

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



Addressed the Valedictory Session of National Seminar on 'Millets for One Health'. Over the past two days, I witnessed a remarkable dialogue on millets in Jammu and Srinagar. Farmers, scientists, chefs, doctors, students & policymakers came together to reimagine a sustainable food system.



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'Gondolas can't be built everywhere'

Can't make every tourist destination Gulmarg: CM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday said that the Government cannot replicate the Gulmarg model of tourism infrastructure at every destination in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising that development plans must take into account the unique character, attractions and visitor potential of individual destinations.

Replying to questions by MLA Saif-ud-Din Bhat during the ongoing Autumn Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, said that the Government has to adopt a destination-specific approach rather than replicate the

same infrastructure across all tourist destinations.

"We can't make every tourist destination Gulmarg, and build gondolas at every destination. Every tourist destination has its unique and separate attraction," Omar Abdullah said.

He noted that the Gondola at Gulmarg has a significantly higher ridership than the one at Patnitop, and said that such factors need to be considered before proposing similar infrastructure at other destinations.

"Every tourist destination can't have a Gondola. Every destination cannot be Gulmarg. We have to see something unique, as these destinations are unique in their nature," he said. ● P-06

Article 370 abrogation fulfilled

Sardar Patel's unfinished dream: LG

Says Art-370 era now part of history, J&K stands at threshold of new future

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Tuesday launched the book "Sardar Patel and Kashmir: The Untold History". He paid homage to the foresight and nation-building genius of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and expressed gratitude to Bhagwan Swaminarayan. The Lieutenant Governor commended the Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan for its unparalleled contributions to spiritual upliftment, education, and humanitarian service. He also congratulated Dr. Rizwan Kadri for editing and publishing this important work.

In his speech, the Lieutenant Governor described Sardar Patel as the "architect of modern India," whose indomitable will and practical wisdom



ensured the integration of 562 princely states into a united country. He emphasized that Sardar Patel's vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" con-

tinues to define the essence of India's democracy and unity in diversity. The Lieutenant Governor recalled Sardar Patel's firm stance on Jammu Kash-

mir, noting his declaration that "we will not give even an inch of Jammu Kashmir's territory to anyone." He reflected on Sardar Patel's deep understanding of the nation's pulse and his ability to connect with the common people, workers and communities across India.

"Through his indomitable willpower, clear vision, selfless diligence, and skilful organisational strength, he ensured that the dream of an undivided India became a reality. I also believe that had Sardar Patel been given the responsibility for Jammu Kashmir, perhaps the problems that the people here endured for more than six decades would not have arisen," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the book's significance as a serious ● P-06

LG inaugurates new facilities at Jammu University

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Tuesday inaugurated a series of new facilities at the University of Jammu. The inauguration included a modern sports complex, a shooting range, high-mast lights for the cricket sta-

dium and the Tawi Guest House complex, developed at a cost of nearly Rs. 10 Crore. These facilities, the Lieutenant Governor noted, will empower the University's athletes, scholars, and visitors, strengthening its role as a hub of excellence in the Union Territory.

Congratulating the Vice-

Chancellor and stakeholders, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that while infrastructure is important, the true transformation of an institution lies in the values, ideas, and innovations nurtured within its walls. He reminded the audience that every generation experiences change, but the intensity

of transformation in the present era, which is driven by artificial intelligence, is unparalleled.

The Lieutenant Governor in his address raised a critical question that in the age of AI, what does it mean to be educated? He highlighted global concerns about AI's accelerating power, ● P-06

'J&K records 51000 cancer cases'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that around 51,000 cancer cases are currently registered in the Union Territory.

According to the details available, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a question raised by MLA Mir Saifullah in the Assembly said gastrointestinal, lung and breast cancers account for a significant proportion of the malignancies reported in the region.

The Minister said the rise in cancer incidence in J&K is consistent with the broader global trend and that the government has taken steps to strengthen prevention, early detection and treatment services. She informed the House



that an Apex Committee has been constituted to guide the government and formulate measures for cancer prevention, screening and treatment in the Union Territory.

The Director of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has been designated as the Nodal Officer for coordinating the initiative.

On the demand for establishing full-fledged cancer hospitals at different locations, Itoo said that two State Cancer Institutes have already been established in J&K. ● P-06

Govt may consider extending power amnesty scheme for poor: CM Omar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday said that the Jammu and Kashmir Government is examining on merits the matter of reintroducing or extending the Amnesty Scheme for power consumers, while stressing that repeated waivers of electricity dues would be unfair to consumers who pay their bills on time.

Replying to a question by MLA Vikram Randhawa during Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Power portfolio, said that the matter regarding reintroduction/extension of the Amnesty Scheme for power consumers is being examined by the department on merits.

The question sought details on the proposed extension of the



scheme.

The Chief Minister said that while repeated amnesty schemes could have an adverse impact on the culture of timely bill payment, the Government could consider extending relief to people living below the poverty line and other underprivi-

leged consumers on a case-to-case basis.

"Giving amnesty repeatedly is injustice with those who pay bills on time and it also encourages consumers not to pay bills on time and wait for amnesty," Omar Abdullah said. ● P-06

Over 4,200 books pulled from shelves of J&K colleges

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: The Higher Education Department has removed over 4200 'objectionable' books from the shelves of colleges and libraries of Jammu and Kashmir.

The government in the Legislative Assembly informed that 4249 books have been withdrawn from circulation excluding the banned books including 3996 from Kashmir and 253 from Jammu division respectively.

It also said that a total of 21,81,582 books and publications have been examined till date including 9,32,941 in Jammu and

12,48,641 in Kashmir.

The house was further informed that 518 copies of 19 titles formally banned under S.O 203 have also been removed.

The government in a reply to the question tabled by MLA Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh said, "The process of scrutiny of objectionable books, material to be withdrawn is under process in the Department as the same is laborious exercise and may take more time."

"The reason for initiation of such action is that the Higher Education Institutions constitute centres of Higher learning, research, academic excellence and ● P-06

Chattergam Chinar around 650 years old, among oldest in Asia: Govt

'Cutting even a branch without prior permission prohibited'

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that the Chinar tree at Chattergam in Budgam is around 650 years old and is among the oldest Chinar trees in Asia, while outlining various measures being taken for its protection and preservation.

In a written reply to an unstarred question raised by MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi in the Legislative Assembly, the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department said that some of the older or dried branches of the Chattergam Chinar have naturally fallen off, while the remaining portion of the tree is green.

The department said protection measures for the heritage tree include installation of iron fencing around its critical root



zone to prevent soil compaction and root suffocation and help avoid traffic in the area.

Regarding the decline in Chinar trees in Kashmir, the government said the reasons include natural senescence or ageing, pest and disease attacks, cutting of Chinars for developmental activities across the Union Territory,

shrinking land and a burgeoning population.

It said several measures have been put in place for the protection and preservation of Chinar trees, including a prohibition on cutting even a branch without prior permission from the local administration as per the standing rules. ● P-06

Upper reaches witness fresh snowfall



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Upper reaches of Gulmarg, including Affarwat and surrounding peaks received fresh snowfall on Tuesday.

An official said the fresh snowfall covered the upper slopes of the popular ski resort as weather conditions changed in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley.

According to the India Meteorological Department's daily weather bulletin, Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 21.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 7.5 degrees Celsius during the past 24 hours.

The maximum temperature at Gulmarg was 2.7 degrees ● P-06

Notification likely soon

J&K Bank set to resume recruitment after 5-year gap

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank is set to restart recruitment of banking assistants and officers after a gap of five years, with a recruitment notification likely to be issued within days, Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee said on Tuesday.

Chatterjee, made the announcement while responding to a query during the Bank's 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here.

He said the agreement with the agency that will conduct the recruitment examinations has been finalised and the notification will be issued shortly.



The recruitment process will cover Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, he said.

On recruitment outside Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Chatterjee said the Bank may undertake limited hiring based on local language requirements in areas where it operates.

"The bank has a presence in 22 states outside J&K and we require employees who are proficient in local languages to

serve our customers," he added.

Earlier, J&K Bank held its 88th AGM at SKICC, with Part-time Non-Executive Chairman S. Krishnan chairing the meeting in the presence of MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and members of the Board of Directors.

Addressing shareholders, Krishnan said the Bank's past, present and future were reflected in the AGM's theme. ● P-06

Yash Paul Bourney Sworn in as Judge of J&K and Ladakh HC

GMK NERWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Senior Judicial Officer, Yash Paul Bourney was sworn in as the Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at a solemn ceremony held in the Chief Justice's Court at the Srinagar Wing of the High Court on Tuesday.

Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, administered the oath of office to Justice Yash Paul Bourney.

The Warrant of Appointment was read out by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, who also conducted the proceedings of the ceremony.

The ceremony was graced by Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani and Justice Sanjay Parihar. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi and Justice Shahzad Azeem joined the ceremony through virtual mode from Jammu wing of the High Court.

The family members, close relatives and friends of Justice Yash Paul Bourney were also present on the occasion, lending special significance to the ceremony.



emony.

Among other dignitaries present were Mir Syed Latif, Judicial Member (HOD) of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar Bench, Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, M.K. Sinha, ADGP CID, Achal Sethi, Commissioner Secretary Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, IGP Kashmir, IGP Security, Senior Advocates; Executive Members of the Kashmir Advocates' Association and the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu; Law Officers; Judicial Officers; and officers of the High Court Registry.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, issued the notification appointing Justice Yash Paul Bourney as the Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on September 19, 2026.

Born on August 25, 1967, Justice Yash Paul Bourney hails from village Dadwara, Bhaddu, Billawar, District Kathua.

During his distinguished judicial career, he has held several important judicial and administrative assignments. He served as Principal District & Sessions Judge at Leh, Baramulla, Udhampur and Jammu, besides serving as Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar and Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu.

Justice Bourney also served in key institutional positions as Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority; Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; and Director, J&K Judicial Academy.

After serving as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu, Justice Bourney was appointed on deputation as Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu. He was serving in the said capacity immediately prior to his elevation as a Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Twin trainings sanctioned to revive Kashmir pottery, copperware

CDI, Dept's specialised institution, to implement both programmes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a bid to revive the crafts of Glazed Pottery and Copperware in Kashmir, the Union Ministry of Textiles has sanctioned two training programmes under the Guru Shishya Hastshilp component of the flagship National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP).

