a story of kings, wars, empires and revolutions. But there is another story running quietly behind all these events and that is the story of human beings searching for power. From the first stone tool made by early humans to today's artificial intelligence, every major step in civilization has increased our ability to control nature, change our surroundings and influence the lives of others. Human beings have always been eager to become stronger, faster, more knowledgeable and more capable. But there is one question that we often forget to ask: As our power has increased, has our wisdom increased at the same speed? This is perhaps the most important question of our time.

The journey began with simple tools. Early humans had little physical power compared with the forces of nature. They used stones and sticks to hunt, protect themselves and find food. Their survival depended mainly on physical strength, cooperation and their ability to understand their environment.

Then came the phase of agriculture. Agriculture was not simply a method of producing food. It changed human society completely. People began to settle in one place. Villages became towns and towns became cities. Food could be stored. Population increased. Organized societies emerged. With the emergence of cities, there was formation



For the first time, human beings possessed a level of destructive power that could threaten their own civilization. The nuclear age taught us an important lesson: having power is not the same as knowing how to use power. Sometimes the greatest sign of strength is restraint.

The arrival of computers created another revolution. Machines were no longer being used only to increase physical strength. They began to increase human intellectual ability. Computers could calculate, store and process huge amounts of information. The internet then connected people across the world. Information became one of the most valuable forms of power.

Today, we are standing at the beginning of another major transformation: artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence can analyse enormous amounts of information, recognize patterns, generate text and images, translate languages and assist people in solving difficult problems. It has the potential to bring transformative changes in medicine, education, science, business and many other fields. There is much to celebrate. AI may help doctors identify diseases earlier. It may help students learn more effectively. It may assist scientists in discovering new

medicines. It may help people with disabilities communicate and perform everyday tasks. But every powerful technology brings new risks. Artificial intelligence can also be used to spread false information. Fake photographs, videos and voices can be created with remarkable ease. People may be deceived by material that appears genuine but is completely false. Privacy is another major concern. Modern technologies can collect and analyse enormous amounts of personal information. If such power is placed in the wrong hands, it can be used for manipulation or surveillance.

There is also the question of who controls powerful technology. If advanced AI systems, huge databases and enormous computing resources are controlled by only a small number of companies or governments, their influence could become extraordinarily large. The gap between those who control technology and those who simply use it could increase. Therefore, the debate about artificial intelligence should not be limited to technology. It must also be a debate about morality. The real question is not only "What can AI do?" We must also ask, "What should AI be allowed to do?" These two questions are very different. Human beings have repeatedly

demonstrated their ability to create powerful technologies. We learned to control fire, metals, steam, electricity and the atom. We developed computers and connected the world through the internet. Now we are creating machines capable of performing tasks associated with human intelligence.

But technological progress alone can not guarantee a better future. A powerful machine in the hands of an irresponsible person can become dangerous. A powerful technology guided by wisdom and compassion can become a blessing. This means that the greatest challenge of the modern age may not be building more intelligent machines. It may be building more responsible human beings. The future of artificial intelligence will ultimately depend on human choices. Will we use technology to improve education, cure diseases, reduce poverty and make life easier? Or will we use it for deception, surveillance, exploitation and war? The machine will not decide the answer.

But we will have to decide it. Humanity has travelled a remarkable distance—from stone tools to artificial intelligence. Our power has grown beyond anything our ancestors could have imagined. But perhaps our next great step should not be another technological invention. Rather it should be moral progress. Because the real measure of civilization is not how much power humanity possesses. But it is how wisely, fairly and responsibly that power is used. The greatest question of the future, therefore, is not whether machines will become more intelligent. It is whether human beings will become wise enough to use their growing power for the goodness of humanity.

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■ Hazrat Ghous-Ul-Azam (Ra)

Legacy Of Faith, Truth And Spiritual Heritage

A Journey Through The Life, Teachings, Lineage And Enduring Spiritual Legacy Of Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani (Ra), And His Profound Connection With The Dastgeer Sahib Shrine At Khanyar, Srinagar.



SYED MAJID GILANI

Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jilani, also known as Gilani, was born in the beautiful region of Gilan or Jilan, Iran, in 471 Hijri (1077 A.D.). He came from a respected family with a strong lineage. His parents were descendants of Hazrat Ali Murtaza (R.A.), with his father's roots tracing back to Hazrat Imam Hassan (A.S.) and his mother's to Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S.).

Tragedy struck at a young age when Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam's father passed away, leaving his mother to raise him alone. Despite this hardship, his mother was determined to provide him with the best education. By the age of eight, Hazrat had not only learned the Holy Quran but also memorized it, becoming a Hafiz-e-Quran.

When he turned eighteen, he sought his mother's permission to travel to Baghdad, the renowned centre of education at that time. Despite the potential dangers of the journey, his mother wholeheartedly permitted him to go and even hid forty dinars in his shirt pocket as an extra precaution. She advised him to always speak the truth and made him promise to do so.

During their journey, their caravan was attacked and looted in Hamadan. When questioned about his possessions, Hazrat fearlessly spoke the truth without hesitation. Surprisingly, the attackers brought him before their chief, who was astonished by Hazrat's truthful response regarding the hidden dinars. Intrigued, the chief asked Hazrat why he chose to speak the truth despite the dire circumstances. Hazrat explained that his mother had commanded him to always speak the truth, and he could never disobey her orders. The chief was deeply moved by Hazrat's unwavering commitment to his mother's teachings. Overwhelmed with emotion, he realized the errors of his



willingly embraced Islam, including Christians and Jews. Hazrat's reputation as a scholar and theologian spread globally, attracting seekers from various parts of the world. They found satisfying answers to their religious queries. Even rulers became his disciples, respecting his simplicity, humanity, and unwavering determination.

Hazrat's saintly mother instilled values of truthfulness and honesty, which he diligently followed throughout his life. For twenty-five years, Hazrat wandered in Iraq's desert regions, performing countless miracles. One of Hazrat's remarkable miracles occurred during his infancy in the month of Ramzan. He abstained from milk during daylight hours, a miraculous feat. News spread quickly, and on the 29th of Ramzan, when cloudy skies obscured the crescent, people sought confirmation from Hazrat's mother about his milk consumption. Taking this as a sign,

Peerani Peer, etc. These esteemed titles were bestowed upon Hazrat Gilani due to his extraordinary contributions to Islam and humanity.

