

Good Morning

Kashmir

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■ Pahalgam Attack

NIA Court Issues NBW Against LeT Commander



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A special NIA court in Jammu has issued a non-bailable warrant against Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Saifullah, whom the National Investigation Agency has linked to the April 2025 Pahalgam attack and other attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

The warrant was issued on September 8 after the NIA told the court that Saifullah was operating from Pakistan and allegedly supplying weapons, funds and directions to operatives in Kashmir.

Saifullah, a resident of Changa Manga in Pakistan's Kasur district, is also known by several aliases, including Sajid Jatt, Ali Bhai, Habibullah Malik, Langda, Noomi, Numan, Usman Habib and Shani. The NIA has described him as a key figure in Lash-

kar-e-Taiba's operations and said he has remained active for more than two decades.

The case came to light after Jammu and Kashmir Police intercepted a Lashkar operative in Srinagar's Pandach area in March. The subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Pakistani national Abdullah alias Abu Hureira, another Pakistani operative, Usman alias Khubaib, and three local operatives, according to officials.

The NIA told the court that Abdullah had remained on the run for 16 years and had established bases outside Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the agency, communications linked to Saifullah were recovered from one of the arrested Pakistani operatives. The NIA claimed these communications showed that Saifullah was providing directions for attacks targeting

LG Flags Off Harmukh–Gangbal Yatra, Appeals For Eco-Sensitive Pilgrimage

Says Spiritual Journeys Strengthen The Nation's Soul And Collective Consciousness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday flagged off the auspicious Harmukh–Gangbal pilgrimage at Ganderbal. The Lieutenant Governor said the Yatra is a sacred bridge between India's glorious past and vibrant present. Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor observed that Jammu Kashmir has, for millennia, been nourished by an unbroken stream of faith, with every step of its land imbued with spiritual energy, as highlighted by Kalhana in the Rajatarangini.

Quoting from the Nilamata Purana, the Lieutenant Governor noted that Mount Harmukh, also known as Harmukut, is revered as the abode of Lord Shiva, while Gangbal Lake at 14,500 feet is regarded as the sacred presence of Mother



Ganga. He said despite difficult terrain and historical upheavals, devotees have preserved their spiritual bond with this pilgrimage site, which is also associated with paying homage to ancestors, comparable in

sanctity to Haridwar.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that Himalayan pilgrimages teach humility before nature and inspire noble thoughts from all directions, fostering social harmony.

LG Sinha Presents Appointment Letters To Newly Appointed JKPS Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday handed over appointment letters to 29 newly selected officers of the Jammu Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, marking a significant milestone in the Union Territory's journey towards merit-based governance and strengthened security.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the appointment letters were not mere documents but carried the extraordinary weight of trust reposed by citizens of Jammu Kashmir. He described the appointment letter as invitations to serve, pledges to safeguard the dignity, security, and future of the people, and symbols of responsibility

PM Modi, UAE President Discuss West Asia Crisis



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed developments in West Asia as well as ways to further strengthen the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The call also coincided with Modi's birthday, with the UAE president conveying his greetings to the prime minister, an official release said.

The two leaders exchanged views on developments in West Asia. They also discussed new measures to further deepen the India-UAE Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership, including in the areas of energy, defence, technology, investment and health.

"Grateful to my brother, the President of UAE, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, for his call and birthday wishes," Modi said in a post on X. "We discussed measures to further deepen our bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and exchanged views on efforts to promote regional peace, security and stability."

The statement said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a telephone call from Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the

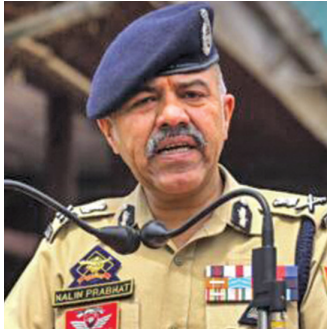
Uniform Carries Responsibility, Risks, Training Will Prepare You For Challenges: DGP

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday congratulated the newly selected candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Services, saying that wearing the police uniform carries immense responsibility and comes with challenges, including risks to life.

Addressing the newly selected candidates on the sidelines of a function at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar, DGP Prabhat, said the occasion was a moment of happiness for the candidates and their families.

"Today is a day of happiness for you and your families. You



must also realise that wearing the uniform is not easy. It comes with responsibility," the DGP said.

He said the candidates would face several challenges during their service and may encounter situations where their lives

could be at risk. "There will be challenges with this responsibility and there will be a risk to your lives. But I hope that during your training, you will be made strong enough to face every situation," Prabhat said.

The DGP said the training would equip the newly selected officers with the skills and confidence required to meet the demands of police service and discharge their duties with dedication. "When you come to the academy, I will speak to you in detail and interact with you personally," he said.

DGP Prabhat congratulated the newly selected officers and wished them success as they embark on their careers in the Jammu and Kashmir Police—(KNO)

THERE WILL BE CHALLENGES WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY AND there will be a risk to your lives. But I hope that during your training, you will be made strong enough to face every situation," Prabhat said.

Sakeena Itoo Reviews HRM Issues In School Education Deptt

'21,323 Seniority Cases Finalised; 869 Placements Made On Higher Posts'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Friday reviewed the overall status of Human Resource Management (HRM) matters in the School Education Department, with particular focus on seniority finalisation, promotions, placements against higher posts, regularisation, recruitment and revision of service rules.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat here, the Minister took detailed stock of the progress achieved in disposal of HRM-related cases and directed the senior officers to maintain focused attention on all pending matters. She called for time-bound action, effective monitoring and close



coordination among all concerned authorities to ensure that eligible employees do not face avoidable delays in service-related matters.

Sakeena Itoo stressed that an efficient and transparent HR management system is fundamental to the smooth functioning of the School Education Department and has a direct bearing on the academic and administrative efficiency of educational institutions. She directed the officers to ensure

India Rejects Pakistan's Claims Over Collision Of Indian, Pak Ships

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India on Friday strongly rejected Islamabad's allegations relating to a collision between a Pakistani vessel and an Indian Navy warship in the Arabian Sea.

New Delhi on Wednesday summoned the Pakistani Charge d'Affaires (CDA) and lodged a strong protest over the "unacceptable conduct" by the Pakistan Navy vessel that led to the collision.

The incident happened on Tuesday night after the Pakistani vessel closed in on the frontline Indian Navy warship that was on a routine surveillance mission in the north Arabian Sea, according to the Indian side.

The Pakistani foreign ministry had alleged that the



incident happened following a "highly provocative and unacceptable action" by the Indian vessel in the Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

"We have seen Pakistan's response to the protest we had lodged. It is the usual prevarication that we expected. We reject the allegations and insinuations contained therein," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his

regular media briefing.

The Indian ship INS Kolkata was on a routine deployment in the western Arabian sea when Pakistani naval ship Hunain conducted itself in an "unacceptable and unprofessional manner" at sea that resulted in the collision, he said.

"The dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by PNS Hunain was in gross violation of Article 10 of the Agreement

between India and Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements of April 1991, which specifies that naval units at sea are not to be within three nautical miles of each other. In addition, the Pakistani ship also infringed the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea," Jaiswal said.

The Pakistan side has once again been "advised" about the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents, he said.

Jaiswal said the incident did not cause any major damage to INS Kolkata and she remains at sea.

Balloon Marked 'PIA' Found In Field In Samba



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A balloon bearing the inscription "PIA" was found lying in a field at Khara Madan in Samba district on Friday morning, police said.

According to officials, local residents noticed the balloon and informed Police Station Purmandal about the finding.

A police team was subsequently dispatched to the location to verify the report and establish the circumstances surrounding the recovery, they said.

Police said further action would be taken based on the outcome of the verification.

Rising Temps Threaten Apple Yields In Kashmir: Study

Apple Yields In Valley Decline 6.10% Per 1°C Summer Warming'



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Rising temperatures and increasingly erratic weather are putting Jammu and Kashmir's major fruit economies under growing pressure. Apple yields in Kashmir are declining sharply, with summer warming and mango arrivals in Jammu falling substantially after recent heatwaves and hailstorms.

A study, published in the International Journal of Creative and Open Research in Engineering and Management, examined climate

change-related agricultural losses in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on the region's apple and mango economies. It found that apple yields in Kashmir decline by about 6.10 per cent for every 1-degree Celsius rise in summer temperature.

The impact was significantly higher in Baramulla district, where the study estimated a 19.16 per cent decline in apple yield for every 1-degree Celsius increase in summer temperature.

The findings, accessed, indicate that rising temperatures are posing

EOW Kashmir Arrests Man in Rs 93 Lakh Alleged Land Fraud Case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has arrested Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Dar, son of Abdul Khaliq Dar of Jawalpora, Samson Budgam, in connection with an alleged Rs 93 lakh land and property fraud case, officials said.

The arrest was carried out pursuant to an order and warrant issued by the Court of Sub-Judge, Srinagar, according to the EOW. Officials said Dar had been evading arrest for about a year and is also involved in multiple cases registered at Police Station EOW Kashmir/SCW Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K. The case relates to FIR No. 17/2026 registered at Police Station EOW Kashmir under Sections 318(4), 338, 340 and 61(2) of the



Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, according to the agency.

The investigation concerns a complaint alleging that the complainant was cheated of Rs 93 lakh through a purported transaction involving five kanals of migrant land at Drusu in Pulwama and 300 standing trees in Bijbehara. The EOW had earlier said the alleged transactions were

carried out through fake agreements and that neither the land nor the trees belonged to the persons allegedly offering them for sale.

According to investigators, Soom Nath Koul, son of Kalash Nath Koul, of 22 Lotus Tower, Bangalore North, Karnataka, and Janipur, Jammu, allegedly posed as an attorney

holder of the original owners, while Dar allegedly acted as a witness to the agreements. The EOW had also conducted searches at Samsaan, Budgam, in May as part of the investigation and said the searches were aimed at collecting relevant evidence and incriminating material.

The agency has further alleged that the accused persons had been presenting themselves as attorney holders or owners of migrant property and inducing people to enter into property transactions on the basis of such claims.

The EOW said a hue and cry notice remains active for co-accused Soom Nath Koul, who has not yet been arrested. Further investigation into the alleged network and the transactions is continuing. [KNT]

DC Budgam stresses speedy, quality execution of Dev projects in Chadoora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday conducted an extensive tour of Chadoora and reviewed various ongoing and proposed development projects.

Among other projects, the Deputy Commissioner inspected New Bus Stand, New Bus stand shopping complex, main bridge, new footbridge and planned Revenue Complex having SDM Office and Tehsil Office.

During inspection of New Bus Stand, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the facilities available for the public. He also inspected the New Bus Stand Shopping Complex and reviewed the progress of the ongoing work.

During tour, the Deputy Commissioner also visited the Main Bridge and reviewed the repair works being carried out there. He also inspected the new footbridge and took stock of its progress. He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely completion and proper quality of works.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner also inspected the site of the new planned Revenue Complex, which will house the SDM Office and Tehsil Office. He directed the concerned officers to take necessary steps for early execution of the project.

The Deputy Commissioner also took serious note of illegal mining in Nallah Doodhganga and directed the District Mineral Officer to intensify monitoring and take strict action against violations.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local people and delegations and heard their issues and demands. He assured that genuine issues would be examined for necessary redressal.

He directed all concerned officers to closely monitor the works and ensure their timely completion.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Chadoora, Joint Director Planning Budgam, Tehsildar, Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora, Executive Engineer Irrigation, ARTO Budgam, Executive Officer MC Chadoora and other concerned officers.

Additional Secy RDD&PR undertakes tour of Machil Block



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Additional Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Waseem Raja, undertook a tour of Machil Block in Kupwara district and inspected various ongoing development works being executed under different schemes.

During the visit, he reviewed the progress of works on the ground and stressed upon timely completion, quality execution and effective monitoring, particularly in view of the approaching winter.