An amount of ₹14.90 lakh has been sanctioned in favour of Craft Development Institute (CDI) Srinagar for conducting the twin trainings.

In a press release issued here today, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kash-



mir, stated that the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) acceded to the department's proposal for customised training to revive the fading crafts. "Each programme will be of a duration of two months wherein skill of



30 artisans each would be upgraded under the guidance of master craftsmen," he added.

Glazed pottery was once used for household vessels, decorative tiles, kangris and ceremonial items. Over recent decades, it has been

overshadowed by cheaper plastic, aluminium and machine-made ware, leaving only a small number of remaining artisans.

On the other hand, Copperware, or Kandkaari, which is amongst Kashmir's oldest metal crafts and closely associated with Shehr-e-Khaas, has come under intense pressure from cheap imitations and shrinking artisan base.

The spokesman stated that ₹7.45 lakh each have been sanctioned by the Textiles Ministry for training in Glazed Pottery in clusters of Baramulla district and Copperware in district Srinagar. "The trainings have been designed in such a way that it takes

care of wage compensation of artisans, honorarium of master craftsmen, space rent and training related equipment as well as compensation of raw material," he added.

The programmes follow the traditional Guru-Shishya model of skill transfer, under which experienced master artisans mentor a new cohort of practitioners in techniques that have been passed down over generations but are now at the risk of being lost. "These courses are intended not only to upgrade existing skills but also to rebuild a working pipeline of trained hands in the two crafts," the spokesman added.

J&K Bank signs MoU with BGSBU to strengthen Banking Services



GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Jammu & Kashmir Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), marking a significant step towards strengthening the institutional association between the Bank and the University.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Registrar BGSBU Ravi Kumar Sihag and Deputy General Manager (DGM), J&K Bank Rajeev Kumar Dingra along with Assistant General Manager

(AGM Ashish Jamwal; CP & AO, BGSBU Qamar Rehman and Branch Head, J&K Bank, BGSBU Branch Ashok Rotra.

The collaboration aims to facilitate convenient, efficient and technology-enabled banking services for the University community, including faculty members, staff and students. The MoU will provide a structured framework for enhanced banking service delivery and wider access to financial services within the University campus.

Speaking on the occasion,

representatives from J&K Bank reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to providing customer-centric banking solutions and strengthening its institutional partnerships, particularly with educational institutions.

The signing of the MoU marks an important milestone in the relationship between J&K Bank and BGSBU, reflecting the Bank's continued commitment to supporting educational institutions and contributing to the financial and digital empowerment of the communities they serve.

PCCF felicitates school children for forest photography competition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Principal Chief Conservator Forests (PCCF)/Head of Forest Force (HoFF), J&K, Sarvesh Rai, felicitated the participants of Forest Photography Competition organized by the Balwan Block of S Park Range of Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar.

The event was attended by Conservator of Forests, Srinagar Circle, Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division Srinagar, Divisional Forest Officer, Planning & Publicity/ Statistics Division Srinagar and other officers.

Launched by the J&K Forest Department, the initiative aims at fostering interest among school going children to delve into soaring environmental



tal concerns and inculcate in them a passion of plantation and preservation of forest trees as an objective to contribute to sustenance of better and healthy forest ecosystems.

The competition witnessed alacritous participation from the Students of various schools across Srinagar and top honors were awarded to four students for exceptional forest paintings besides all others

were felicitated with certificates of participation.

Speaking at the event, the PCCF emphasized that the participating students are future ambassadors of forest conservation and such participation reflects their unabating interest in conserving biodiversity for sustainable development. He further appreciated the participants for their interest and contribution towards nature's conservation.

DC Budgam reviews Green India Mission Perspective Plan 2026-31

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Green India Mission (GIM) in the district and deliberate on the proposed GIM Perspective Plan for 2026-2031.

The meeting was attended by DFO Budgam, Syed Waseem, senior officers from the Forest, Rural Development, Agriculture, JAKEDA and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the proposed Perspective Plan, including the identification and restoration of degraded forest areas under the Mission.

The committee noted that 53.3 hectares of degraded forest land have been identified for interventions under GIM during 2026-2031, covering areas under the Pir Panjal



Forest Division, Budgam, and Special Forest Division, Tangmarg.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for coordinated and outcome-oriented implementation of the Mission. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that all proposed interventions are properly planned, technically sound and aligned with local ecological requirements.

He further directed the concerned officers to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, ensure timely completion of all preparatory formalities and

focus on effective restoration and long-term sustainability of the identified areas.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored that the GIM interventions should contribute meaningfully towards improving forest cover, restoring degraded ecosystems and strengthening environmental sustainability in the district.

After detailed deliberations, the committee recommended that the GIM Perspective Plan 2026-2031 be forwarded to the UT Steering Committee for further consideration and necessary action.

Rent Assessment Committee meeting held at Anantnag, 17 cases approved

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: A comprehensive meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee, Anantnag was held Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at the DC Office.

The meeting was convened to review and assess cases pertaining to rented accommodations being utilized by various government departments in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure that rented accommodations are hired at feasible and suitable locations, keeping in view the convenience and easy accessibility of the general public, besides availability of essential facilities and other requirements. He emphasized that all cases related to hiring of private accommodations should



be processed strictly after verification of requisite documents and fulfillment of prescribed norms.

During the meeting, 20 cases pertaining to different departments, including Handicrafts, Health, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Revenue, Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, School Education, Police, ICDS and Agriculture were placed before the Committee for consideration. The Committee examined the technical aspects of these cases and deliberated upon each case in detail.

Following thorough

scrutiny and discussions, 17 cases pertaining to different departments were approved by the committee, with consent of the concerned land/building owners.

Detailed discussions were also held with the departments occupying the rented premises as well as the respective building owners. Revenue and other relevant documents pertaining to the properties were scrutinized by the concerned officers. Deficiencies and gaps, wherever noticed, were brought to the attention of the concerned stakeholders for necessary rectification.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of Census 2027 of snow-bound areas



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Tuesday reviewed the progress of Population Enumeration (PE) Phase-II of snow-bound areas of Devsar and D.H. Pora tehsils here in a meeting held at the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

The meeting discussed the progress of enumeration work and the status of coverage in the snow-bound areas. The concerned charge officers (Tehsildars) briefed the DC about the progress achieved on the ground by census staff.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed on the accuracy of census data collection as it is crucial for effective planning and formulation of policies and programmes. He emphasised adherence

ence to the prescribed Census guidelines and accuracy at every stage of enumeration.

Enumerators and supervisors were directed to ensure timely completion of the remaining enumeration work and maintain close coordination for smooth execution of the Census process. He further directed the concerned charge officers to closely monitor the field-level progress.

On the occasion, enumerators and supervisors tasked with the census, flagged off various issues regarding the uploading of census operations on the designated app which were addressed by technical and census officers from the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

ADC Viqar Ahmad Giri, Tehsildars and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

■ AUTUMN SESSION

Govt committed towards development of tourism in Jammu: CM Omar

Says focus on new destinations, circuits, year-round promotion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday stated that the Government has adopted a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy for the development, promotion and diversification of tourism in Jammu Division, with a focus on developing new and emerging destinations and positioning Jammu as a year-round tourist destination at the national and international levels.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi during the ongoing Autumn Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, said the strategy combines developmental interventions with sustained promotional activities to diversify the tourism product of Jammu Division.

He said the Tourism Department is focusing on pilgrimage, heritage, adventure, eco, nature, rural, cultural, wellness and leisure tourism, besides strengthening infrastructure and improving tourist amenities at



existing and emerging destinations.

Major destinations where developmental interventions have been taken up or initiated include Suchetgarh, Shiv Khori, Sudhmahadev, Patnitop, Basholi, Bhaderwah/Gatha, Mansar, Baradari, Kesari Hills and Behra/Qasab.

The interventions include creation and upgradation of tourism infrastructure and public amenities, destination facilities, beautification, connectivity-related works and development of tourism assets according to the

requirements of individual destinations.

The Chief Minister said the Government is also laying emphasis on developing new and emerging destinations to decongest established tourist centres and ensure wider distribution of tourism-related economic activity across Jammu Division.

On promotion, he said the Department has undertaken sustained publicity, advertising and promotional campaigns at local, national and international levels. During April 2025 to March 2026, 110 events and festivals were facilitated or

participated in, while 43 events and festivals were covered during April-August 2026.

District-wise and category-wise publicity literature has also been prepared and disseminated through Travel Marts, Expos, Festivals, Melas and Yatras. Digital platforms including Facebook, Instagram and X have been utilised for promotion, alongside campaigns undertaken in collaboration with tourism stakeholders.

At the national level, the Department participated in major tourism events including GITB Jaipur, TTF Ahmedabad, IATO Convention Puri, ITM Jaipur, IITE Madurai, SATTE-2026 New Delhi and ITM Dehradun. International participation included IFTM Top Resa, Paris; World Travel Market, London; and ITB Singapore, providing wider exposure to the tourism products of J&K.

The Chief Minister said the Government has also undertaken development of dedicated pilgrimage circuits in Jammu Division. Under the Capex Plan 2020-21, five pilgrimage

circuits were sanctioned and are currently under progress.

These include the Mansar Circuit (Phase-I) with a project cost of ₹9.81 crore, Shiv Khori Circuit at ₹3.14 crore, Utterbehni Circuit at ₹8.50 crore, Purnamandal Circuit at ₹9.82 crore and Sukrala Circuit at ₹3.92 crore.

At present, 29 works are actively ongoing under these circuits, with an approved cost of ₹5.14 crore.

The Chief Minister said completion of these circuits is expected to strengthen local economies and create employment opportunities for local youth. The Government is also encouraging local participation in tourism through opportunities in homestays, tourist guiding and other tourism-related services.

On the allocation of funds, the Chief Minister informed the House that the approved budget for tourism-related development activities in Jammu Division increased from ₹56.50 crore in 2023-24 to ₹61.15 crore in 2024-25 and further to ₹62.85 crore in 2025-26.