He exemplified Shariah (Islamic Law and Jurisprudence) principles, emphasizing steadfast adherence. In a congregation on 19th Shawal, 545 Hijri, Hazrat Gilani clarified that anything outside Shariah's boundaries was unacceptable. This valuable lesson inspires us to emulate Hazrat Gilani's personality and teachings. Just as travellers explore new horizons, we can delve into his books, like Futuh Al Ghaib, Aurad-i-Qadriyah, Ghunyatul-Talibeen, and Sirrul-Asrar, etc., quenching our thirst for knowledge and guidance. Hazrat Dastgeer Sahib Jilani (RA) may have physically departed this world, but his legacy endures, inspiring peaceful coexistence and Shariah adherence. Let us embrace his teachings, positively impacting our lives and others.

revered founder of the Qadriyah order, by observing Gyarvi Sharif.

This monthly occasion provides a sacred opportunity for devotees and followers of Ahli Bayt and Auliya-e-Kiram to offer heartfelt praises and supplications to Allah, our sole sustainer. Through "Zikr-Azkaar" and "Khatmaatul-Moazamat", we seek Allah's blessings and guidance. We also pay tribute to our beloved Prophet (PBUH) with "Darood-Azkaar", and we recite "Kibrat-Sharif", a book containing praises showered by Hazrat Ghous upon the Holy Prophet (SAW). May Allah inspire us to follow in the footsteps of the noble saints, who

in Srinagar and first stayed near Idd Gah. Both came to Kashmir as per the spiritual directions of their ancestor, Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam (RA). Their companions, friends, and servants had come along with them. Later, Khwaja Abdul Qadir Chewoo gifted them his land and a house at Khanyar. This transformed Khanyar into a hub of spiritual seekers, attracting scholars and Sufi saints. Noted personalities of the time, like Baba Usman Qadri, Khwaja Abdul Rahim Qadri, and Khwaja Mohammad Murad Tang, became his disciples.

In the revered lineage of Sufi saints, Hazrat Sakhi Shah Mohammad Fazil Qadiri Gilani (RA) shines as a radiant exemplar of spiritual excellence. The family tree goes like this: Syed Sakhi Mohammad Fazil Gilani S/O Syed Abdullah Thathvi Gilani S/O Syed Mehmood Hamvi Gilani S/O Syed Abdul Qadir Sani Gilani S/O Syed Abdul Basit Gilani S/O Syed Shah Hussain Gilani S/O Syed Shahab-ud-Din Ahmed Gilani S/O Syed Sharaf-ud-Din Qasim Gilani S/O Syed Mohi-ud-Din Yahya Salis Gilani S/O Syed Badr-ud-Din Hassan Gilani S/O Syed Ala-ud-Din Ali Gilani S/O Syed Shams-ud-Din Abu Abdullah Gilani S/O Syed Saif-ud-Din Abu Zakariya Gilani S/O Syed Zahir-ud-Din Abu Masood Gilani S/O Syed Mohi-ud-Din Mir Abu Nasr Gilani S/O Syed Imad-ud-Din Mir Abu Sualeh Gilani S/O Syed Abdur Razaq Gilani S/O Ghous-ul-Azam Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani (RA) (References from Zikr Sadati Gilania / Aainay Fitrat and Zamzama).

Actually, this family had come from Baghdad to Hamma. From Hamma, Syed Abdul Qadir Sani had shifted to Thatha Sakhar, Sindh. Hazrat Syed Abul Hassan Gilani (RA), who, along with his brother, had arrived in Srinagar, returned to Peshawar in abidance with the spiritual guidance of Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam. His shrine is famous in Peshawar by the name of Dargah Hassan Badshah. He is the father of the renowned saint Hazrat Syed Shah Mohammad Ghous Lahori, whose shrine is famous in Lahore. It was due to the permanent stay of Hazrat Sakhi Shah Mohammed Fazil Gilani in Kashmir that thousands of people, including contemporary religious scholars, nobles, landlords, and leaders, joined the "Silsilai-Qadria", and Khanyar came to be the centre of its operations.

Hazrat Syed Mohammed Fazil Qadri Gilani (RA) was the first heir (Sajada Nisheen) of the Holy Shrine. He was followed by his son, Hazrat Syed Mehmood Qadri Gilani (RA), then his son, Hazrat Syed Ghulam-ud-Din Azad Qadri Gilani, and then his son, Hazrat Syed Buzarg Shah Qadri Gilani, who became the Shrine Heirs (Sajada Nisheen).

Here in Khanyar, Srinagar, Hazrat Syed Sakhi Shah, a direct descendant of Ghous-ul-Azam (RA), followed the spiritual guidance of Janabi Ghous-ul-Azam to reach this sacred destination. His mausoleum, nestled within the heart of the Dastgeer Sahib Shrine at Khanyar, remains a sacred site, attracting devotees seeking blessings and guidance. The majestic Dastgeer Sahib Shrine, built in 1806 A.D. in Srinagar's Khanyar locality, honours Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam's memory. Renovated by Khwaja Sonaullah Shawl in 1877 A.D., this sacred site embodies spirituality.

As we walk through the shrine, let us strive to cultivate Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam's virtues, guided by his legacy. Kashmir's spiritual heritage dates back to 1090 hijri / 1679 A D, when Hazrat Syed Sakhi Shah Gilani arrived in Khanyar. This land has long been a spiritual hub, blessed by great saints. Hospitable Kashmiris have preserved meditation sites and holy tombs. Notably, Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam (RA) never visited Srinagar; instead, his great-grandson, Hazrat Syed Sakhi Shah Fazil Gilani (RA), settled permanently. These historical facts are documented in Aainay Fitrat/ Zikr Sadaat Gilania, authored by Late Syed Mubarak Shah Fitrat Gilani, noted Persian poet, and from Zamzama, authored by Mr Syed Mohammad Yahya Gilani, noted author.

Syed Majid Gilani is a storyteller by passion and a government officer by profession. He shares heartfelt thoughts on family values and human emotions. He can be mailed at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.



misguided and disobedient life. He felt ashamed for disobeying Allah's orders. In a life-changing moment, the chief ordered the return of all the looted belongings to the travellers. Inspired by his encounter with Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam, the chief pledged to abide by Allah's and the Holy Prophet's orders from then on.

