

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

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LoP Sharma Says
BJP Ready For
Statehood Debate

Rejects Discussion On Article 370 And Autonomy



REHMAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma on Friday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is ready to debate the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir but will oppose any discussion on Article 370 or the autonomy resolution. Addressing reporters, Sharma, questioned the reference to the autonomy resolution in the Chief Minister's move. "Today's resolution moved by the Chief Minister is controversial and disputed. The BJP had rejected the autonomy resolution. Why is that resolution being discussed again in today's resolution?" Sharma asked. He further urged the Congress party to clarify its position on Article 370, the

autonomy resolution, and the government. "Congress should clear its position-from Rahul Gandhi to the State Chief of Congress. Is it with this resolution? Is it with the pre-1953 resolution? Is it with the resolution of 370?" he asked. The LoP also questioned the Chief Minister's stance, recalling that he was a minister in the NDA government headed by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee when the autonomy resolution was rejected. "When the BJP rejected and tore up this resolution, wasn't Omar Abdullah a minister in the NDA at that time? Didn't he continue as a partner of the NDA?" Sharma asked. He alleged that the government was

J&K Assembly Adjourned Amid
Ruckus Over Statehood Resolution

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday moved a resolution in the assembly to seek urgent restoration of full statehood to the union territory, leading to ugly scenes in the House and even fist fights. Members of the opposition BJP stormed the well of the House in protest, and angry words broke out between them and legislators of the ruling National Conference (NC). Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather later adjourned the House when his repeated pleas asking the MLAs to go back to their seats went unheeded. BJP MLAs protested against the resolution, which has a reference to the autonomy resolution moved by the NC government in June 2000 when Jammu and Kashmir was a state. It reads: "In addition to the resolutions passed by this House on 26 June 2000 and 6 November 2024, the House calls upon the Government of India for the immediate and urgent restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and resolves that this resolution be forwarded to



the Government of India." The NC-led government headed by Farooq Abdullah had passed the resolution on June 26, 2000 for restoration of greater autonomy as existed before August 9, 1953. On November 6, 2024, the house passed a resolution seeking the restoration of special status. As soon as Omar Abdullah tabled the resolution on Friday, the treasury benches welcomed it with thumping of desks. However, the reference to the 2000 resolution triggered protests from BJP members. "We will not allow discussion on the issue of autonomy in the House," BJP MLA R S Pathania said. BJP MLAs alleged that rules were flouted as the chief minister read the resolution even before tabling it in the House and tore copies of the resolution. Several MLAs got into heated arguments as the pandemonium continued. Speaking on the resolution, the chief minister said the House should debate and pass this resolution in one voice as denial of statehood has proven to be extremely detrimental to Jammu and Kashmir. "A promise was made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

A promise was made in Parliament, a promise in the Supreme Court, and a promise in various public forums, that a three-step process would be implemented: first delimitation, then elections, and then statehood," he said. Abdullah said while delimitation happened and elections were also held in which people participated enthusiastically and willingly, the statehood has not been restored. "We kept waiting. Publicly, privately, in every meeting, in every forum, we reminded the government of India of its promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. But that promise remained unfulfilled. Today, through this House, we want to remind the government of India that something must finally be done about its promises," Abdullah said. "We were present at a function, the LoP was there, as were others, where I spoke about statehood in my speech and said that it was a promise of the Government of India. So, when the prime minister was giving his speech, he said that this is not an ordinary promise, it is Modi's promise,"

MeT Predicts
Short Rain Spells
On Sept 27, 28



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience generally dry weather tomorrow, while a brief spell of rain, thunder and gusty winds is expected at a few places on Sunday and Monday. According to the latest forecast accessed, September 27-28 will remain generally cloudy, with the possibility of light rain and thundershowers at a few places. Light snowfall is also likely over higher reaches during the period. The weather department said September 29-30 is expected to remain generally dry, with brief spells of rain possible at a few places. Generally dry weather is forecast for October 1-2, while October 3-5 is likely to remain generally cloudy with light rain, thunder and gusty winds at a few places. Weather is expected to remain generally dry again on October 6-7. The MeT has advised farmers that prevailing weather conditions are suitable for

Army Chief Reviews LoC Readiness

UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth on Friday visited Tangdhar in Kupwara, where the Indian Army organised a mega eye surgical camp under 'Operation Drishti' and interacted with patients who underwent sight-restoring surgeries. According to the details available, the 10th edition of the Mega Eye Surgical Camp was held on September 24 and 25 at an underground operation theatre at 328 Field Hospital in Tangdhar, a shelling-prone area along the Line of Control. Surgeons from the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) performed 220 surgeries during the two-day camp, most of them cataract procedures, besides selective retinal interventions and minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries (MIGS). General Dhiraj Seth interacted with patients and distributed medicines and gifts. Director General Armed



Forces Medical Services Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja also visited the camp and appreciated the medical teams and local personnel involved in the initiative. Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja said the camp brought highly experienced eye surgeons from Delhi to Tangdhar and praised the groundwork carried out to identify patients requiring surgery. "The most commendable part is the groundwork done prior to this—the team worked hard to identify and reach out to the

50% Representation For Open Merit
Examined By Cabinet Sub-Committee: Govt

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that the issue of ensuring 50 percent representation for Open Merit candidates in recruitment and admissions has been examined by a Cabinet Sub-Committee, whose recommendations have been approved by the Council of Ministers and forwarded to the competent authority for consideration. The government, stated this in response to an un-starred question raised by MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay (Shopian), who sought to know whether the issue of reservation of Open Merit candidates in recruitment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had been repeatedly raised in earlier Assembly sessions. In its reply, the government said, "Yes, Sir."