The visit provided an opportunity to assess the implementation of rural development initiatives in the challenging border and hilly terrain of Machil valley and to identify areas requiring focused intervention.

He also interacted with local residents in villages close to the Line of Control (LoC) and listened to their concerns and developmental needs.

During the visit, emphasis was laid on timely completion, quality execution and effective monitoring of works, particularly in view

of the approaching winter.

Additional Secretary appreciated the innovative approach adopted for the implementation of VB-GRAM G at Malik Bela, the last village close to the Line of Control (LoC). He also inspected the geo-tagged PMAY-G houses and interacted with the beneficiaries.

The Additional Secretary further inspected the playground at Machil, constructed under MGN-REGA, and reviewed the ongoing flood-protection crate works aimed at safeguarding the area from flood-related damage.

Earlier, on reaching Machil, the Additional Secretary chaired a meeting of officers and field functionaries of the Machil Block to review block wise progress on various ongoing development works, payments made to labourers and other progress indicators under VBGRAM G, PMAY-G and district Capex.

The Additional Secretary was accompanied by ACD Kupwara, Abdul Rashid, BDO Machil, Mohammad Rafiq Poswal, and other officers.

DC Kupwara reviews progress under HADP, JKCIP

Also reviews functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Friday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in the district and assess the progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu and Kashmir Competitive Improvement Project (JKCIP).

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the operational status of KKG centres, with particular focus on their onboarding with Common Service Centres (CSCs), capacity building of Krishi Udyamis (KUs), delivery of services and revenue generation.

A detailed assessment was also made of the district's performance against



the prescribed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under HADP and JKCIP. The review covered course completion by enrolled farmers, establishment of approved units, tracking of established units through the OTA application, utilisation of released funds, farmer and farm registration under KKG Level-2, completion of e-KYC under KKG Level-3, daily

reporting by Krishi Udyamis, credit disbursement against sanctioned cases, sanctioning of credit applications, JKCIP coverage in selected blocks and approvals under the project.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to adopt a coordinated and result-oriented approach to achieve the prescribed targets under each per-

formance parameter. He instructed the officers to expedite farmer and farm registration, ensure the timely completion of e-KYC for all eligible beneficiaries, improve daily reporting compliance by Krishi Udyamis and strengthen credit linkages.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation status of various interventions being undertaken under the two flagship programmes. Stressing the importance of convergence among the implementing departments, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure the timely execution of approved interventions, undertake regular field-level monitoring and maximise outreach so that the intended benefits reach the farming community in a transparent and time-bound manner.



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/ SRINAGAR.

Subject: Appointment to the post of Lecturer in the discipline of Botany in the School Education Department.
Reference: 1. No. Edu-GEN/35/2024-01(7383282) dated 12.11.2024 and 05.12.2024 issued by School Education Department
2. No. PSC/DR-/Botany/SED/2024(7827586) Dated 08-07-2026 received from J&K Public Service Commission.
3. Satisfactory Character and Antecedent reports from Criminal Investigation Department

Government Order No: 379 -JK(Edu) of 2026

Dated: 17-09-2026

On the recommendations of Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of the following candidates as Lecturers in the discipline of Botany in the Schoof Education Department in Pay Level-9 (₹ 52,700- ₹ 1, 66,700):

S.No	Name	Parentage	Address	Merit
1.	Anees un Nisa	Guizar Ahmad Bhat	169 Tarigam Devsar Kufgam	OM
2	Wajahat Rashid Mir	Ab Rashid Mir	05 Dardpora Thandiorea Kral oora	(RBA/OM)
3	Junaid Ahmad Magray	Khazir Mohammad Magray	062 Sharai Tangmarg	(RBA/OM)
4	Aehsan Ul Haq	Ghulam Qadir Dar	22 Gowharpora Chadoora	OM
5	Aadil Farooq War	Farooq Ahmad War	200 Dar Mohalla Ogmuna Kunzer Kawarehama	OM
6	Mohammad Lateef Lone	Shabir Ahmad Lone	Losedanrow Astan Mohalla Shooian	OM
7	Kausar Rashid	Ab Rashid Shah	153 Panzaam Kupwara	(RBA/OM)
8	Rabia Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Sofi	16 Brar Bandipora	OM
9	Mohd Saleem Wani	Abdul Rashid Wani	19 Stadium Colony Baramulla Baramulla	OM
10	Riyaz.Ahmad Dar	Mohd Shafi Dar	39 Nagam Kokernag Kokernag	(RBA/OM)
11	Mohd Saleem	Manzoor Ahmad	R/o Village Gurrekrah Balla w. No. 2 - Gurrekrah Balla Bhalessa Gandoh	(RBA/OM)
12	Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh	Mohd Akbar Sheikh	11c Hataharan Soibugh Budgam	OM
13	Pratibha Lalotra	Kuldip Singh	Not allotted yet garhi Near Shiv Mandir Rehmbal	OM
14	Mohammad Aadil Dar	Abdul Rashid Dar	HP13 Hanjipora Hygam Soopre Khoie	(OM/PHC)
15	Arjunmand Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Mir	NA Guridraman Lamoo	RBA
16	Abid Hussain Wani	Mohammad Abdullah Wani	68 Laddi Sallar	RBA
17	Tanveer Ahmad Mir	Mohd Abdullah Mir	151 Shareenabad Baramulla	(RBA/PHC)
18	Neha Devi Naar	Anchal Ram	Laxmi Chowk Shiva Ward No. 16	SC
19	Pardeep Kumar	Shankar Dass	Badhole Badhole Ramnagar	SC
20	Ashmita	Hem Raj	Lower Dharmal Muthi Jammu Jammu	SC
21	Taufeeq Ahmed Raza	Farooq Ahmed	359 Village Shajroo Mahore	ST-1
22	Irshad Ahmad Lone	Nazir Ahmad Lone	0 Jawdara Tulail Gurez	ST-1
23	Poonam	Hem Raj Pakhru	Village Chaloge Bani	ST-1
24	Tahir Mehmood	Mohd Sadiq	20 Nadian Darhal	ST-1
25	Sajad Hussain Shah	Aziz Hussain Shah	R/o Salwah BPO salwah mendhar	ST-2
26	Anita Sharma	Nobat Ram Sharma	Bhajwal Sunderbani	ST-2
27	Preeti Sharma	Tulsi Dass	36 VIII Dhrooth Bhajwal Sunderbani	ST-2
28	Shivangji Kochhar	Rajesh Kumar	Bakhar Bakhar Siot	ST-2
29	Udhay Sharma	Roshan Lal	Platan Village Platan Khour	ALC/IB
30	Samant Zahra Naqvi	Saleem Shah	190 Gohlad Mendhar	ALC/IB
31	Arti Manhas	Yash Karan Singh	Village Sarwal Village Sarwal Pargwal	ALC/1B
32	Mohd Umar Kumar	Ab Samad Kumar	74 Zewan Pantha Chowk	SLC
33	Shikha Choudhary	Tarsem Singh Choudhary	02 Panjtoot Pallanwala Khour	SLC
34	Pankaj Kumar	Bodh Raj	04 Pallan PO Dhralata Billawar	SLC
35	Mubariz Javed	Javed Iqbal	108 Vasakdera Bhaderwah Bhaderwah	EWS
36	Sumit Kumar	Krishan Chand	Village Shaie Amora BPO Ghat Tehsil Doda	EWS-

The appointment is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The appointees belonging to Jammu Division shall report to Director, School Education, Jammu and those belonging to Kashmir Division shall report to Director School Education, Kashmir within a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of issuance of this appointment order. In the event of failure to join within the prescribed period, the appointees shall forfeit the right to appointment and this order shall be deemed to have been withdrawn ab-initio without any further reference or notice. The formal posting order shall be issued separately by the Competent Authority in due course.
- The appointment shall remain provisional and shall be subject to verification of the educational, professional and/or technical qualifications claimed by the appointee from the concerned issuing authorities. In the event of any discrepancy, misrepresentation or adverse finding during the verification process, the appointment shall be liable to cancellation without prejudice to any other action permissible under the applicable rules.
- The appointees shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates in original:
 - Academic Qualification Certificates.
 - Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer.
 - Domicile Certificate issued by Competent Authority.
 - Category certificate, if any.
- If the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.
- The appointees shall furnish an affidavit, affirming that:
 - All the certificates/documents submitted in support of the appointment are authentic, valid and have been issued by the Competent Authorities concerned.
 - In the event that any certificate/document is subsequently found to be fake, forged, tampered with or otherwise invalid upon verification from the concerned issuing authority, the appointment shall be deemed void ab-initio and liable to cancellation forthwith, without prejudice to such legal, disciplinary or other action as may be warranted under the applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- The release and disbursement of salary in favour of the appointees shall be subject to receipt of a satisfactory verification report in terms of 4(ii) above. No pay or allowances shall be authorized until such verification is duly completed and found satisfactory.
- The appointees shall be governed by the provisions of the New Pension Scheme (NPS) in accordance with SRO-400 dated 24.12.2009, as amended from time to time.
- The appointees shall be liable to serve at any place within the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in accordance with administrative exigencies and public service requirements.
- The Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir shall furnish the joining report of the appointees to the Administrative Department for further allocation and placement against available vacancies in Higher Secondary Schools in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The inter-se seniority of Lecturers shall be determined in accordance with the order of merit assigned by the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission in the select list.

The appointment shall also be subject to the outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before any Competent Court of Law.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

No. Edu-Lect/126/2026-01-(7770665)

Dated: 17-09-2026

DIPP-5863-26

DT: 18/09/2026

Sd/-

(Ram Niwas Sharma)IAS

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

School Education Department

CU signs MoU with NIELIT for NSQF-aligned skill programmes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Cluster University of Srinagar (CUS) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) J&K for National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)-aligned skill development for a period of three years.

The MoU will strengthen digital skilling, employability and emerging technology readiness among learners.

The collaboration will use the NIELIT Digital University Platform for technology-enabled education. It will support online, blended and other mutually agreed learning modes.

The MoU was signed on 15 September 2026 at Cluster University of Srinagar. Registrar Prof (Dr) Wilayat Hussain Rizvi, in presence



of the Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammed Mobin, signed for the university and Ashaq Hussain Dar, Director NIELIT, signed for the Institute. Controller Examinations, Prof Khurshid Ahmad Mir and PS to Vice Chancellor Dr Ubaid Sidique, besides Senior representatives from both organisations witnessed the signing ceremony.

The partnership will facilitate courses in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cyber Security and Cloud Computing. Other areas include Internet of Things, Blockchain, AR

and VR, semiconductor technologies and digital governance. The collaboration also covers electronics, information technology and other emerging technology domains. Students, faculty, staff, professionals and eligible learners may benefit from these programmes. Credit transfer and academic integration will follow applicable institutional and regulatory norms.

The NIELIT platform provides learning management, digital content and virtual laboratory facilities. It also supports arti-

ficial intelligence enabled learning, learner analytics and online assessments.

The partners will jointly develop course content, assignments and laboratory manuals. They will also facilitate faculty development, internships, project work, research and industry engagement. Workshops, seminars, webinars, bootcamps and hackathons will be organised under the partnership.

The MoU further provides for training of trainers and institutional coordinators. It includes capacity building for administrators supporting platform based academic programmes. NIELIT will support course delivery, assessments, certification and learner progress reporting. The Cluster University will identify learners, facilitate enrolment and obtain necessary academic approvals.