Following a pivotal event in his life, Syedna Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam, a knowledgeable and spiritually inclined individual, began spreading Islam's teachings with love, compassion, and heartfelt connection. Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam successfully propagated the religion of peace, Islam. Notably, Islam was spread purely through love and compassion, devoid of force or coercion. Many non-Muslims, inspired by Hazrat's teachings,

they observed the day as the 30th of Ramzan and fasted. Hazrat displayed profound wisdom throughout his life. These miracles testified to the divine blessings bestowed upon him, reinforcing his influence and teachings.

Throughout his life, Hazrat Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani (RA) left an enduring impact on humanity through his teachings, literary works, and contributions. Though he departed this world, his teachings remain a guiding light for all. His shrine, situated on the east bank of the Tigris in Baghdad, Iraq, remains a revered pilgrimage site. Hazrat Gilani (RA) was revered by various titles, including Mohi-ud-Din, Mehboobi Subhani, Qutb-i-Rabbani, Sheikh-ul-Jin-wal-Ins, Ghous-ul-Azam, Ghous-ul-Saqalain and

The relation between Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam (RA) and Dastgeer Sahib Shrine, Khanyar, Srinagar, is a testament to the power of faith and its impact on people. As we step into the sacred Dastgeer Sahib Shrine, we are surrounded by the aura of the presence of holy relics. The shrine houses a copy of the Quran handwritten by Hazrat Ali Murtaza (RA) and a holy strand of the hair of Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam (RA). The holy relic of Ghous-ul-Azam (R.A.) is displayed on special occasions like the Urs days, which are annually celebrated in the Islamic month of Jamid-us-Sani. Besides, on every 11th day of the Islamic lunar month, we honour the life and teachings of Hazrat Ghous-ul-Azam Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani (R.A.), the

When he turned eighteen, he sought his mother's permission to travel to Baghdad, the renowned centre of education at that time. Despite the potential dangers of the journey, his mother wholeheartedly permitted him to go and even hid forty dinars in his shirt pocket as an extra precaution. She advised him to always speak the truth and made him promise to do so.

reminded us that there is no God but Allah, and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is His servant and messenger.

In Kashmir, the central gathering takes place at the revered Dastgeer Sahib Shrine in Khanyar, Srinagar, where the observance of Gyarvi Sharif commenced with the arrival and permanent settlement of Hazrat Syed Mohammed Fazil Shah Gilani (RA), lovingly known as "Hazrat Sakhi Shah". History reveals that in the year 1090 hijri / 1679 A D, two brothers, namely Hazrat Syed Abul Hassan Gilani (RA) and Hazrat Syed Mohammed Fazil Gilani (RA), arrived

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley

Welcomes New Rotary Platform For Community Service, Social Development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday inaugurated the Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley, marking the beginning of a new Rotary presence dedicated to community service and social development in the Valley.

The Rotary International District 3141, which covers Mumbai and has over 100 member clubs, has extended its activities to Jammu & Kashmir through the Rotary Club of Dahanu by sponsoring the founding of the new Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister welcomed the establishment of the new

Rotary platform and appreciated the initiative of Rotary International District 3141 and the Rotary Club of Dahanu in extending their community-service activities to the Valley.

The Chief Minister highlighted Rotary's long-standing contribution in areas including healthcare, education, sanitation, environmental protection and community development.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of supporting Kashmiri artisans and preserving the region's traditional handicrafts through skill development, innovation, better market access and livelihood opportunities.

He said Rotary could also contribute to the tourism and



hospitality sectors through professional training, youth engagement and initiatives

promoting responsible tourism.

The Chief Minister encouraged the newly installed Board to identify local needs, engage with communities and develop sustainable projects in coordination with relevant government departments and institutions.

Referring to Rotary International's theme, "Create Lasting Impact", he said sustained, community-oriented service has an important role in creating long-term social benefits.

The Chief Minister also congratulated individuals recognised for their contributions to tourism, art, hospitality and public service in Jammu & Kashmir and extended his best wishes to the Rotary Satellite

Club-Kashmir Valley for its future development and continued contribution to the welfare of the people of the Valley.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Tanvir Sadiq and Salman Ali Sagar, District Governor Rotary Club of Dahanu Rtn. Rajan Dua, District Governor Rotary District 3070 Rtn. Anil Singhal, Regal President Rtn. Tanveer Shah and Director Mushtaq Group of Hotels Dr Mushtaq Chaya were present on the occasion.

The programme also included the installation of the Regal Board of Directors and a secretarial.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also presented awards in recognition of service to society.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Pakistan Ramps

positions of Indian troops.

They would deploy these drones more around the infiltration points as this information would help the terrorists enter Jammu and Kashmir, officials say.

The increased drone activity also coincides with the immense pressure that is being applied by the terror bosses of the LeT, JeM and Hizbul Mujahideen on the ISI.

All these terror groups want some big action in Jammu and Kashmir, and owing to high security, they have not been successful in their plans.

Another official said that while Pakistan has been using these drones to gather information relating to the Indian troops, they are also making efforts to drop off arms and ammunition into Jammu and Kashmir.

The ISI is attempting at replicating the Punjab playbook in Jammu and Kashmir as well. In the last couple of years, Punjab has been facing a major drone menace.

Highly sophisticated drones that are linked to satellites are being used to drop off narcotics and arms and ammunition, the official said.

Officials say that along the LoC, Pakistan has been using the Medium Altitude Long Endurance drones along with the Turkey-made Bayraktar TB2 platforms.

These are being sighted near the forward sectors along the LoC. These drones are specifically meant to map the movement of troops and also feed real time coordinates to those manning the launchpads across the border, officials say.

In addition to gathering information about the Indian troops, Pakistan has also been trying to drop off pistols, magnetic sticky bombs, M4 carbines and grenades.

These are meant for the local terror network in Jammu and Kashmir.

For the ISI to rebuild its terror network, it needs the locals to be well-equipped and also ensure that the foreign terrorists are able to infiltrate.

This desperation has led to enhanced drone activity and it is very unlikely that the frequency would increase in the days to come, an official said.

Kashmir's Fishermen

occupation for many families living around Kashmir's major lakes, rivers and wetlands, particularly Wular Lake, Dal Lake and the River Jhelum.

It cited more than 12,000 registered fishermen around Wular Lake, while the number of registered fishermen associated with Dal Lake has been reported at between 939 and 1,500 in different sources. The review, however, noted that the actual number of active fishermen remains uncertain because comprehensive and updated official records are unavailable.

Many fishing households supplement their income through agriculture, horticulture, livestock rearing, wage labour, handicrafts and the harvesting of aquatic resources.