On whether the government had examined the proposal for ensuring 50 percent representation for Open Merit candidates in accordance with applicable constitutional and judicial provisions, the government said that a Cabinet Sub-Committee was constituted vide Government Order No. 2061-JK (GAD) of 2024 dated December 10, 2024. The committee examined the

existing reservation structure in detail and submitted its report/recommendations to the Council of Ministers, the government said. "The Council of Ministers approved the recommendations and forwarded the matter to the competent authority for consideration," it said. Regarding whether the proposal was placed before the Lieutenant Governor

J&K Eyes Revenue From Green
Projects Through Carbon Credits



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday chaired a meeting to review the proposed Carbon Credit Framework for Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at unlocking the economic potential of the Union Territory's ecological assets and creating sustainable revenue streams through carbon markets and green financing. The meeting besides ACS, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; MD, JKPCD; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; DG, Resources; DG, A&T;

DG, Budget; CEO, CITaG concerned officers and technical experts from CITaG. The framework, presented by the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) in collaboration with the Finance Department, envisages a comprehensive strategy built around four key pillars constituting Carbon Markets, Green Cess, Convergence and a dedicated Green Fund. Appreciating the preliminary work undertaken by CITaG, the Chief Secretary called for developing a comprehensive policy document supported by a

'Embracing Green Mobility Will Add
New Dimension To J&K's Tourism'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Terming women-led Electric Vehicle (EV) rally from Jammu to Srinagar as a significant step towards achieving the goal of sustainable tourism, Joint Director, Tourism Kashmir, Waseem Raja, on Friday said that embracing green mobility would add a new dimension to the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the details available, Raja received the rally at TRC Complex here. He welcomed the participants and appreciated the initiative. "This EV rally is a milestone and a step towards achieving the goal of sustainable tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. We really appreciate their zest, commitment



and endeavour of promoting Kashmir tourism and green and sustainable tourism," he said.

Raja said the participants had "walked the talk" on sustainable tourism by travelling from Jammu to Srinagar in

electric vehicles, calling it a great initiative. "We say, we talk about sustainable tourism, but they have walked the talk. These green events are needed. We want to promote sustainable tourism," he said. He said the participants would visit several destinations during their stay in Kashmir, including a Dal Lake cruise, adding that such initiatives would help promote Jammu and Kashmir tourism. He said the Tourism Department had also collaborated on a concert scheduled for Saturday. The JD said the initiative also aimed to promote Jammu and Kashmir as a safe destination while encouraging greener tourism "for a better tomorrow."—(KNO)

■ Aarogya Manthan 2026
J&K Recognised As
'Best Performing UT'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir has received national recognition for its efforts under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, with the State Health Agency, J&K, being honoured as the 'Best Performing Union Territory' for achieving saturation of frontline workers with Ayushman Cards. The award was presented at Aarogya Manthan 2026, held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, as part of the celebrations marking 8 years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and 5 years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). Virender Kumar, Nodal Officer, SHA J&K, received the award on behalf of the State Health Agency, J&K, from Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,

No Applications Received
Under Journalist Welfare
Scheme In J&K: Govt



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has informed the Legislative Assembly that no application has been received by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) under the Journalist Welfare Scheme (JWS) 2023. The government said the scheme provides one-time financial assistance to accredited and non-accredited journalists, including freelancers, and their families in cases of extreme hardship. In response to a question

raised by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania, the government said the Journalist Welfare Scheme, issued by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 1, 2023, was already operational at the national level. Under the scheme, assistance of up to Rs 5 lakh is admissible in cases of death, up to Rs 5 lakh for permanent disability and up to Rs 3 lakh for treatment of major ailments not covered under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) or insurance. The government said journalists from

Sakeena Itoo distributes appointment orders to 27 AYUSH Medical Officers



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Friday distributed appointment orders among 27 newly appointed AYUSH Medical Officers, marking their formal induction into government healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating the newly appointed Medical Officers, the Minister said that joining the public healthcare system was not merely a professional milestone but also an opportunity to serve people, particularly those living in rural, remote and underserved areas.

She emphasised that the appointment orders carried with them a responsibility towards the people and called upon the appointees to discharge their duties with sincerity, professionalism, empathy and a strong sense of public service.

“Healthcare is ultimately about serving people with dignity and compassion. Every patient who

approaches a healthcare institution places trust in the system and in the medical professional attending to them,” the Minister said, urging the new AYUSH Medical Officers to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct.

Underscoring the importance of health department for public welfare, the Minister said that doctor is a very noble profession and you should understand the importance of health department.

The Minister underscored the significance of strengthening healthcare delivery mechanisms at the grassroots level and called upon the newly appointed officers to work with utmost dedication and commitment towards addressing the healthcare requirements of the people, particularly in rural, remote and far-flung areas. She stressed that effective delivery of public health services requires accessibility, accountability and a strong sense of responsibility on the part of every functionary.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted the important role of

AYUSH systems in complementing the existing healthcare framework and promoting preventive, promotive and holistic healthcare practices. She called upon the Medical Officers to utilise their professional expertise for extending quality AYUSH services to the people and contribute towards further strengthening the public healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister emphasised on the need for close coordination with the concerned health institutions and field functionaries to ensure efficient delivery of healthcare services and effective implementation of Government programmes and initiatives.

The Minister expressed confidence that the newly appointed AYUSH Medical Officers would discharge their responsibilities with dedication and sincerity and contribute positively towards the Government’s endeavour to ensure accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services for all sections of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

Div Com Orders Timely Resolution for AIIMS Awantipora Healthcare Rollout

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To ensure the timely rollout of healthcare services at AIIMS Awantipora from October 31, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Friday chaired a meeting to review the status of pending issues and expedite their resolution.