NEWS

LG Launches “Nasha Mukht Bharat” Documentary, College Exhibition of JU



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday launched a documentary and collage exhibition on the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, marking a significant step in raising awareness against drug abuse. The Lieutenant Governor commended the University of Jammu for its efforts in reflecting the challenges faced by the youth of Jammu Kashmir and the collective resolve to overcome them.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the beginning of any social change lies in acknowledging its reality. Drug abuse has long posed a grave challenge to the social fabric of Jammu Kashmir, devastating families and threatening the future of the younger generation. He highlighted the link between drug smuggling and narco-terrorism, underscoring the importance of dismantling these networks to ensure peace, security and drug-free Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled the launch of the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir campaign in 2020. He said building on that

momentum, a comprehensive 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan was initiated earlier this year in April, extending beyond formal events to villages, schools, universities, and families. Through Padyatra, awareness drives, and administrative action, the campaign became a people's movement. Women, youth clubs, teachers, doctors, civil society groups, and religious leaders played pivotal roles in spreading awareness and supporting rehabilitation.

Highlighting the three-pronged approach of dismantling supply chains, creating awareness, and rehabilitation, the Lieutenant Governor noted the introduction of the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026. This scheme aims to reintegrate affected youth into mainstream society, ensuring they lead healthy and responsible lives.

“I am happy that, in this direction, the University of Jammu has stepped forward and is playing its role through today's initiatives. Under the guidance of faculty members, students have also attempted to understand various aspects of drug de-addiction. I

believe this is the true power of education, because when knowledge connects with human sensitivity, it transforms into social responsibility,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged students of the University of Jammu to take on the roles of messengers, participants, and guardians of Nasha-Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan. He called upon youth to engage peers, counter misconceptions, and extend support to those struggling with addiction. He emphasized that awareness, family support, timely assistance and rehabilitation are key to lasting change.

“A major goal is to make the University of Jammu campus and other educational institutions drug-free, and I want youth to work together with the administration, health institutions, civil society groups and youth organisations. I also expect that this documentary will be screened in every department of the university and shown in other institutions of the Jammu division as well so that more and more people connect with the resolve of healthy youth, empowered society, and drug-free Jammu Kashmir,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Walnut farming profitable, faces productivity, labour challenges in Kashmir: Study

‘Orchards yielded gross returns of Rs 5.31 lakh per hectare’

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: A study has revealed that walnut cultivation in Kashmir can generate substantial returns for growers but remains highly dependent on labour and faces several productivity and market-related challenges.

The study, based on data collected from 240 walnut growers in four south Kashmir districts, examined the economics and profitability of walnut production during the agricultural season.

It found that walnut cultivation generated Rs 5.35 in returns for every rupee spent, indicating a cost-benefit ratio of 1:5.35.

For orchards with about 80 walnut trees per hectare, the researchers estimated production at 3,560 kg and the total cost of cultivation



at Rs 83,825 per hectare.

The corresponding gross return was estimated at Rs 5.31 lakh per hectare, while the net return stood at about Rs 4.48 lakh, the study said.

However, labour emerged as the largest component of production costs, accounting for

nearly 80 per cent of the total expenditure.

The researchers found that activities such as harvesting, picking and guarding orchards required substantial labour inputs during the production cycle.

The study also found considerable variation in

walnut prices, with growers receiving between Rs 100 and Rs 165 per kg depending on factors such as shell hardness, kernel colour, taste and dryness.

Productivity was influenced by several factors, including the use of farmyard manure and chemical fertilisers, labour availability, tree density, women's participation and farmers' access to agricultural information, it said.

Despite the high economic returns, walnut growers reported a number of constraints, including inadequate access to extension services, credit facilities and technical training.

The researchers called for stronger agricultural extension programmes and better access to institutional credit and training to improve productivity and strengthen the walnut

sector.

They also recommended greater dissemination of scientific information among growers to help them adopt improved cultivation practices.

The study was conducted in Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian districts and was based on field data from the 2018-19 production period.

The researchers cautioned that improving productivity and addressing constraints faced by growers would be important for sustaining the economic potential of walnut cultivation in the region.

The findings provide an assessment of the economics of walnut production based on the study-period costs and returns and do not represent current 2026 market prices or farm incomes—(KNO)

You’re joining institution with proud legacy: GAD Secy to new JKP officers

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

SRINAGAR: Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), M Raju on Friday praised the Jammu and Kashmir Police for its “proud legacy”, saying the newly appointed officers had both an opportunity and responsibility to contribute to its transformation into a modern, professional and citizen-centric force.

Addressing a function at Lok Bhavan Srinagar where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over appointment letters to 29 newly selected officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, Raju said the officers were beginning a career marked by responsibility, discipline, courage and public service.

“You are joining an institution with a proud legacy. You now have the opportunity and the responsibility to contribute to its continuing transformation into a modern, professional, technology-enabled and citizen-centric force,” he said.

Raju said the appointment ceremony represented more than the formal conferment of appointment orders and reflected the administration's commitment to transparent governance, institutional integrity, merit-based recruitment

and meaningful opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Today's ceremony represents more than a formal conferment of appointment orders. It is a reflection of our continued commitment to institutional excellence, administrative efficiency and transparent public recruitment,” he said.

The Commissioner/Secretary appreciated the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and all offices and institutions associated with the recruitment process for ensuring a rigorous and merit-based selection mechanism.

“I also place on record our appreciation for the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission and all offices and institutions associated with the recruitment process for ensuring a rigorous and merit-based selection mechanism,” he said.

Raju said the government had, over the past few years, taken the initiative of referring vacancies for competitive services to the JKPSC on a yearly basis to provide opportunities to the youth and bring greater efficiency and vibrancy to both the police and civil administration.

He said the responsibilities of modern law enforcement were rapidly evolving and the police were now

required to respond to a wide range of challenges beyond conventional security threats. “Alongside the conventional challenges being faced, the Police Department today is required to respond to organised crime, economic offences, narco-terrorism, as well as the growing complexity of cybercrime,” Raju said.

“With the rapid expansion of digital governance and technology-enabled criminal activity, protecting citizens in cyberspace has also emerged as an important institutional priority,” he added.

The Commissioner/Secretary said the newly appointed officers would therefore have an important role in developing technology-enabled, intelligence-driven and professionally responsive policing. “Our policing framework is increasingly supported by platforms such as the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, an interoperable criminal justice system enabling greater integration, information sharing and data-driven investigation across the criminal justice system,” he said.

He said effective policing began with rigorous professional preparation and outlined the training programme for the newly appointed officers.

J&K rolls out dedicated cybercrime system for faster action on complaints: SSP Crime

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Crime Yaseen Kichloo on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir Police have rolled out a dedicated cybercrime mechanism to expedite complaint handling and enable quicker action to freeze suspected fraudulent funds.

Talking to reporters here, SSP Kichloo, said the system, established under the Jammu and Kashmir Cyber Coordination Centre (JK4C) and JK1C, will function through specialised wings dealing with cyber investigation, cyber opera-

tions and online crimes against children and women.

He urged victims of cyber fraud to immediately report incidents through the 1930 helpline or the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), saying prompt reporting increases the chances of stopping or freezing the money before it is transferred further.

The SSP said complaints involving suspicious transactions are examined in coordination with banks and other concerned agencies for necessary action.

The SSP added that banks are also using artificial intel-

ligence and pattern-based analysis to detect suspicious transactions, while police coordinate with the Department of Telecommunications, Reserve Bank of India and the banking system.

He said accounts will be unfrozen as per procedure where investigations find no sufficient grounds to continue the freeze, while serious cases will lead to registration of FIRs and further legal action. “A dedicated mechanism has also been established for online crimes against children and women, including counselling and victim-oriented assistance,” he said. —(KNO)

Protest held over lack of healthcare facilities at SDH Tral

Protesters allege shortage of doctors, specialists, essential staff

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: A protest was held in Tral on Friday morning against the alleged lack of adequate healthcare facilities and manpower at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tral, with protesters demanding immediate intervention by the concerned authorities to improve patient care and ensure accountability in the functioning of the hospital.

The protest was attended by people cutting across political affiliations and several residents. They carried placards and banners with messages such as “Healthcare for All, Justice for All” and “No Politics Over People's Lives”, while raising concerns over what they described as inadequate staffing, shortage of specialist services and deficiencies in hospital infrastructure and facilities.

Speaking during the protest, youth activist Junaid Mir questioned the present functioning of SDH Tral, alleging that the hospital was effectively providing services at the level of a Community Health Centre (CHC) despite being designated as a Sub-District Hospital.

He questioned the duty schedule and responsibilities of the Block Medical Officer (BMO), seeking greater accountability from the concerned authorities regarding the day-to-day functioning and



supervision of the health institution.

“We are not protesting against any individual. Our concern is the healthcare of the people of Tral. When a hospital is designated as an SDH, people naturally expect facilities and services accordingly. Patients should not have to travel outside the area for services that should be available here,” Mir said.

Citizen Council Tral chairman Farooq Tral said healthcare facilities should not be viewed through political or constituency-based considerations, asserting that elected representatives holding ministerial positions have a broader responsibility towards people across the region.

“Ministers are elected as MLAs from their respective constituencies, but once they become ministers, they have a responsibility towards people beyond their own constituencies. Development and public facilities should reach every area equally,” he said.

The protesters alleged that several other SDHs have comparatively better facilities and specialist services, while SDH Tral continues to face shortages of doctors, specialists and other essential staff.

They alleged that despite the hospital catering to a large population from Tral and adjoining areas, patients are often compelled to visit other hospitals for consultations and treatment that, according to them, should be available locally.

The protesters also raised concerns over the functioning of the dialysis centre at the hospital, which they said was started recently but has allegedly not been functioning to its expected capacity.

They demanded that the concerned health authorities assess the availability of doctors, specialists, nursing staff, paramedics and other essential personnel at SDH Tral and take immediate measures to address the gaps.

Youth found dead at home in Budgam, probe underway

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: A 21-year-old youth was found dead at his residence in the Qadi Pora area of Budgam in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, officials said.

An official said that

the youth was found unconscious at his residence in Qadi Pora, following which police were informed.

He said police reached the spot and took the body into custody. The deceased was identified as Shafat Hussain (21),

a resident of Qadi Pora, Budgam.

Meanwhile, the body will be handed over to the family after completion of the necessary formalities for the last rites. Police have initiated an investigation into the incident—(KNO)

NHM employees defer proposed strike after written govt assurance

‘Committee constituted to examine demands; roadmap being worked out’

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association (JKNHMEA) has decided to defer its strike following a written assurance from the Health and Medical Education Department on the long-pending demands of NHM employees.

The decision came after a meeting of the JKNHMEA Joint Coordination Committee with Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Ito

at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar on Friday, in the presence of the Mission Director, NHM, and other senior officers.

According to the association, the government has constituted a committee vide order No. PS/HME/058/156 dated September 17, 2026, to examine the issues raised by NHM employees and work out a comprehensive roadmap for addressing their demands.

The association said the process of finalising the roadmap has already com-

menced, describing the development as a significant step towards resolving the issues that have remained pending for a considerable period.

NHM employees have been pressing for several demands, including pay parity, job security and a policy for regularisation, besides social security measures such as EPF, ESI, insurance coverage and post-retirement support.

The employees had launched a UT-wide agitation earlier this month, with the prolonged protest affect-

ing the functioning of several NHM-supported health programmes and services across Jammu and Kashmir. The agitation was subsequently extended through repeated 72-hour extensions amid demands for a concrete written commitment from the government.

Speaking after the meeting, JKNHMEA Chief Spokesperson Abdul Rauoof said the decision to defer the strike was based on the government's written commitment and reflected the association's willingness to pursue its demands through dialogue and constructive engagement.

Education.

“The constitution of the committee vide No. PS/HME/058/156 dated 17-09-2026 and the commencement of work on the roadmap are important steps forward. We appreciate the positive intervention of the Health Minister and the officers concerned,” he said.