The review said declining fish catches associated in previous studies with habitat degradation, pollution, overexploitation and environmental changes have added to livelihood insecurity.

Fish marketing also remains largely traditional and unorganised. The most common channel involves fishermen selling their catch to middlemen, who then supply retailers and consumers, reducing the share received by fishermen.

Women contribute substantially to fish sorting, cleaning, processing, preservation and marketing, but face limited access to credit, training, extension services and decision-making opportunities.

The review identified environmental degradation, encroachment, siltation, domestic sewage and agricultural runoff as major pressures on fish habitats and aquatic biodiversity.

It recommended sustainable fisheries management, restoration of degraded water bodies, improved sewage treatment, livelihood diversification, better access to institutional credit and

stronger educational and vocational support for fishing communities.

It also called for improved fish markets, cold-storage facilities, transportation, extension services and greater participation of fishermen in decisions affecting their livelihoods—(KNO)

Dal Lake loses

researchers said, compared with more than 14 species reported in earlier studies.

The survey found *Cyprinus carpio specularis* to be the most abundant species across all three sites, followed by **Cyprinus carpio communis*.

Native snow trout species, including *Schizothorax niger* and *Schizothorax curvifrons*, were among the least abundant fish recorded.

The researchers reported seven *Schizothorax niger* at both Hazratbal and Nehru Park and five at Nishat. *Schizothorax curvifrons* numbers were four, seven and four respectively at the three sites.

The study also recorded *Carassius carassius*, *Crossochellus diplochilus*, *Puntius conchoni* and *Gambusia holbrooki* at the three sampling locations.

Researchers said some fish species reported in previous studies were not found during their survey, which they described as an indication of declining ichthyofaunal diversity.

The study attributed the decline to several pressures, including untreated sewage, agricultural runoff, eutrophication, introduction of exotic species, overfishing and loss of fish breeding grounds.

It also raised concern over the reported presence of alligator gar, an invasive predatory fish, saying it could prey on the fry and fingerlings of native *Schizothorax* species.

The researchers recommended controlling untreated sewage and agricultural runoff entering the lake, managing aquatic weeds and regulating human activities around the urban water body.

They also called for restocking native and endemic fish species, preventing the introduction of exotic invasive species and imposing measures against overfishing.

The study said fish are an important component of Dal Lake's ecosystem as well as a source of food and income for communities dependent on fisheries.

The researchers further said that the lake's fish diversity has been substantially affected and said immediate conservation measures were needed to prevent further loss of its aquatic biodiversity—(KNO)

LG Attends Shri

Summit in Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor observed that the ancient mantra *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*— "the world is one family"— is now being embraced by nations worldwide as a foundation for peace and collective welfare.

"What our ancestors envisioned millennia ago is now being embraced by nations worldwide, as they step forward to adopt this philosophy for peace and harmony," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged society to remain vigilant against divisive elements and emphasised that unity is India's greatest strength. He reminded the gathering that Sanatana culture nurtures diversity, harmony, and human welfare. He called upon saints and enlightened members of society to guide the nation in realising comprehensive development.

The Lieutenant Governor affirmed his confidence that the spirit of unity will once again make India a developed nation, restoring its ancient glory.

"A time has come when we shall guide the world and saints and enlightened members of society will play a vital role and bear great responsibility in this mission. The power of unity and its spirit will once again make India a developed nation, and I am fully confident that we shall regain our ancient glory," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Opposition To Raise

Especially now, corruption has crossed many levels. Unemployed youth are in distress because they are being deprived of jobs in the name of outsourcing."

"And by not having a municipal election, thousands of crores of rupees are not being invested in the ground. Electricity rent has been increased and the burden has been placed on the poor. There are all such issues. There are issues of deliveries. There are issues of NHRM. There are issues of Anganwadi. There are many common issues," he said.

"The BJP is the principal opposition party. We will raise these issues in the Assembly. Unfortunately, the government has adopted only one slogan — corruption, corruption, corruption," he alleged.

Asked about the problems faced by the delegations that met him, Sunil Sharma said, "All these problems are related to governance. I have not seen any big storm. There are small issues — some about the bridge, some about the road, some about tourism, some about water. Basic amenities are related to all these issues. There will be common issues too." (KNS)

Govt Sanctions

to social justice and marks an important step towards ensuring greater accessibility, ease of travel and inclusive mobility across Jammu and Kashmir," the post added.

The Abdullah-led government also provided free public transport for women across J-K immediately after coming to power.

CS Directs For Time

Development Units (SBDUs). He called for ensuring the mandatory expansion of SBDUs so as to adequately equip them to undertake assessment, handholding and follow-up of MSMEs in a coordinated and result-oriented manner.

The Chief Secretary further stressed for completing diagnostic profiling and preparing actionable revival plans for all 6,576 identified recoverable units. He stressed that the assessment exercise should now translate into structured interventions, with periodic follow-up and monitoring of the recommendations emerging from the Health Clinic.

Earlier, the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh apprised the meeting that the MSME Health Clinic is presently monitoring a portfolio of 3,42,261 registered MSME units, out of which 2,94,014 units have undergone diagnostic assessment. The analysis revealed that 2,87,332 units, constituting 97.7 per cent of the assessed portfolio, have been found completely stable.

He further revealed that the assessment has identified 6,682 units requiring active intervention, including 6,576 units classified as recoverable and 106 units identified as prone to chronic sickness. Additionally, he made out that 48,247 units have been referred back to J&K Bank for data correction, enabling further refinement of the database and more accurate assessment of the concerned enterprises.

It was also divulged that in order to strengthen the field-level implementation mechanism, District level core teams have been institutionalized across all districts. Each SBDU has Investment Promotion Officer (IPO) from the respective District Industries Centre (DIC) and a District Nodal Officer (DNO) from the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), a consultant and other members of SBDU. In addition to that 60 more consultants are being provided to SBDU out of which 10 have been deployed till date and process of others is underway.

The meeting was apprised that the field teams have so far conducted 581 factory visits, resulting in the preparation of 317 comprehensive diagnostic reports. Of these, 34 critical rehabilitation

cases have received formal approval from the District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC).

On the financial intervention front, the meeting was informed that details of 700 loans restructured by J&K Bank are under detailed analysis to assess the scope for further interventions and align financial support with the requirements emerging from the Health Clinic assessments.

The meeting also reviewed the digital systems developed for strengthening the delivery and monitoring of the initiative. The I&C Department has deployed a dedicated end-to-end action-tracking portal, along with an integrated AI-powered chatbot, to facilitate systematic tracking of cases and improve coordination among the concerned stakeholders.