The meeting took up several critical matters concerning the operational readiness of the institution, including electricity supply for the running of water supply system, commissioning of the dedicated power sub-station, land-related issues and the fire safety measures.

On the occasion, the



Divisional Commissioner directed the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to resolve the pending inter-departmental issues by Monday and ensure electricity supply

for the water supply system. Regarding the commissioning of the power station, the Div Com directed KPDCL to issue the requisite No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) at the earliest so

that the uninterrupted electricity shall be provided to the institute. He further directed the Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, to provide necessary assistance and guidance to CPWD engineers for the expeditious resolu-

tion of land-related issues pertaining to the facility. The Divisional Commissioner also directed DC Pulwama to make adequate arrangements for transportation facility of the general public up to the entrance of AIIMS Awantipora, ensuring convenient access to the hospital.

Regarding issuance of NOC for fire safety, the Div Com directed concerned officers to conduct joint inspection of the facility and issue the certification by 5th October. The meeting was attended by the Executive Director, AIIMS Awantipora; SSP Traffic; and concerned officers and engineers from PHE, KPDCL and different wings of CPWD.

JKTF holds blood donation camp in Baramulla, collects 56 units

Educators, volunteers donate at GHSS Nehalpora; GMC B'la team lauds response

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: A voluntary blood donation camp organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) Zone Nehalpora, in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, was held Friday at Govt. Higher Secondary School Nehalpora. The camp, part of a major humanitarian drive led by JKTF Chairman Showkat Ali Beigh, received an overwhelming response from the teaching fraternity and local volunteers, with donors contributing 56 pints (units) of blood.

The event was formally inaugurated jointly by JKTF Chairman Showkat Ali Beigh, Vice Chairman Gh Ahmad Mir and Bashir Ahmad Thokar. Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Nehalpora Gursharan Kour and Principal Govt. Higher Secondary School Nehalpora Abdul Rashid Mir also attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, former trade union leader and Chief Spokesperson of Civil Society



J&K, Farooq Ahmad Lone, lauded the educators for leading by example. Highlighting the cultural spirit of selflessness, he said: “There is a common Kashmiri proverb, ‘Bei hek chani kheir khoon tei dei’ (I can even give my blood for you). Donating blood is the most generous act one can do; it directly saves precious human lives.”

Head of Department (HoD), Blood Bank, GMC Baramulla, Dr Sadat, who was present at the camp with his clinical team, commended the donors and underscored the importance of sustained donations. “Blood banks are the backbones of hospitals, and camps like this one at

Nehalpora provide the vital life support needed during critical emergencies,” he said. Expressing satisfaction over the turnout, JKTF Chairman Showkat Ali Beigh reiterated the forum’s broader social vision: “These welfare programmes will continue across all zones, as we remain committed to serving our people and society both inside and outside the classroom.”

The camp concluded with mutual appreciation between the visiting GMC Baramulla medical staff and the organising committee for ensuring standard medical protocols and smooth execution.

DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of Green India Mission

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Steering Committee for Green India Mission (2026–2031) at the VC Room, DC Office Ganderbal, to review the proposed activities under the Mission in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the proposed interventions under the Green India Mission and emphasised the need for effective convergence among the concerned departments for timely implementation of afforestation, nursery development, medicinal plant cultivation and livelihood oriented activities.

The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure proper planning, plantation and post-plantation care for achieving sustainable green cover in the identified areas.

He further directed the Forest Department to focus on the development and strengthening of nurseries in the district and called for their effective utilisation for raising quality planting



material to support afforestation and other plantation activities in the district.

The DC also stressed upon the concerned departments to promote the cultivation and development of medicinal plants and explore suitable interventions for encouraging medicinal plant-based activities in the district.

The DC directed the concerned department to work towards establishment and strengthening of a training centre for tribal and artisan communities, with focus on skill development and livelihood opportunities related to forest-based activities, including forest produce.

He emphasised that the interventions under the Green India Mission should not remain confined to plantation activities but should also contribute towards livelihood generation, capacity building and sustainable

utilisation of forest resources, particularly for tribal and artisan communities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned members to ensure close coordination, timely execution of approved activities and regular monitoring of progress. He stressed upon the officers to identify bottlenecks at the implementation stage and address them through coordinated efforts.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Division Ganderbal, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Sindh Division, Assistant Commissioner Development Ganderbal, Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal, District Tribal Welfare Officer Ganderbal, District Officer JAKEDA Ganderbal, representative of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle besides other concerned officers.

DC Budgam chairs MY Bharat DAC Meeting, reviews Youth Engagement initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday chaired the second meeting of the District Advisory Committee (DAC) of MY Bharat to review progress on various youth-centric initiatives and programmes.

The Committee reviewed the proceedings and action points of the first DAC meeting, followed by discussions on the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) Quiz, Mission Yuva, TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyan and Experiential Learning Programme (ELP).

The Deputy Commissioner directed concerned officers to undertake coordinated efforts to maximise participation of students and youth in VBLYD and other MY Bharat activities. He stressed the need for greater convergence among departments to provide young people opportunities in leadership, cul-



tural, social, developmental and youth empowering initiatives.

The DC also directed departments to ensure nomination of Youth Chapters and Campus Ambassadors in schools, colleges and other educational institutions, besides registering more youth volunteers and involving them in government programmes.