Rauoof said the decision to defer the strike was based on the government's written commitment and reflected the association's willingness to pursue its demands through dialogue and constructive engagement.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Pashmina's GI Tag Must Not Become A Waiting Tag

Kashmir's world-famous Pashmina industry is facing a problem that demands urgent government attention, not because of a shortage of artisans, craftsmanship or market demand, but because of a bottleneck in the very system designed to establish the authenticity of its products. The sole Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre at the Craft Development Institute (CDI), Srinagar, is reportedly receiving 200 to 250 certification requests daily, while its testing capacity has increased to around 150 to 170 tests. Although the backlog has been reduced from nearly three months to approximately 45 days, the waiting period remains a serious concern for artisans, manufacturers and traders whose businesses depend on timely certification.

The government deserves recognition for increasing daily testing capacity from around 40 tests to the present level. However, improvement cannot become an excuse for complacency. When demand continues to exceed capacity, the backlog will persist, placing an unnecessary burden on those working to preserve and promote Kashmir's traditional craft. A GI certification system must protect authenticity without obstructing livelihoods. The purpose of certification is to give consumers confidence, protect genuine artisans and strengthen the reputation of Kashmir Pashmina in domestic and international markets. But when artisans and traders are forced to wait weeks for certification, the system risks becoming an impediment to the very industry it is intended to support.

The challenge is not merely administrative. Pashmina production and trade operate within competitive markets where timing matters. Delays in certification can affect product dispatches, business commitments and cash flow, particularly for smaller artisans and traders who may not have the financial capacity to absorb prolonged waiting periods. The authorities must therefore move beyond temporary capacity expansion and develop a long-term strategy to eliminate the structural gap between certification demand and testing capacity. The daily demand of 200 to 250 requests, against a capacity of 150 to 170 tests, clearly indicates that further intervention is necessary.

The government should examine the possibility of expanding laboratory infrastructure, recruiting and training additional technical personnel, introducing additional testing shifts and establishing supplementary testing facilities where technically and administratively feasible. Any expansion, however, must preserve the accuracy, credibility and independence of the certification process. Technology can also play a greater role. The CDI's QR-based verification system provides an important foundation for transparency and consumer confidence. Authorities should explore whether digital application tracking, appointment scheduling and real-time status updates can reduce uncertainty for applicants and improve administrative efficiency.

At the same time, the interests of small artisans must remain central to any reform. A certification system that works efficiently for large traders but leaves individual craftspeople struggling with delays would fall short of its broader developmental purpose. Kashmir's Pashmina is not simply a commercial product. It represents generations of inherited skill, cultural identity and economic opportunity. Protecting its GI status requires strict quality control, but strictness must be accompanied by accessibility and efficiency.

The government must ensure that Kashmir's genuine Pashmina artisans do not pay the price for a certification system that has failed to keep pace with growing demand. Increasing testing capacity is welcome, but the ultimate objective must be a system where authenticity is verified promptly, livelihoods are protected and Kashmir Pashmina reaches markets with the credibility and recognition it deserves.

Venice's Secret Role Behind Iberian Seaborne Empires



NAVEED QAZI

Spain's Age of Discovery is often remembered as a uniquely Iberian saga - conquistadors planting flags across oceans, galleons braving storms, and imperial ambition stretching from the Americas to Asia. Yet beneath this familiar narrative lies a quieter truth: Venice, though geographically tethered to the Mediterranean, was a hidden architect of Iberian maritime empires. The Venetian Republic's intellectual rigour, industrial innovation, and cartographic precision became indispensable scaffolding for Spain's global expansion, and Portugal's too. To understand Iberia's rise without acknowledging Venice's contributions is to miss the connective tissue of European ingenuity that made empire possible.

Antonio Pigafetta, the Venetian scholar who documented Ferdinand Magellan's circumnavigation in 1519, exemplifies this legacy. Out of nearly 270 men who set sail, only 18 returned, and Pigafetta was among them. His journals became the definitive record of the voyage, blending geography, ethnography, and narrative. It is because Spain's glory in completing the first circumnavigation was preserved by a Venetian pen. His account inspired navigators across Europe, offering the first reliable log of Pacific geography and linguistic encounters. In this sense, Venice's intellectual tradition of chronicling became the lens through which Spain's maritime triumph was immortalised. Empire-building is not merely about ships and cannons. It is equally about memory, and Spain's feats were amplified by Venetian documentation.

Venice's Arsenal, Europe's largest industrial complex, was another cornerstone of Iberian maritime power. Centuries before the Industrial Revolution, the Arsenal pioneered standardised naval architecture and assembly-line efficiency. Among its innovations was the Mediterranean Galleass, a hybrid vessel combining the agility of a galley with the firepower and sailing capacity of a galleon. Spain, impressed by these designs, integrated Venetian shipbuilding principles into its own fleet. During the 1588 Armada campaign against England, Venetian-inspired vessels formed the backbone of Spain's naval strategy. The Armada's failure is well known, but the fact that Spain relied on Venetian engineering underscores how deeply Venetian naval architecture had penetrated Iberian maritime thinking. The Arsenal's model of industrialised shipbuilding foreshadowed



the logistical demands of global empire, and Spain borrowed liberally from this Venetian template.

If ships carried Iberia across oceans, maps guided them, and here again Venice was indispensable. Venetian cartographers perfected Portolan charts - navigational maps annotated with rhumb lines that allowed sailors to plot precise courses between ports. These charts were practical tools, born of centuries of Mediterranean trade. Spanish pilots at the Casa de la Contratacion relied heavily on Venetian maps. Venetian printing presses mass-produced accurate world maps, shaping the routes chosen by Iberian navigators. In effect, Venice's cartographic expertise became Iberia's compass to the New World. Venetian maps were the invisible infrastructure of exploration, guiding ships toward conquest and colonisation.

Portugal leaned on Venetian knowledge as well. In 1457, King Afonso V commissioned the Venetian monk Fra Mauro to produce a world map. This mappamundi became one of the most advanced cartographic works of its time, synthesising Mediterranean knowledge with Portuguese exploratory ambitions. Venetian and Florentine cosmographic studies were commissioned by the Portuguese court to refine navigational knowledge, helping Portugal redefine the imago mundi as its sailors pushed beyond known boundaries. Venice's dominance in Mediterranean commerce also provided Portugal with models for organising spice trade routes. Venetian merchants and financiers were deeply involved in redistributing Portuguese goods like sugar and slaves, linking Atlantic and Mediterranean economies. Scholars argue that Venice and Portugal together formed a

In this sense, Venice's intellectual tradition of chronicling became the lens through which Spain's maritime triumph was immortalised. Empire-building is not merely about ships and cannons.

technological transfer. This dynamic reflects the interconnectedness of Renaissance Europe. Maritime power was not born in isolation but through exchange. Venice's Arsenal, presses, and chroniclers were part of a pan-European ecosystem that enabled Iberia's global reach. The Age of Discovery, therefore, was as much about collaboration as competition.

Why does this matter now? Because the Venetian-Iberian relationship offers enduring lessons about innovation, influence, and globalisation. Pigafetta's journal demonstrates that documentation can be as powerful as conquest. In our digital age, where information defines geopolitics, the Venetian lesson is clear: memory and narrative shape legacy. Spain's adoption of Venetian ship designs shows how technological borrowing can redefine power. Today, nations compete not only through invention but through adaptation of global innovations. Venetian Portolan charts remind us that accurate information infrastructure underpins exploration. In the modern world, data plays the role maps once did - guiding economies, militaries, and societies.

Spain's Age of Discovery is often celebrated as a uniquely Iberian saga. Yet the Venetian maritime legacy reveals a deeper truth: Venice was the hidden architect of Iberian empires. Therefore, the Age of Discovery should be reframed not as a tale of isolated national triumphs but as a story of interconnected European ingenuity. Spain and Portugal may have planted flags across oceans, but Venice provided the tools, maps, and memory that made such feats possible.

The writer is a prolific author and serves as Editor at Large for Science Matters India. Feedback at naveedqazi@live.com

Headache - A Warning Sign?



DR. BIPLAB DAS

A headache is one of the most commonly ignored symptoms in medicine. In most cases, that is understandable. Headaches are frequently associated with stress, inadequate sleep, dehydration, long hours in front of a screen, migraine or simply the demands of a busy day. Most headaches are harmless, but a sudden, extremely severe headache that reaches its maximum intensity within seconds or a few minutes warrants immediate attention.

Patients often describe such a headache as the "worst headache of my life." This type of sudden-onset headache can be an important warning sign of bleeding around the brain. One of the major causes of this type of bleeding is a ruptured brain aneurysm.

September is observed as Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness about a condition that can remain undetected for years but can become life-threatening when an aneurysm ruptures. A brain aneurysm is a weakened area in the wall of a blood vessel supplying the brain, where the vessel develops a bulge. Many aneurysms never cause



symptoms and are sometimes discovered incidentally during CT or MRI scans performed for other reasons. The danger arises when an aneurysm ruptures and causes bleeding around the brain, known as subarachnoid haemorrhage.

A ruptured aneurysm may cause vomiting, neck stiffness, sensitivity to light, loss of consciousness, seizures, weakness, difficulty speaking, visual disturbances or confusion in addition to the sudden severe headache. Because these symptoms can overlap with migraine and stroke, the cause cannot be safely determined at home. Anyone who develops a sudden, explosive headache, particularly one that reaches its peak within seconds or minutes, should receive emergency medical attention. The patient should be taken to a hospital equipped to manage neurological emergencies. They should not attempt to drive themselves.

Most unruptured aneurysms do not cause symptoms, although a larger aneurysm can occasionally press on nearby nerves and cause pain around the eye, double vision, a drooping eyelid, facial numbness or weakness, problems with balance or difficulty speaking. Persistent

or unexplained neurological symptoms should be evaluated rather than repeatedly attributed to an ordinary headache or cervical pain.

The precise reason why an aneurysm develops is not always known. Important risk factors include uncontrolled high blood pressure and tobacco use, including both smoking and smokeless tobacco. A family history of brain aneurysm or subarachnoid haemorrhage is also relevant, as are certain inherited conditions, previous injury to a blood vessel and in some cases, stimulant drug use. People with a close family history should discuss their individual risk with a neurologist or neurovascular specialist; screening may be appropriate in selected families.

High blood pressure is particularly important because it is common, often undiagnosed and may remain uncontrolled for years. Regular blood-pressure checks, taking prescribed medication, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising, moderating salt intake and avoiding tobacco can all contribute to better vascular health. These measures cannot guarantee prevention, but they can reduce several avoidable vascular risks.

When an aneurysm is suspected, CT angiography and MR angiography can provide detailed images of the brain's blood vessels, while digital subtraction angiography may be used in selected cases for a more precise assessment. Finding an

aneurysm does not necessarily mean that treatment is required. Doctors consider factors such as its size, location and appearance, whether it has changed over time, as well as the patient's age, symptoms, family history and overall health. Some aneurysms can be monitored with regular imaging and management of risk factors, while others may require treatment. Depending on the individual case, this may involve minimally invasive endovascular procedures or microsurgical clipping, with the choice made by a multidisciplinary team.

Awareness of brain aneurysms should not create unnecessary anxiety about ordinary headaches. The vast majority are not caused by aneurysms. What matters is recognising a headache that is sudden, unusually severe or accompanied by new neurological symptoms. During Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month, the emphasis should be on recognising the warning signs, addressing modifiable risk factors and seeking emergency care when necessary. Checking your blood pressure, avoiding tobacco and being aware of a significant family history are all important steps. Most importantly, a sudden, severe headache should never be ignored. In the event of an aneurysm rupture, timely diagnosis and treatment can have a decisive impact on the outcome.

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Are Universities Educating Human Beings Or Manufacturing Employees?



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Higher education must prepare students for work, but when employability, rankings and revenue become its defining purpose, the university risks losing the very reason it exists.