After 5 decades, Koh-e-Noor peak sees three Kashmiri ascents

3 teams reach 5,146-metre peak since Japanese expedition reached it in 1976

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: A 5,146-metre peak in remote Marwah Valley in Jammu and Kashmir has returned to the region's mountaineering map nearly five decades after its last recorded summit, with three local teams, including a five-member team led by professional mountaineer Nahida Manzoor, successfully reaching there this month.

According to the details available, Mount Koh-e-Noor (South-West), which as per the available climbing history was last recorded as summited in 1976 by a Japanese expedition. It witnessed three successful ascents by Kashmiri climbers on September 6, 9 and 14 this year.

The first local team, comprising Yasir Khan, Leo Saqib, Muzakir and Faik, reached the summit on September 6. Kashmir's second team, consisting of Waseem Hassan, Chandan and Zaid, completed the ascent on September 9.

Manzoor's five-member team made the third successful ascent of the recent period on September 14. The team also included Showkat Lone, Mudasir Lone, Sheikh Farzan and Irfan Lone.

For Manzoor, the expedition carried significance beyond the technical challenge of climbing the peak.

"To the best of our knowledge and based on the climb-



ing history available to us, no woman had previously summited Mt Koh-e-Noor (SW)," she said.

"I am deeply honoured to become the first female climber to successfully summit Mt Koh-e-Noor (SW) and to add my name to the history of this mountain," she said.

Manzoor described the expedition as challenging and said every stage of the climb required determination, teamwork, patience and the ability to continue despite difficult conditions.

"A mountain does not distinguish between men and women — it simply tests your determination, preparation and spirit," she said.

She said the ascent was also a tribute to women who aspire to climb mountains and to mountaineers who explore remote peaks while respecting the natural environment.

The renewed climbing activity has also brought attention to Koh-e-Noor (SW), a relatively little-

known peak compared with Kashmir's more frequently climbed mountains.

The peak's remote setting in the Marwah Valley adds to the logistical and physical demands of an expedition, making its recent ascents notable for local mountaineering.

Manzoor also acknowledged the efforts of Yasir Khan, who was among the climbers involved in the first successful local ascent this month, for helping reopen what she described as a long-closed chapter in the mountain's climbing history.

"Once again, a heartfelt thank you to Yasir Khan for his efforts, support and for being among the climbers who reopened the chapter of Mt Koh-e-Noor after so many years," she said.

With three Kashmiri teams reaching the summit within nine days, the mountain has once again become part of the region's climbing narrative, nearly 50 years after its last documented ascent—(KNO)

■ AUTUMN SESSION

Rs 10.36 cr Dooru Stadium upgrade under consideration: Satish Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Tuesday said that 221 out of 355 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Jammu and Kashmir have either existing or constructed playfields under the One Panchayat-One Playfield initiative.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA G A Mir regarding implementation of the 'One Panchayat-One Playfield' initiative, particularly with reference to Dooru Constituency and the status of sports infrastructure and proposed playfields there.

Quoting information received from the Rural Development Department, Satish Sharma said that 221 out of 355 Gram Panchayats covered under the initiative have playfields, either already existing or newly constructed.

Giving details of Dooru Constituency, the Minister informed the House that 37 out of 66 Gram Panchayats have playfields. He said the



Youth Services & Sports Department has taken up two playfield projects in Dooru Constituency during the past three years. The Playfield at Larkipora near ADV Road Bathuno, taken up during 2024-25 at a cost of Rs 48.55 lakh, has achieved 90 per cent completion, added. He apprised that another Playfield at Shangren has been taken up as a new work during 2026-27 at an estimated cost of Rs 80 lakh.

Satish Sharma further informed that 26 playfield sites have been approved under AAP 2026-27 as part of VB-G RAM-G by the Rural Development Depart-

ment, Anantnag, where suitable government land has been made available by the Revenue Department. He said that development of playfields by the Youth Services & Sports Department is undertaken after following all requisite formalities, including availability of encumbrance-free land, transfer of land and availability of funds.

He said that sports infrastructure in Dooru Constituency is being progressively improved and upgraded through the J&K Sports Council and Directorate of Youth Services & Sports.

The Minister informed that four major sports facilities are being developed or maintained in the constituency including Sports Stadium, Dooru, equipped with a change-room-cum-pavilion, cricket competition pitch, net practice pitch, chain-link fencing, main gate and dugouts. Besides, playfield at Verinag is presently under development with a change-room-cum-pavilion, cricket competition pitch, net practice pitch, chain-link fencing, main gate, dugouts and mechanical roller.

CS Launches 'e-Nyaya Sarathi' to take Legal Services to Citizens' Doorsteps



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major push to make legal services more accessible, transparent and citizen-friendly, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday launched the 'e-Nyaya Sarathi' web portal and mobile application, providing citizens a unified digital gateway to legal information, judicial resources and government legal services.

The event was attended by senior officers including ACS PWD; Principal Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Sr. AAG Mohsin Qadri; Member Secretary, J&K State Legal Services Authority; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, Legislative Assembly and other officers of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs and members of the technical development team also attended the launch event.

Developed by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, the platform

brings multiple legal services under one roof, enabling citizens to access essential legal information and services anytime and from anywhere. The initiative seeks to simplify the public's interaction with the legal system and replace conventional bureaucratic hurdles with a more transparent and digitally accessible service delivery mechanism.

Speaking at the launch, the Chief Secretary described the initiative as a significant step towards citizen-centric digital governance, emphasising that legal services should be accessible, reliable and easy to navigate. He said that e-Nyaya Sarathi would help bridge the gap between citizens and legal institutions by bringing critical legal resources directly to their fingertips.

Giving details about the platform the Commissioner Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi revealed that the portal offers a range of services, including legal aid and pro-bono assistance, a central repository of Acts, Rules, Judgments and Government Notifications, in addition to facilities like 'Search Your Case' and 'Find My Court' and dedicated modules for Women & Child Development and Advocate Related Matters.

Assembly passes Cooperative Societies Amendment Bill, 2026

Bill provides for repeal of Self-Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday passed the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 2026) after detailed discussion and deliberations by the members of the House.

The Bill was moved by Minister for Cooperative Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, seeking amendment of the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989, repeal of the Jammu and Kashmir Self-Reliant Cooperative Act, 1999, and provision of a transitional framework for self-reliant cooperatives under the principal Act.

The Bill was discussed at

length in the House, with several legislators putting forth their views, suggestions and observations on various provisions of the proposed legislation.

The members who participated in the discussion included Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Pawan Gupta, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Arjun Singh Raju and Rajiv Jasrotia.

Responding to the issues and suggestions raised during the discussion, the Minister apprised the House of the objectives and rationale behind the proposed amendments and reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening the cooperative sector through a robust, transparent and effective legislative framework.

Two State Cancer Institutes established in J&K: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Medical and Health Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday said that the Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted an Apex Committee to strengthen a coordinated and comprehensive response to the growing burden of cancer and to provide guidance and formulate measures for prevention, screening and treatment of the disease. Director, SKIMS has been designated as the Nodal Officer for the purpose.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Mir Saifullah in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that with the financial and technical support of the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has established two State Cancer Institutes, one at SKIMS, Soura and the other at Government Medical College, Jammu.



She said these Institutes have been established with the objective of ensuring comprehensive and specialized cancer care, including diagnosis, treatment and other allied oncology services, thereby catering to the major cancer treatment requirements of the Union Territory.

The existing facilities are being strengthened from time to time in terms of infrastructure, equipment, human resources and specialized treatment services, as per the approved norms and availability of resources, she added.

The Minister informed the House that the Jammu & Kashmir administration is committed to ensure acces-

sible, affordable and quality cancer-care services, particularly for economically vulnerable sections of society. Eligible cancer patients are being provided cashless/free treatment, as applicable, under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, in the empanelled government as well as private health institutions, in accordance with the prescribed eligibility criteria, treatment packages and guidelines under the scheme, she informed.

The Minister maintained that the benefits cover various diagnostic, therapeutic and hospitalization-related services included in the approved packages. In addition, poor and needy cancer patients are being extended financial assistance under the Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for Poor (CTMFP) scheme, subject to the prescribed eligibility criteria, applicable guidelines and availability of funds, she said. She added that these measures are aimed at facilitating timely access to appropriate cancer treatment and reducing the financial burden on eligible patients and their families.

CM Omar presides over MoU signing between SKIMS and J&K Bank

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), aimed at expanding healthcare access and strengthening institutional financial services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The MoU was signed by Director SKIMS Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie on behalf of SKIMS and J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee on behalf of J&K Bank Ltd.

Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani among others, were present on the occasion.

The agreement brings together the J&K's premier tertiary-care institution and its leading financial institution to facilitate patient services, employee welfare, financial inclusion and sup-



port for healthcare infrastructure.

A key feature of the MoU is the integration of SKIMS' OPD ticketing and appointment booking system with the Banking Correspondent (BC) network of J&K Bank on a six-month pilot basis. The initiative will enable patients in far-flung and rural areas to obtain SKIMS OPD tickets and appointments locally, reducing the need for them to travel to Srinagar solely for the purpose of booking appointments.

Under the agreement, SKIMS has nominated J&K Bank as a banking partner and extended customized benefits to its regular employees, including zero-balance salary accounts, waiver of specified

banking charges, concessional loan rates, auto-sweep facilities among other facilities.

The MoU also provides for dedicated counters at SKIMS for J&K Bank employees, while SKIMS will depute a physician to the Bank's headquarters once every month to facilitate medical consultations for its staff.

The partnership also envisages greater institutional support for patients and healthcare infrastructure. J&K Bank will prioritize CSR assistance for SKIMS hospital infrastructure and integrate the SKIMS Endowment Fund for poor patients with its Mpay Delight+ mobile application, enabling members of the public to contribute directly towards patient support.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

J&K Government Must End The Recruitment Paralysis

Empty Posts, Overburdened Institutions and a Generation Waiting for Opportunity

The disclosure of 64,439 vacant government posts across Jammu and Kashmir in the Legislative Assembly is more than an administrative statistic. It raises serious questions about the functioning of public institutions, the delivery of essential services and the government's responsibility towards thousands of young people seeking employment.

The vacancies include 6,391 gazetted, 42,572 non-gazetted and 15,476 Multi-Tasking Staff positions. Behind these figures are two interconnected challenges: departments struggling to meet staffing requirements and educated youth waiting for recruitment opportunities amid prolonged uncertainty.