Reiterating the importance of timely support to stressed enterprises, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the Health Clinic should evolve into an effective mechanism for early diagnosis, coordinated rehabilitation and sustained monitoring of MSMEs. He stressed that the true measure of the initiative's success would lie in its ability to convert assessments into effective interventions and deliver tangible, visible outcomes in terms of enterprise sustainability, competitiveness and industrial growth across Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt Debunks 'Foreign

awareness and incentives to expand UPI adoption, according to the government.

"The new framework ensures resources from higher-value merchant transactions are reinvested to support small businesses and strengthen digital payments across the country," the Finance Ministry said.

UPI continues to be free for customers. Sending money to friends, paying at shops, or scanning a QR code — all remain without charges.

"Person-to-Person transfers are always free, regardless of amount. Vendors earning up to Rs 1 lakh per month via UPI QR codes continue to enjoy zero charges. Over 95 per cent of merchant payments are below Rs 2,000 — these remain free," said the ministry.

Only larger merchant transactions above Rs 2,000 attract a small fee (0.4 per cent) to be borne by merchants, far lower than credit card charges or other network charges.

Railways, fuel, telecom, bill payments and insurance have a flat fee of Rs 5 per transaction above Rs 2,000 and mutual fund and securities payments attract just 0.02 per cent, capped at Rs 300.

"Merchants cannot pass MDR costs to customers. UPI apps cannot levy platform charges," the ministry further informed.

‘Over 55% J&K

relatively stronger learning outcomes at this stage," it reads.

The documents further said that several states, including Haryana, Goa, and Madhya Pradesh, are close to the national mean, while larger States such as Maharashtra and Rajasthan maintain encouraging levels in line with national performance.

"At the other end, Meghalaya, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh record some of the lowest outcomes, with fewer than 45% of children demonstrating grade-level skills in one or more subjects. States such as Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, and Nagaland also remain below the national mean, suggesting persistent gaps in preparatory-stage learning," it reads.

It also said that the spread between the highest and lowest performers is substantial, with a difference of more than 30 percentage points in Language, over 25 percentage points in Mathematics and over 27 percentage points in "The World Around Us".

"These disparities signal the need for sustained focus on upper-primary readiness to ensure that foundational gains are not lost as children progress through the system," reads the documents—(KNO)

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Speaker meets media ahead of Autumn Session, calls for responsible coverage



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Wednesday chaired a meeting with representatives of the media fraternity ahead of the forthcoming Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, scheduled to commence on September 21.

The purpose of the meeting was to seek their suggestions and addressing the issues concerning the smooth and effective coverage of proceedings of the House.

Addressing the representatives of the print, electronic and other media organisations, the Speaker acknowledged their significant role in strengthening the democratic institutions and facilitating communication between the government, the legislature and the people. He said that the media serves as an important bridge between the public and the government, enabling information regarding government schemes, programmes and welfare initiatives to reach the people. It simultaneously provides an effective channel through which public concerns and grievances are brought to the attention of the government and concerned institutions, he added.

He said that the responsibility of the media assumes even greater significance while covering the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, which constitute an important forum for deliberation on matters of public interest and accountability.

Rather stressed the need for accurate, objective and

responsible reporting of Assembly proceedings, stating that factual accuracy and the larger public interest should remain the guiding principles of legislative coverage. He urged the media representatives to give due prominence to substantive debates, constructive deliberations and issues of public importance discussed in the House.

The Speaker also emphasized the importance of avoiding any form of misleading or factually incorrect reporting. He urged the media to maintain the sanctity of legislative proceedings while reporting the functioning of the House.

He emphasised that isolated instances of disruption or disorder should not overshadow the substantive legislative business, as excessive focus on such incidents may convey an incomplete picture of the functioning of the House, particularly to the general public and newly elected members. He called for greater emphasis on the quality of debates, discussions and legislative business conducted during the session. He said that the legislature who performs well in debates and discussions shall be given more prominence instead of those who create disturbance and trouble.

Responding to the observations regarding the duration of the forthcoming session, the Speaker placed comparative data regarding the number of sittings held during Monsoon and Budget sessions in various States and Union Territories, providing a factual perspective on the matter.

Ready to sit across table if there is clear roadmap: NHM employees

Demand formal dialogue, time-bound resolution as strike enters eighth day

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The ongoing agitation by National Health Mission (NHM) employees across Jammu and Kashmir entered its eighth consecutive day on Wednesday, with employees continuing to press for pay parity, job security, regularisation and comprehensive social security benefits.

The strike, spearheaded by the Jammu & Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA), has entered its second week amid growing calls for the government to initiate formal dialogue and come up with a concrete and time-bound mechanism to address their long-pending issues.

The employees had on Monday evening extended their ongoing 72-hour protest for another 72 hours from Tuesday, maintaining that the decision followed the absence of a concrete resolution to their demands.

The protesting workforce is seeking pay parity with NHM employees in other states, a comprehensive



policy for job security and regularisation, besides benefits including EPF, ESI, insurance coverage and post-retirement support.

With NHM personnel continuing to remain away from routine duties, several programmes and services supported by the mission have been affected at different levels across J&K. Employees said their prolonged absence was also placing additional pressure on regular staff in several health institutions.

An NHM employee said the agitation was not a sudden decision but the outcome of years of uncertainty over their employment and service conditions.

"We have been working in the health sector for years and have continued our duties during difficult situations. Despite this, there is still no clear policy regarding our future. We want the government to frame a proper mechanism that recognises our service and provides us with employment security," the employee said.

Another protesting worker said there was a disparity in remuneration and benefits compared to NHM employees in other states performing comparable responsibilities.

"Our responsibilities are almost the same, but there is a disparity in remuneration and benefits. We are only seeking a fair and dignified wage structure," he said.

A female NHM employee said uncertainty over employment had created difficulties for workers who had spent several years in the mission. "Many of us have devoted a major part of our working lives to NHM services. We have families and financial responsibilities, but there is still no certainty about our future," she said.

Another employee said social security was equally important. "EPF, ESI and insurance are basic forms of social protection. These issues need a concrete response rather than repeated assurances," the employee said.