There is a question that universities rarely ask themselves because it is far easier to discuss rankings, accreditation, graduate employment rates and research output. What exactly is a university for? Is its primary purpose to produce employees who can be absorbed efficiently into the labour market? Is it an advanced training centre designed to supply corporations with skilled workers? Is it a research factory competing for grants, citations and institutional prestige? Or is a university supposed to do something deeper—to create intellectually independent human beings capable of questioning assumptions, examining power, judging evidence and thinking beyond the immediate demands of the market?

The question is no longer philosophical decoration. It lies at the centre of the crisis confronting modern higher education.

Universities today face enormous pressure to prove their economic usefulness. Students and parents understandably ask whether a degree will lead to employment. Governments demand evidence of graduate outcomes. Employers want industry-ready graduates. Accrediting bodies require measurable performance indicators. International rankings reward research visibility. Universities compete for students, faculty, grants and reputation. None of these concerns is illegitimate. The danger begins when they cease to be components of education and become its definition.

When Education Becomes a Transaction
A student enters university. He pays tuition. He completes courses. He receives a degree. He obtains employment. From an economic perspective, the process seems perfectly ratio-

nal: Education –Qualification –Employment –Income Universities therefore increasingly market degrees through the language of return on investment: employability, salary potential, career progression and industry relevance.

There is nothing wrong with wanting graduates to find good jobs. A university that ignores the economic realities facing its students would itself be irresponsible. But something important disappears when we reduce education entirely to this equation. A graduate is not merely a future employee. A student is also a future citizen, parent, decision-maker, voter, entrepreneur, professional and member of society. The university must therefore prepare people not simply to earn, but also to judge. The difference is profound. Training tells a person how to perform a task.

Education should also teach that person when the task is worth performing, what consequences it may produce and whether the assumptions behind it deserve questioning.

The Tyranny of What Can Be Measured
Modern institutions understandably depend upon measurement. Universities count publications, citations, grants, enrolments, graduation rates, employability percentages, student satisfaction scores and international rankings. Measurement provides accountability.

But education contains an uncomfortable truth: Many of the things that matter most cannot easily be measured. How do we assign a numerical score to intellectual courage? What metric captures curiosity? What ranking measures whether a student has learned to recognise a weak argument? Which dashboard tells us whether a graduate possesses moral judgment? How many citations prove that a university has taught someone to think independently? An institution can become highly successful according to measurable indicators while gradually becoming intellectually impoverished.

This produces a dangerous institutional temptation: We begin valuing what we can measure rather than learning how to measure what we truly value. Research itself can fall into this trap. Universities need research. Knowledge advances through scholarship, experimentation and sustained intellectual inquiry. Yet when faculty careers depend excessively upon publication counts and citation indexes, scholarship can slowly become another production line: publish –accumulate citations –improve rankings –attract funding –publish more. The question “Is this worth understanding?” risks being replaced by “Can this be published?” That is not a rejection of research. It is a warning against confusing research productivity with intellectual significance.

But Universities Cannot Ignore Employment
Critics of this argument will raise a powerful objection. What good is philosophical freedom to



a graduate who cannot find employment?

Families often make enormous financial sacrifices for higher education. Students take loans. Governments subsidise universities. Employers complain about skills shortages. Surely universities have a responsibility to prepare students for economic life. They do. The false choice is believing we must select either humanistic education or employability. A successful university should achieve both.

Indeed, the abilities most valuable in a rapidly changing labour market are increasingly the same abilities associated with genuine education: critical thinking, communication, quantitative reasoning, adaptability, creativity, ethical judgment, problem solving, and the ability to learn independently. Technology strengthens rather than weakens this argument. Artificial intelligence can increasingly perform routine analysis, generate reports, write computer code, summarise documents and automate repetitive intellectual tasks.

If universities respond by turning students into increasingly specialised operators of present-day technologies, they may prepare graduates for jobs that disappear before their careers mature. The safest preparation for an unpredictable future is therefore not narrow training. It is intellectual adaptability. The future will reward people capable not merely of knowing answers but of asking better questions.

The Corporate University

Another criticism concerns the growing corporate character of universities. A university must certainly be financially sustainable. Buildings cost money. Laboratories cost money. Faculty salaries must be paid. Technology, libraries and student services require substantial investment. Financial discipline is necessary. But the university becomes vulnerable when commercial logic begins governing academic logic. Students gradually become customers. Courses become products. Faculty become service providers. Degrees become credentials. Research becomes output. University leaders become brand managers. And education becomes a marketplace transaction. The customer-service analogy is

particularly dangerous.

A student is not exactly a customer because education sometimes requires telling students things they do not want to hear. “You need to work harder.” “Your argument is weak.” “Your calculation is incorrect.” “Your evidence does not support your conclusion.” “This assignment is not good enough.” A serious university must occasionally frustrate students in order to educate them. A restaurant fails when it refuses to satisfy its customer. A university may fail precisely because it satisfies students too easily.

What, Then, Should Change?

The solution is not to destroy the modern university system. It is to restore balance. First, employability should remain an outcome, not become the philosophy of education. Universities should prepare students for careers while making clear that a degree has purposes extending beyond employment. Every graduate should leave university not merely with professional competence but with strengthened reasoning, communication and judgment. Second, universities should protect intellectual breadth. Engineering students should encounter ethics. Business students should study society and history. Humanities students should understand data and quantitative reasoning. Scientists should learn communication and philosophy of evidence. Mathematics students should understand how abstract reasoning connects with human decisions. Specialisation creates expertise. Breadth creates perspective. Society needs both.

Third, assessment must move beyond memorisation.

In an age when information is instantly searchable and AI can generate routine answers, education should increasingly assess: interpretation, argument, problem solving, application, evaluation, original reasoning, and the ability to defend conclusions.

The examination question of the future should not merely ask: “What do you know?” It should ask: “What can you do with what you know?” Fourth, research quality should matter more than research quantity. Universities should resist cultures in which academics feel compelled to produce papers primarily to satisfy numerical targets. A smaller amount of meaningful scholarship can sometimes contribute more than a large volume of marginal publication.

Fifth, faculty must recover their role as educators.

The most important relationship in a university remains surprisingly old-fashioned: a knowledgeable teacher helping another human being learn how to think. Technology should strengthen that relationship, not replace it. Artificial intelligence can explain, simulate, calculate and personalise. But education ultimately requires judgment, mentorship, intellectual challenge and human example.

The University as a Place of Freedom

The deepest purpose of a university may therefore be neither employment nor research alone. It is the cultivation of intellectual freedom. A genuinely educated person should be able to encounter an argument and ask: What is the evidence? What assumptions are being made? Who benefits if I believe this? Is the conclusion logically justified? What alternatives exist? What are the consequences? And perhaps most importantly: Could I be wrong? A society filled with technically skilled people who cannot ask these questions may become prosperous. It may not remain wise. Universities therefore carry a responsibility extending far beyond campuses. They help shape the intellectual habits of societies.

The Question We Should Ask Every Graduate

Perhaps universities should reconsider the question they place before students. Instead of asking only: “What job will this degree help you get?” we should also ask: “What kind of person will this education help you become?” The first question matters. The second determines the future of civilisation. Universities should prepare engineers who can design bridges, but also recognise when public safety is being compromised. They should produce business leaders capable of creating wealth, but also understanding the consequences of exploitation. They should educate scientists capable of advancing technology, but also asking whether every technological possibility should automatically become reality.

They should train mathematicians capable of modelling complex systems, but also recognising that human beings cannot always be reduced to variables inside an equation. And they should educate citizens capable of disagreeing without surrendering reason. The university must therefore serve the economy without becoming its servant. It must cooperate with industry without surrendering intellectual independence. It must measure performance without worshipping measurement. It must conduct research without confusing publication with wisdom. And it must prepare students for employment without reducing human beings to employees. Because the ultimate success of education cannot be measured simply by how much graduates earn. It must also be measured by how independently they think, how responsibly they act and how intelligently they confront the world they inherit. That is the university worth defending.

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When Did We Stop Being Still?

In A World Of Constant Notifications, Are We Losing The Ability To Pause, Reflect And Notice?



ABROO MUSHTAQ

There was a time when silence did not need to be filled. A person could sit by a window and watch the rain without reaching for a phone. A student could walk home simply listening to the sounds of the street. Families could sit together after dinner without every few minutes being interrupted by a notification. Waiting was simply waiting. Today, however, an empty moment often feels incomplete.

We reach for our phones while waiting for a class to begin, while travelling, while eating and sometimes even while sitting among people we love. A few seconds without stimulation can feel strangely uncomfortable. One video ends, another begins. One notification disappears, another arrives. We have built a world that rarely asks us to be still. But perhaps stillness is not wasted time. Perhaps it is a necessity.

THE AGE OF CONSTANT ATTENTION
Technology itself is not the problem. Smartphones and the internet have transformed education, communication and access to information. A student can attend a lecture from another country, read a book that is not available locally, or communicate instantly with someone thousands of kilometres away. These are remarkable possibilities. The question is not whether technology is good or bad. The question is: what is it doing to our attention?

Human attention is limited. Every notification, message, video and rapidly changing image asks the brain to shift its focus. Constant interruptions can make sustained concentration more difficult, particularly when we are trying to study, read or complete demanding

work. For students, this matters greatly. Learning is not always exciting. Sometimes a chapter is difficult. Sometimes a mathematical problem takes several attempts. Sometimes understanding a scientific concept requires sitting with confusion before the answer becomes clear. If every uncomfortable moment is immediately replaced by entertainment, we may gradually lose the patience required to work through difficulty. The ability to concentrate is not merely an academic skill. It is a life skill.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE QUIET?

Interestingly, the mind does not become useless when we stop feeding it information. It begins to wander. And that wandering can be valuable. When people are not continuously occupied, they may reflect on experiences, connect ideas, imagine possibilities and notice thoughts that were previously buried beneath noise. Some of our best questions arrive when nobody is asking us anything. Some ideas appear while walking. Some realizations come while looking out of a window. Some prayers become more meaningful when the world around us becomes quiet. Stillness creates room. And the modern world is becoming increasingly short of room.

THE QUR'AN AND THE ART OF REFLECTION

The idea of reflection is not foreign to Islamic thought. The Qur'an repeatedly directs human beings to observe, think and reflect upon creation. Allah says: Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day are signs for those of understanding.” Qur'an 3:190 The verse draws our attention towards things that are always around us: the heavens, the earth, the changing of night and day. Yet noticing requires attention. We can stand beneath a beautiful sky and never really look at it. We can hear rain and immediately put on headphones. We can walk through a beautiful landscape while our eyes remain fixed on a screen. The world may be full of signs, but we need to pause long enough to notice them.

The Qur'an also asks: Do they not reflect within themselves?” Qur'an 30:8 Reflection is different from simply receiving information. Today,



information is everywhere. We can search almost any question within seconds. But information does not automatically produce wisdom. Wisdom requires reflection.

KASHMIR AND THE VALUE OF STILLNESS

In Kashmir, the contrast can feel particularly striking. Our surroundings offer countless opportunities for quiet observation: the mountains, rivers, gardens, changing seasons, snowfall, morning light and the familiar sounds of everyday neighbourhood life. Yet even in such surroundings, it is possible to remain mentally elsewhere. A person can sit beside a beautiful landscape while endlessly scrolling through another landscape on a screen. We can photograph a moment without actually experiencing it. We can record the sunset and forget to watch it. We can take pictures of people we love and forget to talk to them. This is not an argument against photography, social media or technology. It is a reminder that documenting a moment is not the same as living it.

WHAT ARE CHILDREN LEARNING FROM US?

This question deserves particular attention. Young people learn not only from what adults tell them, but also from what adults repeatedly do. If a child sees every quiet moment immediately filled by a screen, the child may naturally learn that silence is something to escape. If family conversations repeatedly stop because someone checks a notification, the child learns what receives attention. If meals, journeys and gatherings are constantly interrupted by phones, uninterrupted human presence becomes unusual. Children need technology

literacy, but they also need attention literacy: the ability to understand when technology deserves their attention and when it does not. They need time to read. Time to play. Time to talk. Time to think. Time to be curious. And yes, sometimes, time to be bored.