Where Vacancies Affect Public Services

The Health and Medical Education Department accounts for 12,797 vacant posts, making it one of the most pressing areas of concern. Healthcare infrastructure, however modern, cannot function effectively without adequate doctors, nurses, technicians and support personnel.

Staff shortages can increase pressure on existing employees and affect service delivery, particularly in remote and difficult areas where access to healthcare is already challenging.

The School Education Department also requires focused attention. Vacancies in educational institutions can place additional responsibilities on existing staff and create challenges in maintaining teaching standards. Students should not bear the consequences of prolonged administrative delays.

Public infrastructure can only deliver its intended benefits when sufficient and qualified personnel are available to operate it.

Recruitment Cannot Remain a Paper Exercise

The government has placed department-wise vacancy details before the Assembly, including information about posts referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission and the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

However, referring vacancies to recruitment agencies is only one stage of the process. The ultimate objective must be the timely completion of recruitment and the issuance of appointment orders.

For young people preparing for competitive examinations, recruitment delays carry a real financial and personal burden. Unclear schedules, prolonged selection procedures and uncertainty over appointments can weaken confidence in public recruitment systems.

The administration must improve coordination between departments and recruitment agencies, identify procedural bottlenecks and communicate recruitment timelines clearly wherever possible.

Merit, transparency and equal opportunity must remain central to the process

■ Beyond Convenience

A Policy Critique Of Saturday Holiday Proposal



AUBAID AHMAD AKHOON

“In this age, education is the remedy for the ailments of the nation.”

These are the words of wisdom said by Allama Muhammad Iqbal that continue to resonate with the same relevance and significance today as they did decades ago. Hakeem-ul-Ummat Allama Iqbal was a man of foresight who recognized the importance of knowledge, intellect, and awakening for the survival and prosperity of the nation.

Allama Iqbal was not only a product of his own traditional Islamic education but also had exposure to the best of the modern world. He studied abroad and was familiar with the prevailing educational and philosophical ethos of Europe. Allama Iqbal's message was one of self-awakening and urged Muslims to acquire knowledge, scientific temperament, character, and self-discipline. But his message finds a special place when we discuss the future of our school education.

Saturday Off May Sound Like Relief, But Can We Afford to Lose More Learning Time? A Saturday off may sound tempting, but when our education system needs more learning time, quality, and resources to compete in this cutthroat world, this proposal should be put up for public scrutiny and discussion.

A Saturday off may seem innocuous, but education policy cannot be based on feelings alone.

The world our children inhabit is becoming increasingly more competitive by the day. Cutting-edge technologies, artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, data science, and digitalization are taking over the world. Other nations are preparing their youth for this reality. Unless we can provide better quality, more efficient, and effective learning opportunities, I think cutting out a Saturday off would only adversely impact the children's overall learning time.

Our children already lose considerable time due to winter vacations, summer vacations, public holidays, election holidays, examination holidays, and other sundry holidays. Even school teachers are routinely deployed for national census operations as enumerators and



supervisors, though this practice often sparks debate over staffing shortages and classroom disruptions. It is only right that we think about the cumulative impact of all these holidays on the overall learning curve of the children. After all, Kashmir is a land of beauty, but that also means unpredictable and adverse weather conditions, which may necessitate the closure of schools.

One could say it is unfair to deprive the children of Kashmir of Sundays as a holiday considering their already numerous holidays. But if the policymakers genuinely wanted to provide more learning opportunities for Kashmir, they could have invested more in winter infrastructure, better canteen facilities, and better infrastructure for children. The point I am trying to make is that unless we provide better classroom facilities and ensure efficient teaching-learning, any reduction in the number of school days or time will do more harm than good.

A child's learning, especially in foundational concepts and subjects like maths and physics, is something that is cumulative. You cannot just read a little more to compensate for the loss of a day of instruction. Education is not a water tap that you can just turn on and off at will.

If the education system is under strain, trying to reduce the school time by adding one more holiday will not be the answer. Fix the classroom, not the calendar. If the burden on the children is the issue, fix counselling, sports, and co-curricular activities.

If the teachers need training in modern pedagogy, give them that. If they need support in reducing administrative workload, free them from that. Let us provide better infrastructure and make schools child-friendly. Let us focus on remedial education to bridge the gaps for children who find it difficult to keep pace with the rest. If the children are tired, let

us make them feel excited about learning, instead of just giving them more holidays. A sound education system needs to have strong teachers, strong institutions, and strong students. It needs to have a professional attitude towards education wherein professional skills development is encouraged.

Our children have already borne the brunt of too many sundry holidays. Kashmir's children have had to deal with too many uncertainties in their educational lives. And yet, they continue to flock to their schools in droves with a passion. Their parents want to give them a shot at a better life through education. For the children, especially in Kashmir, education is not just a means to an end; it is the end in itself.

Hence I urge the policymakers to be a little more careful the next time they think about dole out more holidays to the children. Instead of asking the question, "how many holidays can we give to the children", let us ask them, "how can we make the school days more meaningful for the children?"

That is the question that an education system that aspires to excellence would ask.

We cannot prepare global citizens with a shrinking academic calendar. We often talk about making our children globally competitive, but to do that, we need to understand what global competitiveness entails. It is not just about certificates and degrees; it is about knowledge, skill, discipline, curiosity, communication, scientific temperament, creativity, and resilience in the face of adversity.

Let us not confuse convenience with education. Our education system needs oxygen, not another tapering off. The metaphor may be harsh, but I think it is necessary. Our education system does not need cuts; it needs an infusion of boldness and higher expectations. Our education

system does not need to have less; it needs to have more and better. Our system does not need fewer opportunities to learn; it needs more opportunities to learn. I think it is important to recognize that if our education system is already under strain, reducing the number of school days without adequate compensatory measures may only exacerbate the problem.

We cannot break the wings of our young shaheens in the name of protecting them. We must strengthen their wings, arm them with better knowledge, and provide better opportunities to hone their skills. We cannot deprive them of opportunities to learn and grow just to make their lives "easier". Let me urge the policymakers to think through the consequences of the proposed Saturday off before they make the final decision.

Let them put up for public discourse the following questions: what will be the impact on the instructional hours, learning outcomes, examination results, literacy and numeracy levels, teacher workload, and the overall academic calendar, before finalizing any such policy. The views of teachers, parents, educationists, and students, as well as independent experts, must be taken into account while designing the policy framework. The education policy must be guided by the imperatives of long-term national goals and the best interests of the children and not by populist demands and convenience. After all, we cannot get back the lost years that we have already invested in our children. It is for their future generation that Iqbal's message continues to echo even after a century.

Allama Iqbal often warned the Muslims about the dangers of complacency and urged them to move forward, leaving behind the comforts of their past glory. His message was one of self-awakening and urged people to compete with the best in the world. The world is a competitive place, and if we want our children to thrive in it, they need to develop a spirit of competitiveness rooted in self-belief, resilience, and courage. The world does not stand still, and neither should our education system.

So, let us ask ourselves whether we want to equip our children to be leaders, competitors, and innovators or just make their lives easier. Let Saturday continue to be a day of learning unless and until there is sufficient evidence to show that it will not have adverse effects on the children's overall learning outcomes. Let us focus on making the school days more meaningful rather than just adding more holidays to the children's already bloated holiday calendar. Let us make our children fly and not cut their wings. We have struggled to rebuild their wings; let us not cut them now in the name of giving them more holidays.

Author is motivational speaker. He can be mailed at akhoon.aubaid@gmail.com

Understanding What Poverty Means



NAVEED QAZI

Few issues provoke stronger opinions than poverty. For decades, the debate has been shaped by two competing schools of thought. The behavioural school argues that people remain poor because they make poor choices, depend too heavily on welfare and fail to take available opportunities. The structural school offers a different explanation, arguing that poverty is mainly the result of unequal opportunities, weak institutions and economic systems that leave millions behind. Both perspectives contain some truth, yet neither tells the whole story. When governments rely on simple explanations, they often create simple policies that fail to solve a complex problem.

This is precisely where economists Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo make their strongest contribution. In Poor Economics and Good Economics for Hard Times, they move beyond ideology and ask a more practical question: how do people make decisions when they live with uncertainty every day? Drawing on years of field research and randomised controlled trials across Asia, Africa and Latin America, they argue that poverty cannot be understood through political slogans. It must be understood by looking closely at how poor families actually live.

Their argument echoes an idea advanced by Nobel laureate

Amartya Sen in Development as Freedom. Sen argues that poverty is not simply a lack of income but a lack of real opportunities and freedoms. In other words, people are poor not only because they earn too little, but also because they lack access to education, healthcare, secure employment and public services that allow them to improve their lives.

Seen through that lens, the choices made by poor households look very different. Banerjee and Duflo reject the familiar image of poor people as either helpless victims or irresponsible decision-makers. Like everyone else, they respond to the circumstances around them. Low incomes, insecure jobs, unreliable public services and constant uncertainty force families to balance today's needs against tomorrow's opportunities. Decisions that appear irrational from the outside often make perfect sense when viewed from within the daily realities of poverty.

Healthcare offers a clear example. Preventive care is widely recognised as one of the best investments any society can make. Yet many poor families postpone treatment or skip regular check-ups. The easy conclusion is that they simply do not care about their health. The evidence suggests otherwise. Visiting a clinic may require paying for transport, losing a day's wages and facing uncertain treatment. For households living from one pay cheque to the next, those immediate costs often outweigh benefits that may not be seen for months or even years.

Education tells a similar story. Parents living in poverty generally understand that schooling offers the best chance of a better future. The problem is often the quality of education,



its fee involving high monetary contributions, rather than the desire to learn. Schools may also suffer from teacher absenteeism, overcrowded classrooms and weak learning outcomes. Under those conditions, years spent in school do not always translate into useful skills. Banerjee and Duflo show that improving teaching quality, supporting struggling pupils and making schools more accountable often delivers better results than simply increasing enrolment. Their evidence has influenced education policy in several countries. Speaking at an International Monetary Fund forum in December 2019, David Lipton observed that their research challenged long-held assumptions by asking not only whether policies worked but also why they worked.