Emphasising the role of youth in community development, the Deputy Commissioner called for effective implementation of youth-focused initiatives

at the grassroots level and coordinated follow-up by all concerned departments.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, ADC Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, Chief Planning Officer, General Manager DIC, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Youth Officer MY Bharat and other concerned officers.

Sericulture Dev Deptt facilitates Exposure Visit for 80 Sericulture Farmers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Sericulture Development Department, Bandipora, Friday facilitated an exposure visit for 80 sericulture farmers, including farmers from tribal communities, under Silk Samagra-2/Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), as part of the Human Resource Development (HRD) component.

The participating farmers from Chittebanday, C.A. Khan and other sericulture villages of the district visited various important sericulture institutions and facilities to gain practical knowledge and firsthand experience of scientific mulberry cultivation, silkworm

rearing, cocoon production and silk processing.

As part of the programme, the farmers visited P4 Basic Seed Farm, Central Silk Board, Mansbal, Ganderbal; College of Temperate Sericulture, SKUAST-K, Mirgund; Basic Seed Station, Mirgund, Baramulla; and Government Silk Factory, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

The visit aimed to provide field-level exposure to improved sericulture practices, including scientific mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing techniques, disease and pest management, seed production, cocoon production and silk processing.

During the visit, the farm-

ers also interacted with technical experts and field functionaries and gained an understanding of various stages of the sericulture value chain. The exposure is expected to enhance their technical capacities and encourage adoption of modern and scientific practices for improving cocoon yield, quality and farm income.

The Department stated that such capacity-building and exposure programmes form an important component of its efforts to strengthen the sericulture sector in District Bandipora, particularly by extending technical knowledge and institutional exposure to farmers from tribal and other rural communities.

DC B'pora reviews preparations for 3rd Edition of "BSF Wular Ultra Run"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Friday chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat to review preparations for the 3rd Edition of the “BSF Wular Ultra Run 2026”, scheduled to be held on October 4, 2026, under the theme “Save Wular, Run With Bordermen.”

The event is being organised by BSF under

the aegis of Frontier HQ BSF Kashmir, with the objective of promoting fitness, community engagement and tourism in the Kashmir Valley.

The run will feature four categories of 50 km, 25 km, 10.5 km and 5 km, with designated start and finish points and routes covering various stretches around Bandipora and Wular Vantage Park.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were

held on route management, security, traffic regulation, medical preparedness, hydration, sanitation, accommodation, fire and emergency preparedness, cultural programmes, cleanliness, beautification and publicity arrangements.

The DC directed all concerned departments to ensure close coordination with BSF and other stakeholders for timely completion of all arrangements. She directed the Chief

Medical Officer (CMO) to convene a meeting with concerned medical staff, sensitise them regarding their roles and ensure adequate preparedness of hospitals and emergency medical services.

The DC stressed the need for adequate medical points, hydration points and portable toilets along the routes. The concerned agencies were directed to ensure effective Fire and Emergency preparedness, including

availability of necessary equipment and personnel at critical locations.

The DC directed the District Information Officer (DIO) to ensure extensive publicity and dissemination of the event, including publication of the traffic advisory through Print and Electronic Media and other appropriate platforms, besides creating awareness among the public regarding traffic diversions and event-related arrangements.

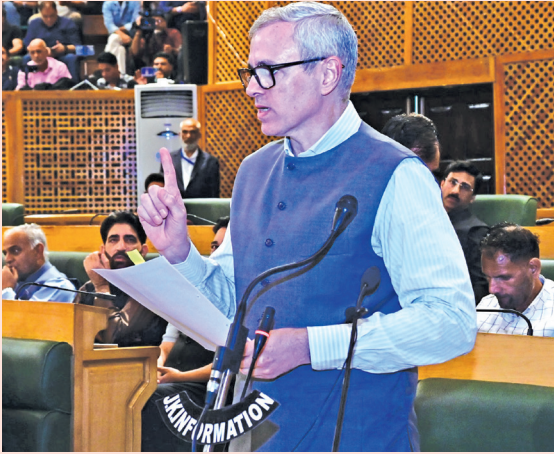
Autumn Session

Hailstorm damage in Banakoot assessed, Loss below SDRF subsidy threshold: CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, Friday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the damage caused by hailstorm in parts of Banakoot Block of Bandipora has been assessed at less than 33 per cent, and therefore does not meet the prescribed threshold for input subsidy under SDRF norms.

The Chief Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Bandipora Nizam-ud-Din Bhat regarding the hailstorm accompanied by rainfall and gusty winds reported in certain areas of



Banakoot on September 6, which caused localized damage to agricultural and horticultural crops, including paddy, vegetables and fruit orchards.

As per the report of

the Chief Agriculture Officer, Bandipora, the extent of crop damage in the affected areas has been assessed at less than 33 per cent.

The Chief Minister informed the House that

the damage was mainly in the form of localized lodging and physical injury to paddy, minor damage to vegetable crops and limited bruising, fruit drop and injury to fruits and foliage in orchards.

He stated that since the assessed crop damage is below the prescribed 33 per cent threshold, the affected cases do not qualify for input subsidy under the applicable SDRF norms.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that the concerned Agriculture and Horticulture field functionaries have been advising the affected farmers on appropriate crop-management measures to minimize further losses.

Patnitop proposed under Centre's GCTD Scheme: CM

Master Plan revision process initiated; Unified Building Bye-Laws

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that Patnitop has not been declared a world-class tourism destination by the Government of India, while the J&K Government has proposed the destination for consideration under the Centre's Globally Competitive Tourism Destination Scheme.

Replying to a question by MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session, the Chief Minister said a preliminary survey for identification of suitable land parcels, along with comprehensive stakeholder consultation conferences, had already been completed for the proposed initiative.