SDH Kreeri Sans Crucial Surgical Equipment Despite Heavy Patient Load

Facility serves 98 villages, records 600 daily OPD visits

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: Two decades after its elevation to a Sub-District Hospital (SDH), the primary healthcare facility at Kreeri continues to operate without basic minimally invasive and intraoperative imaging equipment specifically a Laparoscopic surgical unit and a C-Arm fluoroscope. The infrastructure shortfall persists despite the hospital serving a high-density rural catchment of 98 villages and stands in contrast to neighbouring sub-district facilities in Pattan and Tangmarg, both of which possess operational units.

The facility has undergone phased administrative upgrades over several decades. Established in 1969 as an Allopathic Dispensary, it was designated a Primary Health Centre (PHC) in 1972 before being formally sanctioned as a Sub-District Hospital in 2005. At present, SDH Kreeri records a daily Out-patient Department (OPD) flow of 500 to 600 patients from across the Kandi belt.

Locals said that elective and emergency surgical procedures remain substantially constrained due to technological deficits. "The absence of a laparoscope prevents local surgeons from executing standard keyhole procedures for cholecystecto-



mies, appendectomies, and gynaecological interventions. Without a C-Arm fluoroscopy system, the facility's orthopaedic unit cannot conduct closed reductions or routine fracture fixations," said a local resident, adding that patients requiring these standard secondary-care procedures are routinely referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla or tertiary centres in Srinagar.

"The persistent void has recently triggered scrutiny over internal reporting channels. Over the past two years, successive Block Medical Officers (BMOs) maintained to local stakeholders that indent requests for the equipment had been duly processed and submitted to the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK)," said Tajamul Ahmad, a local resident.

Locals said that the procedural breakdown

was identified following a recent meeting between a civil society delegation from Kreeri and the Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department. "Official cross-verification through the DHSK Planning Division confirmed that no formal requisition, technical specification, or indent for a laparoscope or a C-Arm unit had ever been received from the block level," Ahmad said.

Local stakeholders and civil society representatives have now petitioned the Health and Medical Education Department to initiate a departmental review into the administrative oversight and secure immediate capital expenditure allocation for the requisite equipment.

Meanwhile, locals have expressed serious concern over the communication lapse, noting that the institution's caseload warrants immediate capacity building.

Government of U.T Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER ICDS PROJECT BIJBEHARA

SHAD BUILDING SICOP ROAD BIJBEHARA

NO: CDPO/Poshan/Bij/2026-27/524-37

Dated: 16 /09/2026

Subject: Subject: Provisional Selection List of Anganwadi Helper

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ Spouse Name	Residence	AWC for which Provisionally Selected	Ward	Qualification	Max .Marks	Marks Obtained	%age	Remarks
1	Neelofar	D/o Mohammad Shafi Khan W/o Shahnawaz Ahmad Khan	Lehendagen	Lehendagen "A"	8	10th	500	227	45.40	Selected
2	Rafia Hafeez	D/o Hafizullah Sheikh W/o Adil Mehraj Haji.	Khiram	Khiram "B"	4	10th	500	226	45.20	Selected
3	Rukena Akhter	D/o Gh Mohd Naikoo W/o Mudassar Ahmad Bhat.	Wopzan	Wopzan "E"	6	10th	500	307	61.40	Selected
4	Anjum Shaheen	D/o Mohd Afzal Khan W/o Bilal Ahmad Bhat	Waghama	Waghama "H"	3	10th	500	233	46.60	Selected

Sd/=

Child Development Project Officer

Poshan Project Bijbehara

Member Secretary BLSC

DIPK-5799-26

DT: 16/09/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, J&K, TRANSPORT BHAWAN, BEMINA SRINAGAR

Email Address: transport-commj@jk.gov.in

Tel No. Office: (Jmu.) 0191-2476091

Tel No. Office (Sgr.) 0194-2490686

Subject: Mandatory obtaining of Trade Certificate by Automobile Dealers dealing in first-hand/ new motor vehicles - regarding.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 prescribe a statutory framework governing the possession, movement, demonstration, testing and sale of motor vehicles by automobile dealers;

Whereas, Rule 33 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 provides that the provisions relating to registration of motor vehicles shall not apply to a vehicle in the possession of a dealer, subject to the dealer obtaining a valid Trade Certificate in the manner prescribed under the Rules;

Whereas, it has come to the notice of the Department that certain automobile dealers engaged in the business of sale/trade of first-hand/new motor vehicles are carrying on such business and dealing with unregistered vehicles without having obtained a valid Trade Certificate from the competent Registering Authority;

Whereas, such dealers cannot claim the exemption available to a dealer under Rule 33 unless they hold a valid Trade Certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989;

Now, therefore, all concerned automobile dealers are hereby directed as under:

- All automobile dealers dealing in first-hand/new motor vehicles who have not yet obtained a Trade Certificate from the competent Registering Authority shall apply for the grant of the requisite Trade Certificate in accordance with Rules 34 and 35 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, within 10 (ten) days from the date of issuance of this Notification.
- The dealers shall ensure that no unregistered motor vehicle is kept, moved, demonstrated, tested or otherwise used in a public place under the dealer exemption provided under Rule 33, unless the dealer possesses a valid Trade Certificate and complies with all the conditions prescribed under the Act and Rules.
- Mere engagement in the business of sale of first-hand/new motor vehicles shall not entitle a dealer to avail the exemption from registration available under Rule 33. Such exemption is subject to possession of a valid Trade Certificate issued by the competent Registering Authority.
- All dealers shall also ensure compliance with the prescribed provisions relating to the use of trade registration marks, maintenance of prescribed records/ registers and other conditions governing the use of motor vehicles under a Trade Certificate.
- Any dealer found continuing to deal with/operate unregistered motor vehicles without obtaining a valid Trade Certificate after expiry of the aforesaid period of 10 days shall be liable to enforcement action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- In particular, where an unregistered motor vehicle is driven or caused or allowed to be used in a public place in contravention of Section 39 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the dealer/person responsible shall be liable to the penalty prescribed under Section 192(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Moreover such dealer is also liable for action as per section 182A (1) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 which says;
- "Whoever, being a manufacturer, importer or dealer of motor vehicles, sells or delivers or alters or offers to sell or deliver or alter, a motor vehicle that is in contravention of the provisions of Chapter VII or the rules and regulations made thereunder, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine of one lakh rupees per such motor vehicle or with both"
- The Registering Authorities/Enforcement Officers shall conduct inspections of automobile dealerships after expiry of the aforesaid period and verify:
 - possession of a valid Trade Certificate;
 - validity and scope of the Trade Certificate;
 - trade registration marks allotted to the dealer;
 - records/registers required to be maintained; and
 - movement/use of unregistered vehicles by the dealer.
- In case any dealer is found operating without a valid Trade Certificate or using unregistered vehicles in contravention of the statutory provisions, appropriate proceedings shall be initiated under the relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, including imposition of the prescribed penalty/prosecution, as applicable.
- All Regional Transport Officers/Assistant Regional Transport Officers/Motor Vehicle Inspectors and other enforcement officers concerned shall ensure strict compliance and enforcement of this Notification within their respective jurisdictions.