The same pattern appears in small business. Entrepreneurs are often praised as drivers of economic growth, yet many remain trapped in low-income activities for years. It is tempting to blame a lack of ambition, but Banerjee and Duflo reach a different conclusion. Many small business owners have no access

to affordable loans, reliable insurance or secure savings. When every setback threatens a family's survival, avoiding risk becomes a sensible decision rather than a sign of failure.

This broader understanding of poverty is not unique to Banerjee and Duflo. The World Bank's World Development Report 2000/2001: Attacking Poverty argued that lasting progress depends on expanding opportunity, improving security and giving poor people a stronger voice in decisions that affect their lives. Nobel laureate Angus Deaton makes a similar point in The Great Escape, arguing that lasting improvements in health, education and institutions matter just as much as rising incomes. Together, these scholars remind us that poverty is not a single problem with a single cause. It is the result of many disadvantages reinforcing one another, which is precisely why simple ideological answers so often fail.

The evidence also challenges one of the most persistent assumptions in public debate: that poverty can be reduced through a single policy. Banerjee

and Duflo argue that there is no universal solution because poor households face different barriers depending on where they live and the institutions around them. A farming family vulnerable to drought requires different support from an urban worker facing insecure employment or a small entrepreneur struggling to obtain finance. Effective policy therefore begins with understanding local realities rather than applying one-size-fits-all programmes.

This emphasis on evidence has influenced development economics far beyond academia. The Nobel Prize committee recognised Banerjee, Duflo and Michael Kremer for transforming the fight against global poverty through an experimental approach that tests policies before they are adopted on a wider scale. Their work has encouraged governments to rely less on political instinct and more on measurable results.

As the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has repeatedly argued in its research on social mobility and inequality, expanding opportunities throughout life is essential for building stronger and more inclusive economies. The common thread running through these ideas is clear. Poverty is rarely the result of a single failure. It emerges from a combination of economic insecurity, limited opportunities and weak institutions, making careful evidence, rather than ideology, the most reliable guide for effective public policy.

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

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

■ Marriage Culture In Kashmir

When A Sacred Bond Becomes A Social Competition

DR RIZWAN RUMI

Marriage in Kashmir has traditionally been regarded not merely as a social arrangement but as a sacred bond rooted in family, responsibility, companionship and mutual respect. For generations, Kashmiri society valued simplicity in marriage. Nikah was understood as the beginning of a shared life rather than the staging of a grand social event. Today, however, that understanding appears to be changing.

Marriage ceremonies are becoming increasingly elaborate, expensive and competitive. What was once primarily a religious and family occasion is gradually being transformed into a display of wealth, status and social standing. From lavish wedding halls and multiple functions to designer clothes, elaborate decorations, photography and Bollywood-inspired celebrations, the pressure to "do more" seems to be growing every year.

The problem is not celebration itself. There is nothing wrong with families celebrating the marriage of their children according to their means. The concern begins when celebration turns into competition and when social expectations become so expensive that ordinary families feel compelled to spend beyond their capacity.

In many cases, families are no longer asking what is necessary for a marriage. They are asking what society will say if they do less. This is where the real problem begins.

When Marriage Becomes a Financial Burden

For many young people, marriage is already associated with financial uncertainty. Employment opportunities are limited, incomes are often modest, and the cost of living continues to rise. In such circumstances, imposing additional financial expectations can make marriage unnecessarily difficult.

The issue is particularly significant for young men who may feel that they must first accumulate substantial savings, arrange a large wedding, meet expectations regarding gifts and clothing, and provide an expensive setup before they can even think seriously about marriage.

At the same time, families of brides can also find themselves under enormous social pressure. They may feel compelled to organize elaborate functions, purchase expensive clothing and jewellery, invite large numbers of guests and meet expectations that have little connection with the actual purpose of marriage. Thus, both sides can become victims of the same social system. Marriage, which should provide companionship and emotional

security, begins with financial anxiety.

The Question of Mehar

Mehar is an important Islamic institution and a right of the woman. It should never be dismissed or treated as an unnecessary burden. But the growing tendency to treat an exceptionally high mehar as a symbol of status deserves thoughtful discussion. When mehar becomes a figure determined primarily by social comparison rather than mutual understanding, it can defeat the spirit in which the institution was established.

The purpose should not be to create an impossible financial obligation for the groom. Nor should a woman's dignity be measured simply by the numeri-

The issue is particularly significant for young men who may feel that they must first accumulate substantial savings, arrange a large wedding, meet expectations regarding gifts and clothing, and provide an expensive setup before they can even think seriously about marriage.

cal value attached to her mehar. There is a need for greater awareness that dignity and security in marriage cannot be reduced to a financial figure.

Similarly, families should avoid turning marriage negotiations into a process of financial bargaining. The foundation of a successful marriage is character, compatibility, responsibility, trust and mutual respect, not the size of a wedding budget.

The Influence of Bollywood and



Social Media

Another major factor behind the changing wedding culture is the influence of popular culture and social media. Wedding ceremonies are increasingly being designed around images seen online. Couples and families are exposed to extravagant celebrations, cinematic entrances, professional photography, elaborate stages and destination-style events. What appears glamorous on a screen can gradually become a social expectation in real life.

The danger is that people begin comparing their personal circumstances with carefully constructed images of other people's celebrations. A family may have limited financial resources, but it may still feel compelled to organize a wedding that looks impressive on social media.

This creates a cycle of competition. One family spends heavily. Another feels compelled to match it. A third family tries to go further. Eventually, extravagance becomes normalized, and simplicity begins to appear inadequate. This is particularly unfortunate because a wedding should not be judged by how impressive it looks to outsiders.

The Silent Cost of Social Expectations

The financial cost of extravagant marriages is visible. The psychological cost is less visible. Parents can experience enormous anxiety trying to meet expectations. Young men may postpone marriage because they believe they cannot afford the ceremony expected of them. Young women may also feel pressured to look a certain way, wear expensive clothes and jewellery, or have a wedding that resembles those displayed online.

Behind the photographs and celebrations can therefore exist debt, stress and insecurity. Some families borrow money simply to maintain their social image. Others spend their sav-

ings accumulated over many years on a few days of celebration.

The question we need to ask is simple: Is it reasonable to spend years saving for a marriage only to spend most of those savings on ceremonies that last a few days? Would it not be wiser to invest some of that money in the couple's future—education, housing, healthcare, business or savings?

We Are Losing the Meaning of Simplicity

There is nothing inherently wrong with beautiful clothes, good food or a joyful gathering. Kashmir has its own rich cultural traditions, and celebrations are an important part of social life. The problem is excess.

When food is wasted because too much has been prepared, when families invite hundreds of people simply because they fear criticism, when expensive arrangements are made only to compete with others, or when marriage negotiations become dominated by financial expectations, we have moved away from the spirit of simplicity.

Islam does not teach people to measure happiness through extravagance. The essence of nikah is remarkably simple: two individuals accepting responsibility for a shared life in the presence of their families and community, with mutual rights and obligations. Perhaps we need to return to that understanding.

Marriage Should Not Become a Test of Wealth

One of the most troubling consequences of this trend is that marriage can gradually become a test of economic capacity. A young person may possess good character, education, responsibility and the ability to build a stable family, but still feel inadequate because he cannot afford an extravagant wedding.

Likewise, a family should not feel that its daughter has received a "lesser"

marriage simply because the ceremony was modest. We must challenge the idea that expensive means better. A simple nikah does not mean an insignificant marriage. A modest wedding does not mean a family lacks dignity. And an elaborate wedding does not guarantee a successful marriage. The success of a marriage is ultimately measured not by the number of guests, the decoration of the venue or the price of the bride's dress, but by what happens after the guests leave.

Kashmir Needs a Social Conversation

This issue cannot be addressed simply by blaming one gender, one family or one generation. Parents, religious scholars, community leaders, young people and civil society all have a role to play. Religious scholars can encourage simplicity and explain the spirit behind Islamic marriage. Parents can reduce unnecessary expectations. Young people can resist social-media-driven competition. Community leaders can promote simple collective weddings and discourage wasteful practices.

Most importantly, society must stop applauding extravagance as though it were a measure of success. We should learn to appreciate families that choose simplicity rather than making them feel inferior.

Perhaps the most powerful social change would begin when people stop asking, "How grand was the wedding?" and start asking, "Are the couple happy, responsible and secure?"

A Return to Purpose

Kashmir is proud of its culture, traditions and religious values. But traditions are meaningful only when they serve human dignity rather than become burdens upon people. Marriage should bring two families together, not place them under financial pressure. It should provide companionship, not competition. It should create responsibility, not debt. It should bring dignity, not social anxiety.

We do not need to abandon celebration. We need to abandon unnecessary excess. We do not need to reject Kashmiri culture. We need to distinguish culture from social pressure. And we do not need to make marriage less beautiful. We need to make it more meaningful.

If we continue turning marriage into an expensive competition, we risk creating a society in which young people fear marriage not because they fear responsibility, but because they fear the financial and social expectations attached to it. That would be a serious failure of our collective priorities. The time has come to rethink what we are celebrating. A marriage should be remembered for the life two people build together, not for the money spent on the day they began building it.

The author can be mailed at rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com

STATUS SYMBOL

Why We Need To Stop Confusing Busy With Important

SUMAYA HAMID

In a world where everyone seems busy, having no time has quietly become a symbol of importance. There was a time when having free time was considered a privilege. Today, it can almost feel like an embarrassment.

Ask someone how life is going and "busy" has become one of the most common answers. "Very busy," "extremely busy," "hardly getting any time" — these phrases have become part of everyday conversation, often spoken with a mixture of exhaustion and pride.

A packed calendar, endless meetings, unanswered messages and late working hours can make a person appear important and productive. Somewhere along the way, being busy has stopped being merely a description of our routine and has started becoming a measure of our worth.

Modern technology was expected to give us more time, yet many people feel they have less of it than ever. Banking can be completed within minutes, groceries can be ordered from a phone, food can arrive at our doorstep and meetings can happen without travelling across a city.

But the time saved by technology is quickly occupied by something else. The working day may end, but messages continue to arrive. A notification appears during dinner, an email demands attention at night and a work-related group remains active long after office hours. Even weekends, which were once associated with rest, can become an opportunity to complete unfinished tasks. We have



become so accustomed to being connected that disconnecting can sometimes feel irresponsible.