He said the requisite ground data and basic details for the proposal were currently being

compiled. No funds have so far been sanctioned or released by the Government of India for the proposed project.

On the revision of the PDA Master Plan-2000, the Chief Minister said the Tourism Department had initiated the process for comprehensive revision and preparation of Master Plans for various Development Authorities, including the Patnitop Development Authority.

He said the initiative seeks to address rapid urban growth, modern infrastructure requirements and sustainable spatial development, besides optimising land use, improving public amenities and establishing a clear roadmap for long-term development.

The Chief Minister informed the House that the Request for Proposal, as finalised by the Steering Committee constituted by the Government, had been floated for engagement of a consultancy agency to pre-

pare the Master Plan.

Regarding construction norms for hilly areas, he said these were proposed to be reviewed wherever required during the preparation or revision of the Master Plans, keeping in view local terrain, geological and structural safety considerations, environmental sensitivity, carrying capacity, infrastructure requirements and tourism potential.

On the proposed revision of BOCA norms for commercial buildings within the PDA jurisdiction, the Chief Minister said any modification in construction norms, zoning regulations, land-use classification or other planning parameters would be considered in accordance with prevailing laws, rules and applicable planning and building regulations, after due assessment and consultation with concerned stakeholders.

He also informed the House that the Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021

were already implemented in the jurisdiction of the Patnitop Development Authority.

Giving details of building permission cases for the last two years, the Chief Minister stated that during 2024-25, the PDA received six commercial cases, of which three were approved and three rejected, with none pending. In the residential category, 42 cases were received, 18 approved and 24 rejected, with no case pending.

During 2025-26, 10 commercial building permission cases were received, of which four were approved, three rejected and three remained pending. In the residential category, 60 cases were received, 16 approved, 41 rejected and three remained pending.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that, as per available records, 14 residential and two commercial building permission cases had subsequently been received.

Restoration of cloudburst, flash- flood affected infrastructure underway: Govt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government has taken necessary measures for restoration of affected infrastructure by flash floods/cloudbursts across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying on behalf of the Chief Minister to a question raised by MLA Shakti Raj Parihar.

Surinder Choudhary informed the House that roads and water supply schemes affected during 2025-26 have been temporarily restored, while permanent restoration works are under process. Similarly, the affected roads and water supply schemes during 2026-27 have been partially restored, with permanent restoration works being taken up in all affected districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister further informed that financial assistance admissible under the norms of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is being provided to the



affected persons. He clarified that no special package or separate relief package has been sanctioned specifically for rehabilitation purposes.

However, he said that the Chief Minister, under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, has extended additional assistance to families whose residential structures suffered damage in the affected areas.

"In Kishtwar district, following the cloudburst incident at Chishoti during 2025-26, an amount of ₹1 lakh each was provided to 16 affected households whose houses were damaged, while ₹0.25 lakh each was provided to three partially damaged houses" he said

and maintained for the year 2026-27, ₹108 lakh has been released under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in Poonch district for 87 beneficiaries whose structures suffered damage.

Similarly, in Rajouri district, ₹281.00 lakh has been released under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for 377 beneficiaries affected by structural damage.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the Government remains committed to ensuring timely restoration of essential infrastructure, extending admissible relief to affected families and expediting permanent restoration works in areas impacted by natural calamities.

75% Work Completed on 50-Bedded Pahalgam Hospital: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that around 75 per cent physical progress has been achieved on the construction of the 50-bedded hospital block at Pahalgam, with the remaining works being pursued on priority.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani.

Sakeena Itoo informed the House that the Health & Medical Education Department had accorded Administrative Approval under Government Order No. 244-JK(HME) of 2020 dated March 12, 2020, for construction of the 50-bedded hospital at Pahalgam at a sanctioned cost of ₹19.90 crore. The project includes construction of the hospital building along with associated civil, electrical, mechanical and allied works.

The Minister said that ₹16.75 crore has been released against the project, while ₹10.53 crore had been expended up to March 31, 2026. An expenditure of ₹33.31 lakh has further been incurred during the current financial year, as reflected in the departmental statement.

The Minister informed



the House that the project is progressing satisfactorily and has achieved approximately 75 per cent physical progress.

She said the DG Set has been successfully commissioned and handed over, while the Laundry System, Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) and Sterile Tunnel Project (STP) have been supplied/installed and are presently at the commissioning stage.

The installation of the hospital lift is also under progress, while the remaining mechanical and electrical components are being pursued for completion.

Giving details about the delay, Sakeena Itoo said that during execution, an additional basement became necessary due to site topography and level differences.

This resulted in an increase in the built-up area and consequently required additional structural, archi-

tectural, allied, mechanical and electrical works, leading to revision of the project cost.

She further stated that post-COVID escalation in equipment and installation costs also contributed to the increase in the project cost, for which additional funding is being explored.

The Minister informed the House that the progress of the project is being personally monitored and that a review meeting has also been held with all stakeholders to address the issues affecting its completion.

She said the process for revised Administrative Approval has already been initiated and the same will be accorded after receipt and scrutiny of the revised DPR from the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir.

Responding to a supplementary regarding upgradation of PHCs at Pahalgam, Sallar and Aishmuqam to Sub-District Hospitals, the Minister clarified that there is no such proposal at present, as the Department is currently focusing on consolidation and strengthening of existing healthcare facilities.

She further explained the provisions of IPHS-2022 norms, stating that districts with less than five lakh population and having a functional District Hospital do not require a Sub-District Hospital.