BOREDOM MAY NOT BE THE ENEMY

We often treat boredom as a problem that must be solved immediately. But boredom can sometimes be the beginning of creativity. A child with nothing prepared may invent a game. A student with no entertainment may begin writing. A person sitting quietly may remember something important. An empty afternoon can become an opportunity rather than a problem. We should not romanticize boredom or pretend that every quiet moment produces something extraordinary. But neither should we assume that every empty moment needs to be filled. Some moments can simply be empty. And that is okay.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USING TECHNOLOGY AND BEING USED BY IT

There is an important distinction between choosing to use a device and feeling compelled to check it repeatedly. A tool remains useful when we control how and when we use it. But when a notification determines when we stop studying, when a feed determines how long we remain awake, or when silence automatically sends our hand towards a phone, it is worth reconsidering our habits. The solution does not have to be extreme. We do not need to reject modern technology. We can begin with small boundaries. Keep the phone away during focused study. Turn unnecessary notifications off. Eat some meals without screens. Spend time outdoors. Read without simultaneously checking messages. Have conversations in which phones remain out of reach. And occasionally allow yourself to sit with nothing demanding your attention. These small acts can protect something that is difficult to recover once lost: the ability to concentrate.

WE CANNOT PAUSE TIME, BUT WE CAN PAUSE OURSELVES

The Qur'an reminds us: And He found you lost and guided you. Qur'an 93:7 The verse speaks to guidance, but it also reminds us

of something deeply human: we can move through life without always understanding where we are going. Modern life gives us more speed. More information. More communication. More entertainment. But more does not always mean deeper. Sometimes we need less noise to understand more. Perhaps we need to ask ourselves questions that cannot be answered by a search bar: What am I becoming? What am I giving my attention to? What do I value? Am I truly present with the people around me? What am I doing with the time Allah has given me? These questions require something the internet cannot provide for us: a moment of sincere reflection.

LOOK UP

The next time you are waiting, resist the automatic movement towards your phone. Look around. Look at the sky. Notice the weather. Listen to the sounds around you. Talk to someone. Or simply sit quietly. It may feel uncomfortable at first. But perhaps that discomfort is simply the feeling of a mind becoming accustomed to silence again. We often measure progress by how quickly we can access something. Perhaps another kind of progress is learning when not to access anything. Because life is not made only of major events. It is made of small moments: the conversation we almost missed, the sunset we almost failed to notice, the thought we almost interrupted, the prayer we almost rushed through. A notification can wait. A message can wait. A video can wait. But a moment of life, once it passes, does not return in exactly the same form. Perhaps the greatest luxury in the modern world is no longer having more information. Perhaps it is having enough silence to understand it. Maybe we did not lose the ability to be bored. Maybe we simply forgot how to be still.

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

NIA Court Issues

security personnel, civilians and government establishments.

The agency has also named Saiful-lah as a designated terrorist under the Fourth Schedule of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and alleged that he continued to operate from Pakistan while directing activities in the Kashmir Valley.

After examining the NIA’s application and the material placed before it, the court issued the non-bailable warrant, noting that the accused was absconding and could not be brought before the court through ordinary means.

The warrant has been forwarded to the SSP Kulgam for execution as Saiful-lah’s last known address in Jammu and Kashmir is recorded as Yamrach in South Kashmir.

The NIA has further stated that Saifullah had operated as a Lashkar commander in Kulgam between 2005 and 2007 before crossing over to Pakistan.

The agency had earlier chargesheeted Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba/TRF and other accused in the Pahalgam attack case, alleging a Pakistan-based conspiracy behind the April 2025 attack.

LG Flags Off

more prosperous. I believe that, in our eternal culture, pilgrimage has always been a great force for social harmony.

Pilgrimage gives us that strength and self-confidence. At the same time, it brings us closer to nature. During the journey, we realise that nature is our heritage and that we have a responsibility towards it.

The Harmukh–Gangbal pilgrimage is also giving us an opportunity to tell our younger generation that our eternal culture represents not only the consciousness of the present but also the direction of the future,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also referred to the ongoing Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, dedicated to the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s 25 years of continuous public service. He appealed to the citizens and the Harmukh Ganga Gangbal Trust to actively participate in activities such as cleanliness drives, blood donation, health camps, tree plantation, and youth programmes.

“May the snow-clad peaks of Harmukh inspire us to cultivate lofty thoughts, and may the blessings and compassion of Lord Shiva remain with all the pilgrims,” he said.

Shri Mian Altaf Ahmad, Member of Parliament; Shri Mian Mehar Ali, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kangran; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Vinod Pandita, Founder Chairman and General Secretary, Harmukh Ganga Gangbal Trust; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Sujit Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Shri Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal; Shri Anil Bhat, President and other members of the Harmukh Ganga Gangbal Trust, religious heads, senior civil and police administrators, security officials, prominent citizens, and devotees in large number attended the flag-off ceremony.

LG Sinha Presents

entrusted to the officers.

Congratulating the newly appointed officers, the Lieutenant Governor lauded their perseverance in overcoming an intense and transparent selection process conducted by the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). He commended the Commission for upholding fairness, impartiality, and credibility and establishing a new legacy of employment through merit since 2019. He recalled how, for the first time, even children of ordinary families such as vegetable vendors, labourers, were able to secure government jobs purely on the basis of talent and hard work.

The Lieutenant Governor reminded the newly appointed officers that their journey had only begun. Their mission, he said, was not personal success but service to the people, protection of citizens, and upholding the rule of law. He underlined the evolving nature of challenges, including terrorism, radicalisation, and new methods of terror financing through cryptocurrency and money laundering. He urged the officers to act as sentinels of both Jammu Kashmir and the nation.

“After your training, when you wear

the khaki uniform, you will stand as a protective shield between the terrorist forces and organisations across the border and the ordinary citizens of Jammu Kashmir. You will be the guardians of the dreams of every citizen, and this is no small responsibility. I believe that protecting every citizen is one of the greatest responsibilities that any democracy can entrust to its officers. My expectation of you is that you will ensure a fear-free environment for every citizen,” he said.

Highlighting the ethos of the Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor praised the devotion, sacrifice, and courage of senior officers who have safeguarded peace and harmony over decades. He urged the newly appointed officers to combine authority with compassion, uphold communal harmony, and protect the rights of the most vulnerable. Reiterating the guiding principle- “Do not harass the innocent; do not spare the guilty”- he called upon them to wear the khaki uniform with pride, but keep their conscience closer to their hearts.

“You will possess authority, and you must combine that authority with the values of compassion so that human sensitivity remains an essential part of all your actions. You must resolve that, regardless of how difficult circumstances may become, you will choose integrity and duty. Always remember that the respect commanded by the uniform depends on the honesty, courage and conduct of the officers who wear it.

Move forward with honesty, courage and humility. Along with your appointment letters, I have today entrusted you with the hopes, dreams and faith of the people. I expect you to honour this responsibility with unwavering resolve and to use your authority in the cause of justice,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, and senior officials of Police and Civil administration attended the ceremony.

Deputy Governor

services while highlighting the growing concern around digital frauds.

The Deputy Governor also emphasised the need for banks to increase loan processing through Unified Lending Interface (ULI). He highlighted its potential to transform the credit delivery in a manner similar to the transformation brought about by UPI in digital payments.

Regional Director, RBI, Jammu presented a broad overview of the financial landscape of the UT of J&K, elucidating its economic potential across agriculture, MSMEs, tourism, handicrafts and services. Subsequently, the financial landscape of the UT of J&K, was presented by the Zonal Heads of major banks present in the region. It included banking network, Credit-Deposit ratio, credit flow and Priority Sector Lending besides the progress on onboarding of banks on the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), re-KYC coverage and settlement of unclaimed deposits including special initiatives undertaken by their respective banks for the UT of J&K.

PM Modi, UAE

United Arab Emirates. The UAE President conveyed warm greetings on the Prime Minister’s birthday.”

The UAE President congratulated the Prime Minister on India’s successful BRICS Presidency.

PM Modi appreciated the participation of Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled in the BRICS Summit and the UAE’s cooperation and partnership in achieving substantive outcomes under India’s Presidency. The UAE President conveyed warm greetings on the Prime Minister’s birthday.

The issue of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia was also discussed during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit on September 13.

Sakeena Itoo Reviews

that all cases relating to seniority, promotion, regularisation and recruitment are processed strictly in accordance with the applicable rules and established procedures.

The Minister further called for expediting all pending cases while maintaining transparency and procedural fairness. She directed the officers to

prepare clear timelines for disposal of the remaining cases and ensure regular monitoring at the appropriate level so that bottlenecks, wherever identified, are addressed promptly.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the School Education Department, including Directors of School Education Jammu and Kashmir, Special Secretary and Additional Secretary. Officers stationed outside Srinagar participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

During the detailed review, the Minister was apprised of the significant progress achieved in finalisation of seniority lists. It was informed that final seniority lists of 21,323 PG Masters/PG Teachers across 32 disciplines have been issued during the last one year. Seniority lists pertaining to four remaining disciplines are under formulation. Besides, the final seniority list of 3,509 Headmasters/equivalent posts has also been issued.

The meeting also reviewed the progress made in placements against higher posts. It was informed that 197 PG Masters/PG Teachers have been placed as In-charge Lecturers in various disciplines. In addition, 672 incumbents have been placed against higher posts, including Principals as In-charge Chief Education Officers, Headmasters as In-charge Zonal Education Officers and Masters as In-charge Headmasters.

Thus, a total of 869 placements have been made against higher posts, reflecting substantial progress in addressing career progression and administrative requirements within the Department.

The Minister was further informed that consideration zones covering 988 PG Masters/PG Teachers have already been prepared for placement as In-charge Lecturers, while another 150 incumbents are under consideration for placement against other higher posts.

Reviewing the status of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings, the meeting was informed that DPC consideration had earlier been completed for only 10 out of 36 subjects/disciplines, while cases pertaining to the remaining 26 disciplines, involving around 2,000 placements, are pending consideration. The meeting was informed that consideration zones have already been prepared for multiple subjects as well as for CEOs/equivalent posts.

Taking note of the regularisation process, the Minister was informed that 53 incumbents belonging to different disciplines and cadres have been regularised during the last two years.

Sakeena Itoo directed the officers to ensure that all eligible regularisation cases are examined and processed expeditiously under the applicable rules. She emphasised that service matters should be dealt with in a transparent, objective and time-bound manner.

The Minister also reviewed the status of recruitment of Lecturers in the School Education Department. It was informed that against 594 Lecturer vacancies in 27 disciplines referred to the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC), 586 selections have been received.

Of these, appointment orders have already been issued in respect of 291 selected candidates, while the cases of another 213 candidates are under process following receipt of the requisite verification reports.

The Department has also initiated a fresh exercise to identify available Lecturer vacancies across different disciplines for referral to the J&K Public Service Commission.

The Minister stressed the importance of timely recruitment to address manpower requirements and strengthen the teaching workforce in the Department.

The meeting was further informed that revision of the J&K School Education (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules is underway. The final draft has been shared with the Heads of Departments for comments and will subsequently be submitted for the prescribed clearance process. The revision of the School Education (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules has also been initiated.

The Minister also reviewed the proposal concerning utilisation of teacher vacancies arising due to promotions and retirements. It was informed that a proposal for utilising 50 per cent of GLT vacancies for fresh recruitment had been examined. The proposal is being re-examined in light of observations received from the Finance Department and will be resubmitted thereafter. The Minister directed the department to submit the necessary queries related to the matter to finance department within weeks time.