The pressure does not come only from workplaces. Parents move between professional responsibilities, household duties and their children's schedules. Students manage school, tuition, examinations and extracurricular activities. Young people are expected to remain constantly available to friends, classmates and online communities.

Even social life has become something to be planned around a crowded calendar. When there is finally a few minutes of silence, many of us instinctively reach for our phones. We scroll while waiting, check notifications while eating and consume content before sleeping. Instead of allowing an empty moment to remain

empty, we immediately fill it.

Perhaps the deeper problem is that we have begun to confuse busyness with productivity. A person who says, "I don't have a minute to spare," may receive more admiration than someone who says, "I have time this evening." We rarely ask whether all that activity is actually meaningful. We simply assume that a busy person must be doing something important.

This mindset can make rest feel like laziness and free time feel like something that needs to be justified. Even when people finally get an opportunity to relax, they may feel uncomfortable doing nothing because they have become accustomed to measuring their days by tasks completed rather than moments experienced.

The consequences are particularly important for families. Children do

not learn about the value of time only from what adults tell them; they learn it from what they observe. When children repeatedly hear that their parents are too busy to talk, too busy to play or too busy to listen, they may begin to understand that attention is something that must be earned or scheduled.

When phones interrupt conversations and work enters every corner of family life, children can grow up believing that constant availability is simply normal. Yet some of the most important moments of childhood do not require money, technology or elaborate planning. They require an adult who has enough time to listen to a long story, answer an unexpected question or simply sit beside a child without looking at a screen.

None of this means that ambition, hard work or responsibility should be rejected. Work matters, careers matter and responsibilities cannot simply be ignored. The problem begins when exhaustion itself becomes a badge of success and when being constantly occupied becomes an identity.

A person can be hardworking without being permanently available. A professional can be committed without answering every message immediately. A parent can be responsible without turning every hour into a scheduled activity. Rest is not the opposite of productivity; it is one of the conditions that allows people to continue functioning with patience, creativity and perspective.

Perhaps we need to rethink what we consider valuable. We celebrate expensive possessions, impres-

sive titles, large houses and visible achievements, but rarely celebrate something much simpler: having time.

Time to sit with family without checking the phone. Time to meet a friend without watching the clock. Time to read, walk, think or simply do nothing. These moments may never appear on a résumé or social media profile, but they are often the moments in which people actually experience their lives rather than simply manage them.

The real question, therefore, is not whether we are busy enough. It is whether our busyness is taking us towards the life we actually want. There will always be another email, another deadline, another meeting, another notification and another task waiting to be completed.

If we keep postponing life until everything is finished, we may discover that everything is never finished. Perhaps the new measure of success should not be how many people need our time, but whether we still have enough of it for the people and things that matter most.

In a society where everyone seems to be rushing somewhere, perhaps the greatest luxury is no longer having more possessions or more opportunities. It may simply be having enough time to slow down without feeling guilty about it — enough time to put the phone away, close the laptop, sit with the people we love and realise that, for a little while, we do not have to be anywhere else.

(The author is a teacher and writes on various social issues)

■ ‘Changing Society, Changing Law’

Sopore Law College Hosts Inter-Semester Seminar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Sopore Law College Tuesday organised an academic Inter-Semester Seminar titled "Changing Society, Changing Law: Reimagining the Legal System" on its campus, bringing together students and faculty for an intensive exchange on emerging legal paradigms.

The seminar provided a vibrant academic platform for law students to critically examine evolving social realities and deliberate on the corresponding legislative and judicial reforms needed within contemporary legal frameworks.

Organised under the leadership of Chairperson Maryam Bacha, Vice Chairperson Tamkeena Bacha, Trustee Javid Ahmad Bhat, and Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq, the proceedings were coordinated by Aafiya Kirmani.



The academic sessions were jointly chaired by Vice Chairperson Tamkeena Bacha and Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq.

During the technical presentations, participating students delivered structured, multimedia-backed paper presentations. The participants articulated nuanced insights into social change, modern jurisprudence, statutory limitations, and systemic reforms required to keep the legal apparatus aligned with societal needs.

The presentations were rigorously evaluated by an expert panel of jury members comprising Seeba, Tabasum, and Umar Rashid.

At the conclusion of the technical sessions, the top three position holders were honoured with mementos and certificates of merit by Tamkeena Bacha and Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq in recognition of their outstanding academic and analytical performance.

Delivering the formal vote of thanks, Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq expressed profound gratitude to Chairperson Maryam Bacha for facilitating progressive academic initiatives and providing an empowering space for students to refine their research, public speaking, and legal advocacy skills. He also commended the organising team, the jury, the media fraternity, and the student body for their active participation in making the seminar a resounding success.

Stronger support ecosystem to promote women-led rural enterprises: Dr Rajeshwari

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Rural Livelihoods-I, DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Dr. Rajeshwari S.M. on Tuesday said that the Mission is building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem to enable rural women to move beyond subsistence livelihoods and emerge as confident business owners.

She was addressing the inaugural session of a three-day National Consultative Workshop on SHE-LIFE—Self-Help Entrepreneurs in Livestock and Farm Enterprises, at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) under DAY-NRLM, the workshop brings together NRLM officers, representatives of State Rural Livelihoods Missions from 28 States, members of the National Mission Management Unit and other stakeholders. The participants will deliberate on and contribute to the formulation of guidelines for promoting women-led livestock and farm enterprises across rural India.

Highlighting the scale and achievements of DAY-NRLM, Dr. Rajeshwari S.M. said that 10.05 crore women have been mobilised into more than 94 lakh Self-Help Groups, which have been federated into over five lakh Village Organisations and more than 34,000 Cluster-Level Federations.

She said the institutional network has facilitated more than ₹13.76 lakh crore in bank credit while maintaining a non-performing asset rate of below two percent. In addition, over ₹66,000 crore has been extended as capitalisation support.

Rajeshwari S.M. further said that 5.2 crore Mahila Kisans and more than 87 lakh women-led enterprises are already part of the rural livelihoods ecosystem. Under DAY-NRLM's Vision 2031, the Mission aims to transform rural households into enterprising drivers of prosperity through six key pillars—finance, skilling, mentorship, market access, technology and business support.

The workshop was inaugurated by Rajeshwari S.M. in the presence of Raman Wadhwa, Deputy Director, NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development; Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director, JKRLM; Syed Sajad Qadri, Director, JKRLM; Syed Naseer, Additional Mission Director, JKRLM Kashmir; Mission Directors and representatives of State Rural Livelihoods Missions from Mizoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; besides other senior officers and stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Raman Wadhwa presented the proposed framework of SHE-LIFE, an initiative envisioned for implementation from 2026 to 2031. He said it seeks to enable rural women to progress from participation in livelihood activities to ownership of formal, market-linked and climate-resilient enterprises in livestock and dairy, agriculture and allied activities, and fisheries and aquaculture.

He said the initiative would draw strength from DAY-NRLM's extensive grassroots network, comprising 10.05 crore women associated with SHGs, five crore Mahila Kisans, more than two lakh producer groups and 50 lakh women organised into different collectives.

The proposed framework envisages a transparent, application- and portal-based selection mechanism, a structured five-phase capacity-building programme, bank credit support for project costs and convergence with schemes of various ministries and institutions, including the National Livestock Mission, PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, NABARD and MUDRA.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PWD (R&B) DIVISION LANGATE

OFFICE ADDRESS: LANGATE, NEAR BOYS HIGHER SECONDARY, 193302

Mr. Rohf-ul-Qadir, S/o Gh Qadir Dar,

R/o Qunan Trehgam.

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: - Restoration of Road Connecting Hajin to Gundkamal b.w.o Construction of Retaining wall and Breast wall.

Reference: - AEE Langate office No. AEE/SDL/535-36 Dated. 17.09.2026.

While you were allotted the above mentioned work vide this office allotment no. EE/RnB/L/1876-78 Dated. 11-08-2026 and being the work of critical nature, you were directed to start the work immediately and complete the same within stipulated time. However, as per the communication of Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Sub-division Langate vide above referred no. you have failed to start the work despite several reminders. This shows your lack of seriousness towards work which shall compel this office to initiate action under relevant contract provisions.

Now, through the medium of this final notice, you are hereby given a final chance to explain your position and start the work within 2 days failing which action as per SBD/e-NIT terms and conditions shall be initiated against you which shall include forfeiture of performance security and debarring you from taking part in the future tendering process of this Division up to 2 years. Besides, the work shall put to fresh tenders at your own risk and cost without any further notice.

No: - EE/RnB/L/3434-36

Dated: - 22.09.2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

R&B Division Langate.

DIPK-5990-26

DT: 22/09/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS DODA.

Phone. No. 01996-233396, FAX-No.01996-233501, email: dpododa@jkpolice.gov.in

No. CRB/Look-Out/26/49312-44 Dated: 21.09.2026

HUE AND NOTICE

As intimated by SHO P/S Doda that on 19.09.2026, one un-identified male dead body age about 55/60 years was found at Bershaila Thathri Road, near Sheep Husbandry, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Doda, the dead body has been shifted to Mortuary Room GMC Doda, and is being preserved for identification and post-mortem. Accordingly, an inquest proceeding under Section 194 BNSS has been initiated at Police Station Doda vide DDR No. 24 dated 19.09.2026. The particulars of the un-identified male dead body are as under:

Name	Un-identified male dead body
Age	55/60 Years
Clothing	Dark colour Jacket, Shirt dark grey with red and white stripes.

If any, clue leading to identification of the above mentioned unknown deceased persons came to notice or found matched with description of any missing person, please contact on following telephone numbers:

Dy.SP Hqrs Doda

8492003545,

SHO PS Doda

9419240455

PCR Doda

01996-233530

DIPK-5989-26

DT: 22/09/2026

Sr. Superintendent of Police,

Doda.

Wide network of Fair Price Shops established across J&K: Min Sharma

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, and ARI and Trainings Satish Sharma informed the House that the Department of FCS&CA has established a wide network of Fair Price Shops across Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator Hasnian Masoodi in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed that the criteria for establishment of Fair Price Shops (FPS) are laid down in S.O. 41 dated 19.01.2023. He said that in Pampore Assembly Constituency, presently, there are no uncovered areas.