14 Dev projects worth 24.62 crore under execution across B'la Town: Govt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for School Education, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that 14 developmental works involving a total project cost of ₹24.62 crore are under execution in Baramulla Town, with several projects completed and others progressing at different stages.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Javid Hassan Baig.

Sakeena Itoo informed the House that against the total project cost of ₹2,462.67 lakh, an expenditure of ₹445.24 lakh had been incurred up to March 2026. During the current financial year, ₹25 lakh has been utilised against the released amount of ₹130.60 lakh. Of the 14 works, three have been completed, while the remaining works are at various stages of execution.

Regarding the proposed multi-level car parking facility near the R&B Office, Baramulla, the Minister informed the House that Administrative Approval for the project was accorded on October 10, 2025.

She said that commencement of the project was delayed as the land,

being under the ownership of PWD (R&B), had not yet been transferred in favour of Municipal Council Baramulla.

The proposed site also contains existing poplar trees requiring valuation by the Forest Department followed by their auction/removal, she added. In addition, an old building at the site requires assessment and completion of the prescribed procedure for its disposal/removal, she added.

Sakeena Itoo said that these essential pre-construction and statutory formalities had affected commencement of the project.

"The requisite formalities are now under process, and the concerned agencies have been directed to complete them on priority so that work can commence at the earliest", she said.

On the construction/development of three entry gates at Baramulla, the Minister informed the House that Administrative Approval was accorded vide Order No. DULBK/Pg/746 of 2025 dated September 20, 2025", She informed.

She said that execution of the entry gate at Janbazpora and Khowjabagh was affected by objections raised by local residents, necessitating shifting of

Govt intensifies relief, restoration measures in Rajouri, Poonch: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that comprehensive relief and restoration measures have been undertaken for areas affected by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, in response to a Calling Attention Motion raised by MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan regarding the extensive damage caused by unprecedented heavy rains, flash floods and landslides in Thanamandi Constituency and various parts of Poonch.

The Dy CM was replying on behalf of Chief Minister who also holds the portfolio of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

The Dy CM informed the House that ₹300 lakh have been released to District Rajouri under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and ₹281 lakh under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Similarly, ₹400 lakh have been released to District Poonch under SDRF and ₹137 lakh under CMRF.

Regarding relief dis-



bursement, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that, ₹75.52 lakh have been disbursed to 149 affected families in Thanamandi under SDRF norms while ₹120.50 lakh have been provided to 138 families under CMRF. In District Poonch, ₹216.379 lakh have been disbursed to affected families under SDRF.

The government further informed the House that, over and above SDRF assistance, ₹5 crore each have been provided under the UT Capex Budget for Rajouri and Poonch districts to undertake restoration and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure on priority. The funds are being utilised through the concerned executing agencies.

The government also presented a district-wise

account of damage and restoration measures undertaken. In Thanamandi Constituency, damage was reported to 182 roads, 25 HT poles/33 KV line infrastructure, 70 transformers, 72 drinking-water schemes, 51.98 hectares of agricultural land and 1.90 hectares of horticulture land besides 149 houses.

In District Poonch, 388 roads, 55 bridges, 29 power stations/transformers, 72 drinking-water schemes, 217.7 hectares of agricultural land and 379 houses were affected.

The final damage assessment for infrastructure restoration stands at ₹13,025.94 lakh for roads/bridges, ₹1,360.43 lakh for power stations/transformers, ₹4,149 lakh for water supply schemes, and ₹6,024 lakh for khuls in Thanamandi Constituency. For District Rajouri, the final assessment totals ₹46,022.57 lakh, comprising ₹18,517.50 lakh for roads/bridges, ₹3,144.32 lakh for power infrastructure, and ₹24,360.75 lakh for water supply schemes. For District Poonch, the final assessment amounts to ₹18,185.95 lakh for roads/bridges, ₹233.75 lakh for power infrastructure, ₹2,315.07 lakh for water supply schemes, and ₹186.97 lakh for khuls.

Govt to expedite Devar Lolab NTPHC works; Rs 40 Lakh earmarked: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that the PHC building at Devar Lolab, Kupwara was approved under the district sector in 2020-21 through J&K Housing Board as executing agency. She said the project was approved at Rs 199 lakh and allotted at Rs 141 lakh with a completion period of three financial years.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Qaysar Jamshaid Lone regarding prolonged delay in completion of PHC building at Diver Lolab.

The Minister stated that, owing to the considerable time elapsed since preparation of the original Detailed Project Report (DPR) and the subsequent revision in construction costs, the J&K Housing Board has submitted a revised DPR amounting ₹206.64 lakh for taking up the balance works of



the NT-PHC Devar Lolab above the ground floor.

Sakeena Itoo said that the revised DPR is presently under scrutiny by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Kupwara to ensure that all essential components are incorporated and the building becomes fully functional upon completion.

The government has also stated that the department has already earmarked ₹40 lakh under the UT Capex Budget 2026-27 for the project and the funds will be utilised for execution of the balance works after finalization and approval of the revised DPR.

The Minister emphasized that the department is committed to complete the balance work in a time-bound manner.

AUTUMN SESSION

'Govt to extend financial assistance to eligible hailstorm affected farmers'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The government will extend financial assistance to all eligible farmers affected by the hailstorm that occurred during the intervening night of September 18 and 19, 2026 in various areas of Srigufwara and Bijbehara.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary who was replying, on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Legislator Dr. Bashir Ahmad ShahVeeri.

The Dy CM stated that the government has put in place a mechanism to assess the crop damage and extend financial assistance to the eligible affected farmers under the applicable relief and crop insurance mechanisms.

"The farmers enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will receive financial settlement directly from the designated insurance companies



after proper verification. Besides, the farmers who have not registered themselves under PMFBY may be compensated under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)," he stated.