This Notification shall be deemed to be a final opportunity to all such dealers to regularise their operations by obtaining the requisite Trade Certificate within 10 days.

By Order of the Competent Authority

No.: TC/JK/ 2026/2120-35

Dated: 15/09/2026

DIPK-5775-26

DT: 16/09/2026

(Rizwan Asgar), JKAS

Joint Transport Commissioner

J&K

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

NOTIFICATION

9TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 397 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, the Housing & Urban Development Department hereby publishes the proposed amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021, as amended from time to time, for information of all concerned and invites objections, suggestions and comments from stakeholders and members of the public.

Any person desirous of making any objection, suggestion or comment in respect of the proposed amendments may submit the same in writing to the Housing & Urban Development Department within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette.

No objection, suggestion or comment received after the expiry of the aforesaid stipulated period shall be entertained or considered by the Department.

The proposed amendments are appended to this notification as Annexure-A and shall also be made available on the official website of the Housing & Urban Development Department at <https://hudd.ik.gov.in>, for information of all concerned and for inviting objections, suggestions and comments within the stipulated period.

No.: HUD-LSG/39/2025 (E-7682821)

Dated: 09.09.2026

DIPK-5805-26

DT: 16/09/2026

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

Housing & Urban Development Department

Sd/-

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR

HEALTH SECRETARIAT (SWASTHA BHAWAN), BEMINA BYPASS, SRINAGAR 190018

Email: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in

Website: www.dhskashmir.org

Dr. Ulfat Shah, Medical Officer, ASYM DH Budgam.

NOTICE

Subject: Notice regarding unauthorized absence.

Whereas, Medical Superintendent ASYM D.H Budgam vide No. MS/DHB/1973-1974 dated 18.08.2026 has submitted an unauthorized absence report stating therein, that you are absconding from duties w.e.f 07.08.2026; and

Whereas, Medical Superintendent, ASYM District Hospital Budgam, has issued an explanation to you vide letter No. MS/DHB/1831-1833 dated 07.08.2026, calling upon you to explain the reasons for your absence, but no reply has been received from your side; and

Whereas, the Medical Superintendent, ASYM District Hospital Budgam, further issued a notice vide letter No. MS/DHB/1876-78 dated 12.08.2026, providing you an opportunity to report for duty and resume your official responsibilities within two days, but you have failed to comply with the said direction and continued to remain absent from duty without authorization; and

Whereas, you are on probation and unauthorized absence from duties attracts action under Article 128 of J&K CSR (Loss of Appointment).

Now, therefore, a Notice is hereby served to you, providing an opportunity to resume your duties within ten(10) days positively from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which, disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated against you under rules in vogue.

No.: Est-3/1-133/2024-04/7604089

Dated: 15/09/2026

DIPK-5773-26

DT: 16/09/2026

Dy. Director Health Service

Kashmir

MLA Kulgam inaugurates U-19 inter-district boys baseball tournament



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kulgam, Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami Wednesday inaugurated the U-19 inter-district boys baseball tournament at L/NK Shri Nazir Ahmad Wani Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kulgam.

The tournament is being hosted by the Youth Services and Sports Department, Kulgam, and organised under the supervision of the Joint Director, Youth Services and Sports, Kashmir, with participation from all districts of the

Kashmir Division.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kulgam appreciated the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department in providing young athletes with opportunities to showcase their talent and encouraged the youth of Jammu & Kashmir to actively participate in sports, maintain discipline, and contribute positively to society.

"Sports are also very important for health. They keep us physically active and help reduce mental stress. They are beneficial for everyone from children and young people to adults

and senior citizens. Even simple activities such as walking, taking a few steps regularly and remaining physically active can make a huge contribution for good health", said MLA in his address.

Eight matches were played in the inaugural day of competition with participating teams exhibiting at a great level of talent and sportsmanship.

The event was attended by numerous sports enthusiasts, locals and dignitaries including ex DDC chairperson Kulgam and other citizens along with sports persons and officials.

Presentation Convent, Netherfield Sopore Lift U-15 Football Titles



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: The Rev. Fr. C.B. Simons Memorial Football Tournament concluded Wednesday at St. Joseph's School Ground, Baramulla, with the finals of the Under-15 Boys and Girls categories.

In the Under-15 Girls final, Presentation Convent School, Srinagar, emerged as the champions, while Netherfield School, Sopore, clinched the Under-15 Boys title.

Additional District

Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Pranjali J. Hazarika, was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony and presented trophies and prizes to the winning teams. He congratulated the young players and appreciated the organisers for promoting football and providing students with opportunities to showcase their sporting talent.

The concluding ceremony was further enlivened by an impressive drill and band display

presented by the students of St. Joseph's School, which was appreciated by the gathering.

Representatives of various participating schools, school authorities, sponsors, teachers, students, players and other guests attended the ceremony.

The tournament provided young footballers with a platform to compete in a positive sporting environment while promoting discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship and camaraderie among students.

Ansari Tigers Clinch Victory at CRPF Volleyball Tourney in Srinagar



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: In a spirited display of sportsmanship and community engagement, the 132 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) successfully concluded a three-day Volleyball Tournament on Wednesday. The event, held under the aegis of the Srinagar Sector as part of the Civic Action Programme 2025-26, took place at the Volleyball Court of the 132 Bn Nedous Hotel in Sanatnagar.

The tournament, which ran from September 14 to September 16, featured eight teams competing on a knock-out basis. The final match, played on the closing day, saw a

thrilling contest between team 'Ansari Tigers' and 'Sangam Spikers'. Ansari Tigers emerged victorious, clinching the tournament trophy.

Mobin Ahmad of the winning team, Ansari Tigers, was adjudged the 'Best Player of the Tournament' for his outstanding performance.

The closing ceremony was graced by W. R. Josuah, Commandant-132 Bn CRPF, who served as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by officers and men of the 132 Bn CRPF, participating players, and local inhabitants of M.A. Road, Srinagar.