The meeting also took stock of the cases involving higher qualifications acquired through distance/online mode. It was informed that a one-time exemption has so far been granted to 14,966 incumbents, including 7,377 incumbents in Jammu Division and 7,589 in Kashmir Division.

Sakeena Itoo directed the officers

to accord the highest priority to pending HRM matters and ensure their disposal within the prescribed timelines. She called for continuous monitoring of seniority, promotion, regularisation and recruitment cases and stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination wherever approvals or clearances are required.

The Minister reiterated that the Government is committed to ensuring a transparent, efficient and rules-based human resource management framework in the School Education Department, aimed at strengthening both its administrative functioning and academic delivery.

Rising Temps Threaten

a growing threat to one of Kashmir’s most important horticultural sectors, with changes in temperature and weather conditions affecting crop productivity and quality.

The study also documented substantial losses caused by recurrent hailstorms during 2025 and 2026.

It said hailstorms destroyed between 50 and 90 per cent of apple crops in several districts, resulting in estimated economic losses of Rs 6,000 crore to Rs 7,000 crore.

In Jammu, meanwhile, the mango economy suffered a major setback in 2026 following early heatwaves and hailstorms, with local mango arrivals declining by more than 70 per cent, according to the study.

The researchers said the contrasting impacts on apples and mangoes illustrate the vulnerability of both the Himalayan and subtropical agricultural systems of the Union Territory to changing climatic conditions.

The study also examined saffron production in Kashmir and found that output had fallen from 15.9 metric tonnes in 1990 to 2.6 metric tonnes in 2024-25, a decline of about 68 per cent over the period.

It attributed the broader agricultural risks to rising temperatures, heat extremes, drought, hailstorms and other forms of climate variability.

The researchers said existing crop insurance mechanisms were inadequate to fully protect farmers from climate-related losses and called for stronger financial safety nets and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

They recommended the adoption of heat-tolerant crop varieties, precision irrigation, improved weather monitoring and early-warning systems to help farmers respond to extreme weather.

The paper also called for greater investment in climate adaptation and stronger institutional support for farmers facing increasingly unpredictable growing conditions.

The researchers said protecting horticulture would be important not only for agricultural incomes but also for the wider rural economy of Jammu and Kashmir, where fruit cultivation supports a large number of farming households—(KNO)

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■Body Shaming

When Honesty Becomes Cruelty



SAM DAS

It is quite obvious that publicly writing, speaking poorly about someone's body is very unkind, mean and unbecoming of a lady or a gentleman. Period. Now let's be honest to ourselves and ask ourselves has any such tought crossed our mind while seeing, meeting a celebrity, relative, friend or acquaintance after a long gap? The answer is big YES.

Have we have conveyed similar opinion (or concern) in past to people in private, public? The answer is YES again. Have we have been subjected to such opinion, concern in past? The answer is YES yet again.

So lets admit that such feelings do comes to us naturally, we are designed to notice such physical changes (in the very first glance) and to judge (in our mind), its natural. The first thing we do after seeing someone is analyse and make an opinon about him/

her in our mind, which is nothing but judging, and it is absolutely natural, irrespective of we admit it or not.

Now coming to wheather or not to convey? It is quite evident that our modern education, conditioning, new found social values and desire to be seen as a urban, formal, official, mature, classy, gentle, polite, kind, cultured or woke person stop us from conveying it directly. I feel, if we mean well and we feel concerned and close enough to convey it we should convey it, that is more natural and obvious. On the other hand, hiding such an obvious and instant observation is artificial, not genuine, and not so us.

Now coming to the celebrities. Tell me honestly do all public figure earn all their appreciations or fan follwing for their professional competence? The answer is NO. Many of their fans like them just because of their good looks, style and appearance, irrespective of educational qualification, academic achievements, talent or professional competence of the celebrity. Many become obsessed with looks of the public figures. And the public figures enjoys all of it fully. They loved being called "the national crush", "most handsome", "hot",



"cute", "sexy", "Greek God", "angle", "He-Man" and what not. Even the PM, his staff, his supporters and we all are ok with women admiring him for his skin tone. They welcome it all, when people appreciate them only for their looks, irrespective of their work/ skills/ educational, competence.

The craze or obsession among the fans continues but not the looks of the celebrity, with age they start looking differently. When fans suddenly discovers the drastic change, they genu-

inely get shocked, surprise and most importantly disappointed.

To bring in a real exampe with absolute honesty, while growing up, we brothers were big fans of the Hollywood star, Arnold Schwarzenegger mostly because of his body, we even had a poster of his (of Cammando movie) pasted in our room. After so many years when we saw a photo of old Arnold with a fragile looking body by a beach somewhere, we got individually disappointed and sad. Further we shared the photo among our-

selves and discussed our feelings on it. So, was it so bad on our part to discuss someone's body and feel betrayed? Our admiration and expectations were so strong that we couldn't accept the natural change with age. I don't think it was an unkind or cruel act. It was our heart break moment. Yes, if we would have conveyed it in an unkind manner on a public domain, it would have been poor on our part, but still would have been an act of immaturity.

I strongly feel, a public figure who has enjoyed all those appre-

ciations and obsession only for their good looks/ body should be ready to take unkind comments for their body, looks in future, its a package, they both are part of it. One cannot just cherish the first part and behave "woke" when it time for the second part.

Now to analyse it for both the genders. Its not about women alone. I am a dark skined man. Has grown up being called "Kalu", "Kalia", "Adivasi", "Negro", "African" and what not. One of my childhood hero, Ravi Sashtri, as coach of the Indian Cricket team had been trolled for his belly size, surprisingly there was no support from any media house then for him. Many rather enjoyed those trolls directly or indirectly; in public or in private :(

So has been the case with Akshay Kumar, Salman Khan, Suhail Khan, Karan Johar, Amir Khan, Shahrukh Khan and many more male celebrity. We, including media somehow feels, its ok when it is concerning men. But in case of women, every time there has been a strong defence and lectures. Has anyone these days noticing any dark or fat man in any of these newsrooms? Answer is NO. Aren't women news reader leveraging their good looks and style to rise in popularity and

career? Answer is YES.

So we as a nation cannot keep indulging in the obsession with good looks and suddenly, individually and selctively start taking offence of an incidents. I feel, if one feels "Body Shaming" is bad, he should not be welcoming "Body Admiring" also.

Finally, I am bringing it back to me. If a friend meets me after 10 years and doesn't says "tu toh mota ho gaya hai" or "tere toh baal safed honey lag rahe hein", then how come he is a friend? And if I can't tolerate this genuine, natural, pure, innocent and affection coated reaction from him, what kind of a friend am I? So, I find nothing wrong in them and I, very strongly feel, I shall make serious efforts to continue living in a society or circle where no body takes offense of such well meaning/ light comments or concerns conveyed in private and shall happily allow other to make similar comments on me.

Thanks for reading it all along and thereby making my desire of expressing myself (on this issue) reach its point of culmination.

Author is a learner and Kashmir enthusiast. He shares his perspectives and observations on X at @SamDasTweets

SADAFIYA AMIN

Dear Vyeth,

The world calls you Jhelum. We call you Vyeth. The name itself is chemistry — the same element, different isotope. The same water, different love.

You start at Verinag as distilled water — pure, untouched, like water in a sealed flask. At your origin, you are nothing but H2O, absolute. Then you begin your long titration across Kashmir. You dissolve. You dissolve the limestone of Anantnag, the crocin of Pampore's kong — saffron — which is the most expensive solute in the world. One stigma of kong can colour a whole deg of rice, one drop of your water can colour a whole valley.

You enter Srinagar and you become a sher. You pass the shrine of Lal Ded, you pass Habba Khatoon's window in Pampore, who waited all her life looking at you for a lover who never returned. You are not just a solvent there, you are a witness.

In the middle of your flow, you carry

our deen as well. Allah says in the Quran: Wa ja'alna minal ma'i kulla shay'in hayy — And We made from water every living thing. [Surah Anbiya 21:30]. If that ayah has a living tafsir in Kashmir, it is you. Every paddy field in Sopore, every walnut tree in Tangmarg is alive because of you. You are the wudu of this valley. Before every prayer, Kashmir touches you.

And you are a buffer, Vyeth. In chemistry, a buffer is a noble solution. You can pour acid into it, you can pour base into it, and it resists; it remains neutral. You are Kashmir's cultural and spiritual buffer. We poured blood into you in the nineties, we pour sewage and polythene now, we pour the cement of our encroachments. Any other river would have turned acidic and died. But you still resist. You still try to keep your pH balanced. What is your buffer capacity? I

want to calculate it one day.

Le Chatelier's principle says — if a system at equilibrium is disturbed, it shifts to undo the disturbance. We disturbed your equilibrium. We narrowed your banks at Baramulla for shops, we stole your sand, we filled Hokersar and Wular, which were your natural filter beds. And you shifted. You flooded in 2014, you shrank in summer. We called it a disaster. In chemistry, it was just your attempt to restore equilibrium. You were balancing an equation that we disturbed.

I remember winter in Baramulla. In Chillai Kalan, when everything freezes, you don't. You form a thin crust of ice on top, but inside you still flow. Like a Kashmiri in a pheran and a kangri — outside frozen, inside burning. You taught me what a catalyst is before my textbook did. A catalyst speeds up a reaction without being consumed. You are our catalyst.

You sped up our trade, our kehwah gatherings on your banks, our wazwan, our stories, but you never asked for a share.

When I sit at Cement Kadal, I see the real qualitative analysis of Kashmir. A woman washing walnuts, a child throwing kangri ash, a boatman fixing his shikara. All different solutes, all different ions. You never say, "I will only take pure water." Like a Waza who welcomes every guest to the trami, you accept all. A true solvent never judges its solute. That is your akhlaq.

Sometimes I think of titration. In college, one drop of KMnO4 changes the whole conical flask from colourless to permanent pink. Just one drop at the end point. Kashmir feels like that flask right now — at its end point. One wrong drop of hatred, one wrong drop of plastic, one wrong drop of forgetting our own adab, and the whole colour changes. We are so

close to that pink.

You also teach sedimentation. In the lab, when we keep a solution still, heavy particles settle down. That is what you do for us. A man comes to you with a heavy heart — dil wazwan .He sits, sips noon-chai and watches you. Slowly, his heaviest thoughts settle at your bottom, like silt. He walks back lighter. You are the only Hakeem who listens without a prescription.

And filtration. We filter muddy water through charcoal, sand and filter paper to get clear water. You filtered yourself naturally for centuries through the wetlands of Wular, through the roots of trees and through stones. We have broken your filter paper by filling those wetlands.

They say you are dying. I saw your turbidity. You are opaque now, not transparent. But opacity is not death.

Opacity means there are too many suspended particles too many stories that did not get a chance to settle. The story of the boatman who lost his boat to a machine, the story of the kangri that no longer sells.

I will not promise to clean you. Big promises have precipitated out, leaving no residue. I will make a small promise — one that gives a complete reaction. I will not add any one ion of pollution. I will not throw that one bottle. Because in chemistry, a single ion is enough to change the conductivity of an entire solution. And I will call you Vyeth, not Jhelum, because when we call you by your own name, we remember you are not a resource, you are family. Come back to blue, Vyeth. Not for tourists, but so that a child in Baramulla again believes that dipping her hand in you will turn her fingers blue, like Neel

Yours,
A voice from your northern bank,
Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

ENIT NO. 64 of R&B /CHADOORA/ 4120-29 of 2026-27 DATED: 17/09/2026

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

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H Of Account	Class Of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of link road to the H/O Mohd Ahsan Sheikh & others at Nowpora.	3.46	200.00	6920.00	10	UT Sector	DEE
2	Development of Berm at Badipora Sogam road at As-tan Mohalla incl. Construction of Box type culvert and toe wall at Badipora.	13.75	600.00	27500.00	25	UT Sector	B/C/D

Project Authority: Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Central Kashmir

Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Sanctioned

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17/09/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17/09/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	17/09/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	28 /09/2026 upto 5.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	29/09/2026 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The CDR/ FDR/ Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non- responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. Unbalanced Bid: -
As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Issued Vide No.FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025 & endorsed by Chief Engineer (R&B) Central Kashmir vide endorsement No. CE/R&B/CK/ WS/6375-96 dated 12/08/2025, which is reproduced as:-
i) Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
ii) Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

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

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

7. The bidders are advised to use legal registration card for e-tendering. If any bidder was found to have fake registration card for his bid, penalty under rules shall be imposed on the bidder for hurdling the tendering process and the fake registration card will be forwarded to concerned authorities for strict action.