Regarding the extent of damage, the Dy CM said that as per the preliminary assessment, 83.5 hectares of agricultural land belonging to 415 farmers has been affected. In several locations, damage to paddy crops has been assessed in the range of 70 to 95 per cent, with the highest damage reported in Trai-Sakhras and Hanumanpora areas.

In the horticulture sector, preliminary damage ranging between 5 and 15 per cent has been reported across areas including Hafizabad, Arwani, Rakh Moman, Marhama, T.M. Shah, Semthan, Baliyar, Trail, Hanumanpora, Adlash and Chandpora.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the concerned field agencies have been directed to undertake proper assessment and verification of crop losses to ensure that the eligible farmers receive relief as per the prescribed provisions.

Good Morning Kashmir

Dal Lake

When National Heritage Becomes Free-For-All

There was a time when the sight of Dal Lake was enough to define Srinagar. Today, however, the same lake is increasingly becoming a test of whether the administration has the will to protect what belongs not to one mohalla, one family or one generation, but to the entire people of Kashmir. The alarming pace at which portions of the lake are allegedly being filled and encroached upon should concern every citizen. What is even more disturbing is the impression that a race has begun: one locality appears determined to reclaim more lake space before another does. If this continues unchecked, the question will soon not be who is encroaching, but how much of Dal Lake will actually remain.

The administration cannot afford to treat such developments as ordinary violations. Dal Lake is officially recognised as a major tourism and recreational asset of Srinagar, with its wetlands, floating gardens, houseboats and associated livelihoods forming an important part of the city's identity. The Srinagar Master Plan itself has previously acknowledged rampant encroachment along portions of the lake and proposed measures to act as a deterrent to further illegal occupation. Yet, if allegations of fresh filling are correct, the question is simple: who is allowing it to happen?

A lake cannot be filled overnight. Trucks, earth-moving machinery, construction material and human activity cannot operate indefinitely without someone noticing. If illegal filling is taking place at scale, there must be an accountability chain, from the field level to the supervisory level. Silence, delay or selective action only deepens public suspicion. Equally worrying are allegations that elements within the system may be facilitating or protecting such activity. These allegations must be investigated impartially rather than dismissed. If they are false, the administration should establish the facts and clear the air. If they are true, those responsible, irrespective of position or influence, must face the law.

The political dimension cannot be ignored either. Lake protection becomes particularly difficult when enforcement is perceived through the prism of electoral calculations. No elected representative should have to choose between protecting an ecosystem and protecting a vote bank. Public representatives are elected to protect public resources, including those that cannot vote. Dal Lake cannot become a casualty of short-term political convenience.

There is also a dangerous social psychology developing around encroachment: if one person can get away with it, why should another remain behind? Once such thinking becomes normal, law itself loses its deterrent value. An illegal act becomes a precedent, the precedent becomes a claim, and eventually the destruction of a public resource starts being presented as a matter of individual entitlement. This is precisely why the administration needs to act before the situation reaches a point of no return.

The response should not merely consist of occasional demolition drives or photographs of enforcement teams. There must be a transparent mapping of vulnerable areas, identification of fresh filling, immediate stoppage of ongoing work, restoration of reclaimed portions wherever legally and technically feasible, and fixing of responsibility for administrative negligence. The government has the institutional machinery to do this. The Housing and Urban Development Department lists the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority among the agencies responsible for lake management, while Srinagar's civic administration also identifies environmental protection and responsible urban development among its stated priorities.

What is required now is coordination and, above all, political will. Dal Lake should not become a bargaining chip between mohallas, officials and politicians. Nor should its future depend on who can mobilise greater local pressure. A lake does not have a vote. It cannot attend an election rally. It cannot approach an MLA or minister. But it provides Srinagar with an identity, supports livelihoods and remains one of Kashmir's most valuable natural assets. If the filling continues today, tomorrow's generations will not ask which mohalla gained the most land. They will ask a much more uncomfortable question: When Dal Lake was being swallowed, where was the administration?

National Film Awards

A Tribute To The Magic Of Indian Cinema

On September 22, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the 72nd National Film Awards in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat marking a departure from the recent tradition of holding the ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

As a major policy initiative by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the shifting of venue is foreseeing the possibility of future editions of the country's highest cinema honour to travel across other states and cities rather than stay anchored within the national capital. It may be perceived as a small logistical decision but it holds a symbolic weight for cinema that the ceremony belongs to every region, not just to the corridors of New Delhi.

This year's list of winners, announced on July 18, 2026, reflects the similar spirit of the country's central measure of cinematic merit. In the category of the Best Feature Film, Article 370 was given the award along with its lead actress Yami Gautam who won the Best Actress award. Similarly, Mammootty and Kartik Aaryan were given the Best Actor honours for Bramayugam and Chandu Champion respectively, while Rajkumar Periasamy won Best Direction for the Tamil film Amaran.

Interestingly the most quietly significant win came in the non-feature category, where Angen, directed by Ravi Raj Murmu, became the first Santhali-language film to be honoured, a marker of how far the awards' linguistic reach now extends.

This year, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, cinema's lifetime achievement honour was given to veteran actor Anant Nag, whose five-decade career spans over 300



films across six languages. Meanwhile, to understand the context why national awards matter so much in present circumstances we need to look back at where the process began in the country prior to partition of the subcontinent. In 1913, Indian cinema's own story started when Dadasaheb Phalke completed Raja Harishchandra, the country's first full-length feature film.