Giving the category-wise position of ration cards and beneficiaries in Pampore Constituency, he said there are 2,679 ration cards covering 10,163 souls under AAY, 15,470 ration cards covering 67,157 souls under PHH and 9,776 ration cards covering 40,457 souls under NPHH.

The Minister said that the department is examining the requirement for opening of new Fair Price Shops in the Union Territory along-with rational-

ization of existing entities with reference to viability, number of ration cards tagged, geographical accessibility and adequate coverage in remote and tribal areas.

In the meantime, the Government of India has launched the umbrella scheme SARTHAK-PDS, subsuming assistance for intra-state movement, handling and FPS dealers' margin and technology reforms under SMART-PDS, the Minister informed.

The Minister said the scheme provides revised norms of Central assistance towards transportation, handling and assured FPS dealer income, which substantially improves the economic viability of Fair Price Shops. Accordingly, proposals for new FPS shall be assessed on the basis of viability under the assured income model, de-congestion of over-tagged shops and compliance with technology parameters viz. ePoS, electronic weighing scale integration and Aadhaar authentication.

The Minister, while replying to a supplementary raised by the Legislator, said that a committee to relax the criteria for areas with scattered population has already been formulated.

FDA intensifies Food Safety Enforcement in Sgr, 20 Food Establishments inspected

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: FDA, J&K, conducted focused inspection drive targeting street food vendors across Srinagar city. During the drive, the enforcement teams inspected food businesses to assess compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with particular emphasis on the sanitary and hygienic requirements prescribed under Schedule 4.

As part of the enforcement exercise, a special RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) drive was conducted among street food vendors at Nishat, Maki Point, Nehru Park, LD Hospital and Khayam. A total of 20 street food establishments were inspected, out of which eight Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for violations of prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements with a fine of Rs 8000.

During the drive, approximately 45 litres of used/re-used edible cooking oil was identified as unsuitable for further use and was lifted through the concerned authorized RUCO aggregator for appropriate disposal.

The FBOs were directed to strictly adhere to the prescribed limits for the reuse of cooking oil and ensure that used cooking oil is disposed of only through authorized aggregator.

The enforcement teams also conducted on-site awareness and sensitization of street food vendors and other FBOs regarding safe food handling, personal hygiene, maintenance of sanitary conditions, proper storage of food and responsible management of used cooking oil.

The FDA reiterated that regular enforcement, inspection and awareness activities will continue across Srinagar and other parts of the Union Territory, with special emphasis on street food establishments, high-footfall areas and RUCO compliance. The department has further stressed that food businesses are required to maintain the prescribed standards of hygiene and safety to ensure that food served to the public is safe, hygienic and fit for consumption.

The Department has requested Consumers to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Notice Inviting short term E-Tenders-NIT No. 22 of 2026-27

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J and K U.T., e-tenders on percentage rate basis are invited in Single cover system from approved and eligible contractors registered with J& K.U.T. Govt./CPWD/Railways/other govts./UT's for the following works: -

S. NO.	NAME OF WORK	Estt Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender opening authority
1	Checking of overflow by way of construction of lining wall on Manzimgang Singpora ladh offtaking from Martand canal at RD 700 mtrs.	4.00	12000/=	20 days	DEE	300/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
2	Repairs to supply Channel and restoration of breaches of GKMD by way of construction of lining wall at RD, 850, RD 1450 & RD 2550, crate work at offtake point and near RD 1150 and jacking near supply channel.	4.91	14730/=	20 days	DEE	300/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
3	Restoration of breached spot at RD 2700 m on Pethan Zamindari Khul.	4.85	14550/=	20 days	DEE	300/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
4	Construction of lining wall with bed treatment and PCC jacking on both sides of Sether minor at spots.	4.98	14940/=	20 days	DEE	300/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
5	Repair to Magraypora Bifurcation of D3 branch of Martand canal.	2.74	8220/=	20 days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
6	Construction of lining wall on both sides of Bragam ladi Downstream of flume.	2.29	6870/=	20days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
7	Restoration of breach by way of lining wall on Voi-Waterhal ladi at Rd 400 mtrs.	1.26	3780/=	15 days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
8	Repairs of supply channel/Escape channel of Thajiwara Canal at Headworks by way of Construction of lining wall.	1.45	4350/=	15 days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer
9	Restoration of offtake points of chek ladi and breach on Zen Zen ladi near RD. 5490 mtrs.	2.27	6810/=	20days	DEE	200/-	M&R 2702	Ex. Engineer

Remittance Head:- 0702

Position of AAA: - (1)Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Anantnag's AA order No. 32 DB of 2026 dated 25/08/2026 issued under No. SE/Hyd/DB/AA/5494-95 dated 25/08/2026 Position of TS.- (1). Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Hyd. Anantnag's T/s order No. 37 DB of 2026. Dated 01/09/2026

(2) Accorded vide this office TS order No. 11 DB of 2026-27 dated 02/08/2026 issued under No. IDA/DB/3898 dated 02/09/2026

Position of Funds: - Budgetary Provision

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria , specifications , bill of quantities (BOQ) set to terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website. www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates detailed below :-__

1.	Publishing date	21.09.2026	06.00PM
2.	Download Date Starts	21.09.2026	06.00PM
3.	BID Submission Date Starts	21.09.2026	06.00PM
4.	BID Submission Date Ends	26.09.2026	06.00 PM
5.	Date of opening of tenders	28.09.2026	11:00 AM

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and The bids uploaded shall be opened online on above mentioned date by the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag in presence of the bidders who may wish to be present. In case of holiday or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies (on 100dpi) of all necessary documents like Cost of Tender document in the form of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Anantnag , latest GST clearance certificate(GSTR-3B and GSTR-1). Registration card duly renewed along with Verification, Affidavit (1st Class Magistrate), BID Security in the form of EMD (CDR/ FDR/ TDR) for an amount detailed above. (EMD CDR shall be deposited separately for each item of work). The date of CDR/ FDR/ TDR should be between the bid submission start date and bid submission end date. After opening of tenders online, the 1st lowest bidder shall be asked to deposit the CDR/ FDR/ additional performance security pledged to tender receiving authority and other documents in original. The CDR/ FDR / additional performance security and other documents in original shall be deposited within two Days positively after opening of tenders. The EMD in the shape of CDR/ FDR of the successful bidder will be retained as performance security deposit till expiry of defect liability period, whereas the EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be returned/ released latest by 30 days after award of the contract. Furthermore to complete the process of evaluation of bids prior to award of contract, verification of uploaded documents of participating bidders shall be done to ascertain their genuineness wherever required. "

The check list of documents for cover 1st is attached with the NIT & bidders are advised to recheck the uploaded documents as per the Check list.

2. Additional Performance Security shall be taken from the first lowest bidder/selected bidder (within 02 days after opening of the tenders) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ TDR as per the Circular issued by the Finance Department vide No. FD-Code/ 441/ 2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 if the bid percentage is below 10% . The additional performance guarantee/ security shall be treated as a part of performance security.

3. The CDR/ FDR/ Security Deposit uploaded during tendering shall be properly verified from the issuing bank before awarding the contract. Furthermore if at any stage the CDR/ APS/ FDR/ Security Deposit are found to be false/ or forged/ fraudulent, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the contractor as laid down in Procurement of Manual of works GFR 2017 besides blacklisting the contractor from tendering process.

4. If the successful bidder is seriously unbalanced or front loaded in the opinion of the Tender Opening Committee. The Tender opening Committee may in such cases seek written clarifications from the bidder, including detailed price analyses of its bid price in relation to scope, schedule, resources mobilization, allocation of risks and responsibilities and any other requirements of the bid's documents besides Additional Performance Security as per above breakup. If, after evaluating the price analyses , procuring entity determines that the bidder has substantially failed to demonstrate its capability to deliver the contract at the offered price, the Tender Opening Committee may reject the bid/ proposal. A bid which contains several items in Bill of Quantities those are unrealistically priced low and which cannot be substantiated satisfactorily by the bidder may be rejected as non-responsive.

5. Contractor / Bidder who fails to submit the CDR/ FDR / Treasury Challan as required, & APS (if applicable)their EMD will be forfeited besides they will be barred/ prohibited from participating in the Tendering process for a period of Six Months (06 Months) in the first instance. Their online uploaded tenders will not be considered for the said period.

6. Contractor who shall be allotted the work has to start the work within the stipulated time period after the date of allotment as the work is of very important nature.

7. The department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids due to any reason what so ever.

8. The tenders shall remain valid for 90 days.(Ninety Days)

9. As soon as the contract is fixed with the successful bidder, he has to enter into an agreement with the department.

31. "It shall be mandatory for the bidder or his authorized representative, while visiting the work site, to take photographs of himself at the site along with the geo-tagged coordinates. The said geo-tagged photographs shall be uploaded/ submitted along with the other documents as prescribed in the SBD/ NIT.

32. All the guidelines/terms & conditions as laid down in relevant Schemes, including the guidelines/terms & conditions as laid down in the Accord of Administrative Approval, shall be applied strictly.

33. Other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form-25.

No. IDA/4566-83

Dated: 21/09/2026

DIPK-6017-26

DT: 22/09/2026

Sd/

Executive Engineer

Irrigation Division Anantnag

CMYK

CMYK

CMYK

DC Sgr attends Grand Finale of District Admin’s Football Rolling Trophy-2026

Felicitates winners and runner up teams with Trophies and Medals of appreciation



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Tuesday attended the Grand Finale of the District Administration’s Under-19 Football Rolling Trophy-2026 at the Rugby Field, Poloview, as apart of the District Administration’s commitment to creating better opportunities for youth to excel in different sporting and art disciplines.

The event was organised by the District Youth Services & Sports Office in collaboration with the District Administration Srinagar, with the aim of promoting sports and encouraging greater participation of youth in sporting activities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, who was the Chief Guest, underlined the efforts of the District Youth Services & Sports Office and the District Administration for providing young sportspersons with opportunities to showcase their talent and develop a competitive spirit.

The DC said that the District Administration Srinagar has initiated the Rolling Trophy Championship across the District to

nurture the talent of youth by organising drawing, painting and singing competitions, seminars and debates, besides football, cricket and other sport competitions, thereby providing young people with a platform to showcase and develop their abilities.