8. The earnest money/ performance Security shall be forfeited If:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
18. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 4120-29
DATED: 17/09/2026
DIPK-5861-26
DT: 18/09/2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Chadoora

OFFICE OF THE POULTRY NUTRITIONIST,
POULTRY PROJECT, HARIPARBAT, SRINAGAR

Ref. No.: PN/Hpt/Supp/245

Dated: 18-09-2026

NOTICE INVITING DASTI QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations (strictly by hand / Dasti) are hereby invited from reputed, registered feed manufacturers, millers, and authorized suppliers for the supply of Layer Breeder Feed conforming strictly to IS 1374:2007 (BIS Specifications for Poultry Feeds).

1. SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT

S.No.	Item Description	Standard / Specification	Quantity	Delivery Terms
1.	Layer Breeder Feed	Conforming to IS 1374:2007	120 Quintals	F.O.R. Joint Directorate of Poultry Complex, Hariparbat, Srinagar.

2. KEY SUBMISSION DETAILS

Mode of Submission:	Strictly By Hand (Dasti) in a sealed envelope superscribed: "Quotation for Supply of 120 Quintals Layer Breeder Feed (IS 1374:2007)"
Last Date & Time:	By or before 21st September 2026 up to 04:30 PM
Receiving Office:	Office of the Poultry Nutritionist, Poultry Project, Hariparbat, Srinagar
Contact for Inquiry:	+91 94197 04240

3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Quality Compliance:** The feed supplied must strictly conform to the physical, chemical, and nutritional standards stipulated under IS 1374:2007. It must be wholesome, fresh, and completely free from mold, adulteration, rancidity, musty odor, and insect infestation.
- Sampling & Testing:** Random composite samples will be drawn from the delivered lot for proximate laboratory testing. Any supply failing to meet prescribed BIS standards will be rejected summarily at the supplier's risk, cost, and responsibility.
- Packaging:** Must be delivered in sound, clean, moisture-proof HDPE/polypropylene bags (standard 50 kg packing), properly machine-stitched and labeled with net weight, batch number, and manufacturing date.
- Rates:** Rates must be quoted per quintal on an F.O.R. Destination basis (inclusive of loading, transit insurance, unloading, and freight to Hariparbat). Applicable GST must be clearly indicated.
- Mandatory Enclosures:** Quotations must be accompanied by valid GST registration certificate, PAN card copy, and Feed Manufacturing License / Authorized Dealership Certificate.
- Right of Acceptance:** The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Poultry Nutritionist,
Poultry Project,
Hariparbat, Srinagar.

ANNEXURE – A: FINANCIAL BID PROFORMA
(To be submitted on the official letterhead of the bidder)

S.No.	Particulars of Feed	Quantity	Basic Rate/Qtl (₹)	GST (%)	Net F.O.R. Rate/Qtl (₹)
1.	Layer Breeder Feed (as per IS 1374:2007)	120 Quintals			

I/We hereby declare and confirm that the feed supplied shall strictly meet all standard nutritional requirements and safety limits prescribed under IS 1374:2007.

Signature & Stamp of Bidder: _____

Name of Agency / Firm: _____

Contact No.: _____

DIPK-5885-26

DT: 18/09/2026

Kathua Football League enters Semi-Final stage

Sunday FC secures 2-0 win over Kick Off Juniors



GMK SPORTS DESK

KATHUA: The ongoing Kathua Football League 2026, organised by the District Administration Kathua under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, witnessed an exciting encounter today at the Sports Ground GDC Kathua, with Sunday FC defeating Kick Off Juniors 2-0.

Sunday FC dominated proceedings and displayed a composed performance to register a comfortable victory. Amit Malhotra and Sushant scored one goal each for Sunday FC to seal the win and book their place in the next stage of the competition.

With the completion of the league-stage fixtures, Kick Off Seniors, Sunday

FC, Hiranagar FC and Flote FC have secured their places in the semifinals.

The Kathua Football League is providing a vibrant platform for local youth to showcase their sporting talent while promoting discipline, fitness, teamwork and a healthy, drug-free lifestyle under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

IDPL Karate Championship concludes in Budgam, Pulwama clinches Top Spot

GMK SPORTS DESK

BUDGAM: The Inter-District Provincial Level (IDPL) Karate Championship for Boys in all age groups concluded Friday at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Budgam.

The championship was organised by the District Youth Services and Sports Office, Budgam.

The event was conducted under the directions of Director General, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Anuradha Gupta, and under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Jai Pal Singh.

District Pulwama secured the first position, followed by District Budgam in second place and District Anantnag in third place.

At the concluding ceremony, District Information Officer (DIO) Budgam, Mir Liyaqat Ali, was the Chief Guest. He felicitated the participating players and



presented trophies and medals to the position-holding districts. Players were also awarded medals in recognition of their performances.

Speaking on the occasion, the DIO highlighted the important role of sports in keeping youth away from drugs and other negative influences. He urged young people to actively participate in sports and channelise their energy in

a positive direction, saying that sports help inculcate discipline, confidence, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit, thereby contributing to a stronger society.

The championship provided young karate players with an opportunity to showcase their talent and sporting skills while promoting discipline, sportsmanship and a positive sporting culture among youth.

Sultan Warriors Baramulla Enter Knockouts with Convincing Win in BIG Premier League

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Sultan Warriors Baramulla secured their place in the knockout stage of the Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 after defeating Asian Warriors by 127 runs at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

Sultan Warriors Baramulla won the toss and elected to bat first against Bhat Lions Kupwara. The match was played as part of the ongoing Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

The tournament is supported by Greenlam Laminates as Title Partner, Excise Department, J&K as Powered By Partner, J&K Forest Department, Qureshi Kabab Corner and Kanwal Spices as Co-Powered By



Partners, J&K Bank as Official Banking Partner, Arsh Autos as Auto Partner, Le Delice as Food Partner, JK Sports Time as Streaming Partner, Rising Kashmir as Print Partner, The Country Side Resorts as Hospitality Partner, and Team Ideation as Event Partner.

The Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 is being organised by 92.7 BIG FM in collaboration with the Jammu &

Kashmir Sports Council. The BIG FM team associated with the tournament includes Ahmer Ikhtlaq, RJ Amir and Abid Yousaf.

The tournament features eight teams competing for the coveted title. The league stage is being played from September 15 to 20, followed by the quarter-finals on September 21, semi-finals on September 22 and the grand finale on September 23.

Satish Sharma calls for Sustained Push to Football Talent in Jammu & Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Friday attended the concluding league-stage match of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2026, powered by Athwas Retail and Athwas Hyundai, and reiterated the government's commitment to providing Jammu & Kashmir's young sporting talent with greater opportunities to compete, excel and build careers in sports.

The Minister was the Chief Guest at the final league-stage fixture between Swift Strikers Rainawari FC and Sanctorem North United FC, witnessing an impressive display of football. Swift Strikers Rainawari FC registered a comprehensive 6-0 victory, thereby securing the fourth and final berth in the play-offs.

With the completion of



the league stage, Athwas India XI emerged as the league winners, while the successful teams now advance to the play-off stage to compete for the coveted championship title.

During the event, Satish Sharma interacted with players, team officials and organisers and appreciated their efforts in creating a competitive platform for footballers from Jammu & Kashmir. He said that leagues such as the Kashmir Super League are important in providing young players with sustained match exposure and an opportunity to

demonstrate their skills in a competitive environment.

The Minister said that Jammu & Kashmir possesses considerable sporting talent and that the focus of the Youth Services & Sports Department is increasingly on identifying talent at the grassroots level, providing regular competitive exposure and creating pathways for promising sportspersons to progress to higher levels.

He stressed that sporting development cannot be confined to infrastructure alone and must also include regular tournaments, professional coaching, quality

competition, talent identification and opportunities for players to gain experience.

Satish Sharma said that football enjoys a particularly strong following among the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, and tournaments of this nature can play an important role in converting that enthusiasm into structured sporting participation and competitive achievement.

He appreciated the participation of local players in the league and said that giving them opportunities to compete before home crowds can contribute significantly to their confidence and development. He also underscored the importance of encouraging youngsters to take up sports as a disciplined pursuit and, wherever their talent permits, as a potential career.

The Minister also acknowledged the contribution of coaches, referees, technical officials, team managements, organisers, sponsors and football supporters towards making the tournament successful. He

said that a vibrant sporting ecosystem requires the collective participation of government institutions, sporting bodies, private partners, coaches, athletes and the community.

Highlighting the wider objectives of the government's sports policy, Satish Sharma said that efforts are being made to strengthen sports infrastructure and expand opportunities for young people across Jammu & Kashmir. He maintained that the emphasis should remain on grassroots development, inclusivity, competitive opportunities and systematic nurturing of sporting talent.

The Minister said that major sporting competitions also provide an opportunity to promote discipline, teamwork, leadership, perseverance and healthy lifestyles among young people. He called upon youngsters to make sports an integral part of their lives and encouraged talented players to remain committed to continuous training and improvement.

Zimbabwe to host West Indies for women's white-ball games in September-October

IANIS

HARARE: Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) have announced that it will host West Indies for a six-match women's white-ball series starting in Harare later this month. The series will feature three ODIs and is followed by as many T20I games.

The three-match ODI series is a part of the ICC Women's Championship pathway, and will be played at the Harare Sports Club on September 24, 27, and 30 respectively. Both teams will then move to the Takashinga Cricket Club for the T20I fixtures scheduled for October 3, 5, and 7 respectively.

The incoming tour extends a packed international calendar for Zimbabwe, coming on the heels of their Championship away visits to New Zealand and Pakistan, alongside an ongoing domestic T20I series against South Africa at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo.

"We are delighted to



welcome West Indies Women to Harare for what promises to be an exciting series. Regular exposure to high-quality international cricket is vital to the development of Zimbabwe Women and playing a side of 'West Indies' stature gives our players another opportunity to test their skills, learn and build the experience and confidence they need to become more competitive.

"This tour adds to a busy programme for our women's team and reflects our commitment to creating more opportunities for them at international level," ZC Managing Director Givemore Makoni said in a state-

ment on Friday. The ODI games will begin at 9:30 local time, while the subsequent T20I matches at Takashinga will feature afternoon starts to wrap up the tour.

Following this, Zimbabwe are also scheduled to travel to India for a white-ball series in October, marking this as the first-ever bilateral meeting between the two women's teams. The tour will feature three T20Is to be played on October 16, 18, and 20 respectively at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur. It is followed by three ODIs to be played in BCA Stadium, Vadodara on October 23, 25, and 28 respectively.

Govt approves ₹6.17 cr Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports Hall in Ganderbal

Modern facility to provide quality sports infrastructure, nurture local talent



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has accorded administrative approval for the construction of a modern Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports Hall (60m x 40m) at Ganderbal at an estimated cost of ₹6.17 crore.

The facility will be equipped with modern

sporting amenities and provide quality infrastructure for young athletes, enabling them to hone their skills and pursue sporting excellence.

The project is aimed at nurturing local sporting talent and strengthening the sports ecosystem in the district, while providing a platform for athletes to train and participate in various sporting activities.

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08:30 PM

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HINDI

02:35 PM

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