The winning team, Ansari Tigers, was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000,

along with a trophy and certificates. The runners-up, Sangam Spikers, received a cash prize of Rs. 7,000, a trophy, and certificates. The Best Player, Mr. Mobin Ahmad, was felicitated with a cash prize of Rs. 1,500, a trophy, and a certificate.

Expressing their gratitude, Wasim, Captain of the Ansari Tigers, and Irfan, Captain of the Sangam Spikers, along with other players, thanked the 132 Bn CRPF for organizing the tournament. They noted that such initiatives under the Civic Action Programme provide a positive platform for local youth and foster a strong sense of camaraderie between the security forces and the community.

Pressure on men's hockey team in Asian Games after below-par World Cup, says Rasquinha

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Viren Rasquinha on Wednesday said the men's hockey team did not look like it was giving everything at the World Cup, and warned that the side will carry the pressure and weight of expectation into the 2026 Asian Games beginning next week in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

India finished eighth in the recent men's World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium, a result that has left little room for comfort ahead of the continental event in Japan, where winning a gold medal will also seal a direct berth for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"Obviously, there will be pressure, given the fact that we definitely played below par in terms of men's hockey. I thought that the women's team actually overachieved and they played above expectations. "So they need to continue with the positive momentum. But in men's hockey, there will definitely be pressure. But as I said, we are favourites, and we have to really be strong in what we do," Rasquinha said to IANS in a select virtual interaction organised by Sony Sports Network.

Rasquinha also felt the men's team problems were



not confined to one department. "I think there are many areas where we can improve. I thought -- I don't want to take individual names, but in all aspects, whether it was goalkeeping, whether it was overall defending as a team, midfield, supporting the attack, falling back into defence, and also sharpness of the forwards.

"I think there is too much over-dependence on Harmanpreet's drag flicks to get us goals. We need to be doing far better in variations of penalty corners. We really need our forwards to step up and either be scoring more field goals or to make, what do you say, to just be much

sharper in the D, whether it is taking tries at the goals, getting penalty corners or scoring field goals themselves.

"I think there is massive scope for improvement, in my opinion. Also, I just think that at the World Cup, in terms of men's hockey, it felt that we were playing almost like with the handbrake and we were not giving absolutely 100 percent," he added.

Rasquinha was also careful to add that he was not questioning the dressing room. "While the women's team, as I said, the team spirit, the unity, the fire and the intensity were there to be seen, and I am absolutely not saying

that there was no unity in the team. I am just saying that we can do far better in terms of intensity and fire, where everyone is joining the attack.

"We need to throw more numbers into attack, and we need to defend as a team. I felt that was lacking a bit in maintaining intensity, tempo and consistency for 60 minutes in every match," he said.

Rasquinha further said the target could not be anything other than the top of the podium in Japan for both teams. "Number one, the goal for both teams has to be to get gold because, as I said, Olympic qualification is on the line with a gold medal, and it's so

important. Craig Fulton has a lot to do, and on the women's side, I was actually also really impressed with some of the new players that came in.

"For me, the most impressive was our goalkeeper Bichu Devi Kharibam, who's always been in the shadows behind Savita, who's been, I think, sort of a legendary goalkeeper for India on par with Sreejesh.

"But I thought Bichu had a fantastic World Cup, and it was really good to see her coming. I think there were so many young players who played well. I thought Sakshi Rana and Sunelita Toppo were really good, as some of the new young players. We constantly need a good balance of experience and young players also coming to the mark," he said.

On the men's goalkeepers' performance, Rasquinha offered a measured assessment. "In terms of the men's team, I thought the goalkeepers Mohit and Suraj (Kerker) did a decent job. Not bad, but not excellent either, and it's hard for them again, coming after being in the shadows of someone, a legend like Sreejesh, and then coming and immediately playing outstandingly as a goalkeeper.

'Want Afghanistan to win one World Cup by the time I am in the team,' says Rashid Khan

IAN S

NEW DELHI: There is a particular kind of calm about Rashid Khan these days. The leg-spinner who once seemed to exist purely as a wicket-taking force of nature is now at his warm and affable self on the eve of the third T20I against India, a game which Afghanistan have to win to avoid a 3-0 series defeat.

On Tuesday night at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, where Afghanistan faltered yet again, Rashid was the exception for the designated hosts: 28 with the bat, and 3-36 with the ball. The runs, in particular, were not an accident, so as were the three boundaries he hit off Arshdeep Singh in the 18th over (with the inside-out loft over cover for six being the standout).

"They were the product of a shift that began the day he walked into the Gujarat Titans dressing room in the IPL and was told he

was no longer merely a bowler who could swing a bat. "I have always wanted to bat; I started playing cricket by batting. I always wanted to bat. For a team, 20-25 runs are very important, and I wanted to do that for my team, especially in T20s. So how can I do that? Earlier, I didn't get that much batting.

"But since I came to Gujarat Titans, I have been getting more batting in the net sessions. Ashish (Nehra) bhai told me that I will play as a batter too and not just as a bowler. So, I focused more on batting. By working on and improving my batting, when I make runs in the match, I automatically get more confidence. It comes from confidence, and when that goes high, the practice and hard work pay off," Rashid told IANS in an exclusive interaction facilitated by Red Bull on Wednesday.

The technical work and success in batting have been made possible by someone who is not someone



who appears in the headlines. Naem Amin, who Rashid met during his time at Gujarat Titans, is the man the premier leg-spinner

calls first when something feels off. Amin, who also trained India stars Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya before they were in England, was quick to message Rashid after Tuesday's game was over.

"He has helped me a lot. To be honest, all my improved batting has been done by Naem Amin. Not just in batting, but also in bowling. I always talk with him. Last night, when the match was over, he messaged me, saying that I had a lot of fun. But what I enjoyed the most was when you hit a six over mid-off against Arshdeep - that was the best effort for me.

"To be honest, before we came here, I had done 3-4 sessions with him. We were working on how to play straight, how to hit a straight six, and not hit cross-bat. He was very happy that I hit a straight six. He helped me a lot. My go-to person is Naem Amin. I go to him and ask him what I did wrong and what I can do better."

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MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

HINDI
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HINDI ATMOS
11:05 AM | 02:55 PM | 06:45 PM

HAIWAAN (U/A 16+)

HINDI
10:40 AM | 07:30 PM

HANUMAN ANSH (U)

HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
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