The DC urged the youth, particularly the participating athletes, to take maximum part in sporting events and desist from involvement in any kind of drug-related activity. He emphasised the importance of sports in fostering discipline, brotherhood, teamwork, leadership and a healthy lifestyle among youth.

The DC congratulated all the teams and participating players for their performances and encouraged young athletes to pursue sports with dedication and discipline. He also appreciated the Officials, Coaches and organisers for their contribution towards the successful conduct of the tournament.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also administered an oath to the participating athletes under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, urging them to contribute towards building a drug-free society.

As many as 400 athletes from different schools of the district participated in the Football Rolling Trophy-2026. The final match was played between Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar, and Sri Pratap Model Higher Secondary School. Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar, emerged victorious in the final. Sheikh Arshan Asif of Boys Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar Was adjudged as player of the tournament.

Later, the DC distributed prizes among the winning and runners-up teams as well as participating players who had enthusiastically taken part in the league matches.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer Aakash Garg, IAS Probationer Sai Kiran, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan, and other senior officers and officials were present at the grand finale, besides witnessed enthusiastic participation from players, Officials and sports lovers, creating an energetic sporting atmosphere at the venue.

ICC chief Jay Shah, BCCI Secy Saikia hail Indian women’s cricket team after Asian Games gold

IANIS

NEW DELHI: ICC chairman Jay Shah and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia congratulated the Indian women’s cricket team after it successfully defended its Asian Games gold medal with a commanding 147-run victory over Sri Lanka in the final in Nisshin on Tuesday.

India produced a dominant all-round performance to claim its first gold medal of the ongoing Asian Games. Smriti Mandhana’s 79 off 45 balls powered India to a record 216/3 before the bowlers dismissed Sri Lanka for just 69.

“Congratulations to India women’s team for winning the Asian Games gold! And well played Sri Lanka on clinching silver in Japan after a strong campaign. As we look ahead to cricket’s return to the Olympics at #LA28, spectacles like this prove that the women’s game is



ready to command the biggest multi-sport stages,” Jay Shah wrote on X on Tuesday.

Mandhana’s innings included seven sixes and five fours, while Shafali Verma contributed 48 off 29 balls. Richa Ghosh then provided the late impetus with an unbeaten 49 off 22 deliveries as India posted the highest total in the history of the women’s Asian

Games cricket competition. Saikia hailed the team for securing back-to-back Asian Games gold medals, while also highlighting the side’s recent success at the Asia Cup.

“Heartiest congratulations to our Women’s Team @BCCIWomen on winning Gold at the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya! Back-to-back Asian Games Gold medals — a remarkable

achievement and a truly proud moment for Indian cricket. After a dominant Asia Cup campaign in Dubai, the team carried that winning momentum into Nagoya, playing with confidence, flair and determination throughout. Congratulations to each member of Women’s Team, both players and support staff. You have made the nation proud once again!”

India’s bowlers then completed a comprehensive victory. Deepti Sharma was the standout performer with figures of 3-6, while Shafali Verma and Sree Charani claimed two wickets each. Shreyanka Patil also took two wickets as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 69.

Chamari Athapaththu top-scored for Sri Lanka with 29 off 21 balls, but the chase never gained momentum as India kept striking at regular intervals.

The victory saw India retain the gold medal it won at the previous edition of the Asian Games, where it also defeated Sri Lanka in the final.

India’s 216/3 also broke the previous Asian Games record of 202/4, set by Hong Kong against Mongolia in the 2023 Hangzhou Games. The total was also the highest in a women’s T20 final, surpassing the previous mark of 210 set by Brazil against Spain earlier this year.

One-off T20I: India survive Japanese scare to win by 2 runs in rain-hit match

AGENCIES

SANO (JAPAN): Seasoned spinner Axar Patel choked the inexperienced Japanese batters just in time as India flirted with defeat before winning the rain-curtailed one-off T20 International between the two mis-matched sides by a mere two runs here on Tuesday.

With the match being reduced to five overs-a-side due to inclement weather and the underlying moisture on the surface offering more than expected turn, the apparent gulf in talent and experience was seemingly bridged as India managed only 32 for 4 in five overs hitting a total of three boundaries.

In the end, the sizeable expat turnout gave a standing ovation to the Japanese team whose players came up to click selfies and get their jerseys signed by some of the biggest stars of world cricket.

Jasprit Bumrah was much in demand for autographs and photographs although he did not play.



One of the Japanese players got a signed India jersey from Abhishek Sharma while skipper Shreyas Iyer also had some words of encouragement for the home team players.

“See I always keep saying five overs game, it can go anywhere. The attitude shown by the Japanese team today was impeccable. I’m sure they are on the right track. For us, it was a great practice on the wicket,” Iyer said at the end of the match.

For Japan skipper Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming, the very idea that they nearly pulled off a ‘Mission Impossible’ was worth savouring but one that will

also force some introspection about missed chances.

“Proud of not only the team but the broader community. Anything is possible was the attitude. We knew it was going to be a challenge but at (an asking rate of) 6.5 RPO you know your mind wanders,” Kadowaki-Fleming said. While defending the target, India looked in danger of being embarrassed when Ravi Bishnoi went for 10 runs in the third over and Washington Sundar (2/13) gave away seven in the penultimate over.

However, with eight runs required off the final over, Axar’s (2-0-7-0) experience of playing 150-plus

IPL games came in handy as he didn’t give any room to Shirai Patmore and Benjamin Ito-Davis to chance their arms.

Japan ended on 30 for 3 and a shock defeat could be averted.

It also helped that rain had slowed down the outfield.

In the final over, umpire Chris Thurgate gave a few contentious wide ball calls when left-handed Patmore tried playing the reverse slog and missed twice.

An unhappy Indian skipper Shreyas Iyer complained to leg-umpire Chris Brown and the second wide was overturned.

While Japan deserve credit for giving India a scare, it was more about the rank turner that literally turned the match into a lottery.

Also, unlike the pitch in Aichi-Nagoya where the women’s team won gold medal with a power-packed batting show, the Sano surface didn’t offer conducive conditions which one associates with strokeplay in T20 cricket.

'Asian Games gold will motivate team for Olympics': Deepti Sharma after second straight top prize

IANIS

NISSHIN (JAPAN): India star all-rounder Deepti Sharma was elated to win the second straight gold medal with the Indian women’s team at the Asian Games 2026 on Tuesday. After winning a gold at the Hangzhou Games in 2023, the Women in Blue defended the yellow metal with a stellar 147-run win over Sri Lanka at the Korogi Sports Park, a second straight win over the Sri Lankan side in a continental event after having defeated them in the final of the 2023 edition and also in the title clash of the recent Asia Cup 2026. Speaking after Tuesday’s win in Nisshin, Deepti emphasised that the gold medal has given them twice the happiness after the trophies that they have won recently. “Absolutely, we are very happy. And winning the gold medal has made us twice as happy because we have always played for trophies. Last time we won the gold medal in the Asian Games, and this year as well. The biggest thing is that this is the first gold medal for the country in the 2026 edition. What can be better than this? So we are enjoying this,” Deepti told reporters after the gold win.

DC Kulgam inaugurates U-14, U-17 girls baseball tournament

GMK SPORTS DESK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Tuesday inaugurated the U-14 and U-17 girls baseball Inter-District Divisional-Level Tournament at L/NK Shri Nazir Ahmad Wani, Boys Higher Secondary School, Kulgam.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner called upon the Department of Youth Services and Sports to ensure opportunities for girls in sports are at par with those available to boys. He emphasized the importance of encouraging greater participation of girls in various sporting disciplines and creating a supportive environment for their overall development.

The DC also advised the girl athletes to cherish the sporting activities along with academic pur-



suits in their educational institutions. He also called upon them to register themselves on the Youth Empowerment Portal so that they can avail themselves of various opportunities and benefits available through the platform.

On the occasion, the DC appreciated and hailed the commendable dedication and efforts of students of the district towards engaging themselves in various sporting activities and participating in sports compe-

titions being organised in the district.

The tournament shall witness participation from 16 teams of 8 districts of Kashmir Division providing young girl athletes a much needed platform to showcase their talent and sporting skills.

The inaugural function was attended by DYSSO, Kulgam, Narinder Pal Singh, other officials of the Youth Services & Sports Department, Kulgam and other sports enthusiasts.

DIO Budgam inaugurates District Taekwondo Championship 2026

GMK SPORTS DESK

BUDGAM: District Information Officer (DIO), Budgam, Mir Liyaqat Ali Tuesday inaugurated District Taekwondo Championship 2026 at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Budgam.

Organised by the Taekwondo Association of District Budgam, in collaboration with District Administration Budgam, the two-day championship, being held on September 22 and 23, is witnessing participation of 335 young athletes. The district team for the upcoming UT-level Taekwondo Championship will be selected during the event.

Speaking on the occa-



sion, DIO Budgam appreciated the enthusiastic participation of young athletes and said that sports not only promote self-defence but also inculcate discipline, dedication, perseverance and sportsmanship.

He urged youth to actively participate in sports and channelise their energy towards positive pursuits, helping them stay away from drugs and other negative influences.

He also expressed gratitude to Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, for his guidance and directions in promoting sports and strengthening sports infrastructure across the district. Syed Farhan Quraishi, Principal, Aspire World School, was the Guest of Honour, while social activists Hafeez Ullah Mir and Mudasir Ahmad Malik were also present, besides coaches, officials and parents.

INOX

SRINAGAR

GOOD MOVIES BRIGHTER DAYS

MOVIES SCHEDULE

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

WEDNESDAY

GREAT FILMS BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

MOVIES PEOPLE CULTURES TOGETHER

VIBE

VIBE (A)

HINDI

11:00 AM

04:50 PM

DAAYRA

DAAYRA (A)

HINDI

01:55 PM

RESIDENT EVIL

RESIDENT EVIL (A)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

11:20 AM

07:45 PM

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE (A)

HINDI ATMOS

11:05 AM

02:55 PM

06:45 PM

01:25 PM

4 RIVERS 6 RANGES CHUSHI GANGDRUK (U/A 13+)

4 RIVERS 6 RANGES CHUSHI GANGDRUK (U/A 13+)

HINDI

05:15 PM

SAME SCREEN MORE EMOTIONS

Stories Beyond Borders

CINEMA FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

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CMYK

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