It took four more decades for the Indian state to formally recognise the art form: following recommendations from the 1949 Film Enquiry Committee, the government instituted the State Awards for Films in 1954, honouring the films of 1953. That first edition was modest, just seven honours across feature films, documentaries and children's films, with Shyamchi Aai winning the top feature film prize.

The awards grew steadily with the industry itself. Acting honours arrived only in 1967-68, when Uttam Kumar and Nargis won the first Best Actor and Best Actress awards. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award followed in 1969, first given to Devika Rani. Administration passed to the Directorate of Film Festivals in 1973, and in 2022 that body merged into the National Film Development Corporation, which now runs the awards.

Each of these shifts added new categories, new crafts, and new regions to the fold — a process the 72nd edition continues, most visibly through its recognition of films in Garhwali and Tulu, languages outside the Constitution's Eighth Schedule that nonetheless now have a place on the national stage. The awards' purpose has

stayed remarkably consistent since 1954: to encourage films of technical and aesthetic merit, to help audiences understand the country's regional cultures, and, through that understanding, to strengthen national unity. They are not simply trophies.

A National Award pulls a film out of a narrow regional audience and onto a country-wide platform, often reshaping a filmmaker's career in the process.

That mission carries real economic weight today. India's media and entertainment sector is now the fifth largest in the world, powered by millions of digital creators and a strong cost advantage in animation and VFX work. Cinema is not just cultural expression — it is a livelihood engine and a form of soft power that carries Indian storytelling to global audiences.

The 72nd National Film Awards capture an industry in transition: still rooted in the two-tier jury system introduced decades ago, still measuring films against the same core standards of craft and social relevance, but increasingly willing to look beyond the familiar centres of Hindi and major regional cinema. A Santhali film winning for the first time, a Garhwali and Tulu film earning separate recognition, and the ceremony itself relocating to Gujarat all point in the same direction — toward an award that is finally trying to look as diverse as the country whose films it honours.

If that trajectory holds, the National Film Awards may end up doing more than crowning the year's best films; they may help build the audience for cinema that has, until now, rarely reached beyond its own region.

Courtesy- PIB Srinagar

Faith, Character, And Consent

Why Choosing Suitable Partner Is Getting Difficult For Valleyites



DR. FIAZ MAQBOOL FAZILI

Are Character (Akhlāq), Honesty, Caring, Milan saar and Good natured, Gentleness (sharafat) (spirituality (Deen) still as key criteria for selecting a spouse., or they are taking back foot

Marriage is a sacred institution that plays a pivotal role in the social and spiritual fabric of life. In Islam, choosing a marital spouse is a lifetime and lifestyle decision of great importance, one that should be made with wisdom, sincerity, and faith-based principles. In Islam, the right of a woman to choose her marriage partner is firmly established, emphasising her consent as a cornerstone of a valid marriage. Contrary to misconceptions, Islam grants both men and women the right to choose their partners, ensuring that consent is a fundamental component of a valid marriage.

However, while religious teachings provide clear guidance on choosing a spouse, societal norms and cultural expectations can sometimes lead to confusion or pressure, influencing individuals in ways that may not align with Islamic values. This essay explores the key criteria for choosing a spouse, the misconceptions surrounding freedom of choice, and the societal and religious perspectives that impact this decision. Additionally, it delves into the importance of safety—both emotional and physical—when selecting a life partner.

Key criteria for choosing a spouse, especially by followers of the faith Islam in a materialistic era like today, are pushed as the next priority. Islamic teachings emphasise specific qualities that should be prioritised when selecting a spouse. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "A woman is married for four things: her wealth, her lineage, her beauty, and her religion. Choose the one who is

religious; may you be blessed." (Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim) This hadith highlights that while people may consider various factors when choosing a spouse, the most important criterion should be faith (deen). Below are key aspects that Islam emphasises: Faith and Spirituality (Deen): A strong connection to faith ensures that both partners share similar values, beliefs, and life goals. A person with a firm religious foundation is more likely to uphold justice, kindness, and responsibility in marriage. Good Character (Akhlāq): Character defines how a person treats their spouse and others around them. Qualities such as honesty, patience, respect, and humility contribute to a stable and loving marriage. A successful marriage is built on trust, which requires both partners to be truthful, honest and dependable. Deception or dishonesty of any kind can lead to instability and emotional distress.

Compatibility: While faith is the most critical factor, compatibility in lifestyle, values, and long-term goals enhances mutual understanding and happiness in marriage. Compatibility in marriage goes beyond faith—it extends to lifestyle, values, personality, mindset, attitude and long-term goals, fostering mutual understanding and happiness. No two individuals, not even identical twins, share identical behaviours and attitudes. Differences are inevitable, making compromise, tolerance, coexistence, and sacrifice essential for a lasting relationship. Resilience helps couples navigate challenges, ensuring love and respect remain intact. To sustain and nurture a successful marriage, one must set aside egos and materialistic concerns, prioritising emotional connection and mutual growth. Just as a well-fitted pair of shoes brings comfort, a relationship thrives when both partners adjust and walk together in harmony.

Family Considerations and Support: While Islam allows individual choice, it also encourages considering family opinions. A spouse who respects their partner's family is more likely to foster a harmonious relationship. Sadly, there is a haughtiness of "tribes", sects and certain families' erroneous belief of privileged ones, especially whose family name ends with the letter "I". Financial and Emotional Stability: A potential spouse should be emotionally mature and capable of fulfilling their responsibilities, ensuring



that the marriage is not burdened with undue hardship.

Misconceptions About Freedom of Choice in Marriage: Freedom ≠ Western Dating Culture; One of the most common misconceptions is equating the Islamic approach to marriage with restrictive or forced marriages. However, Islam upholds the freedom of choice while providing guidelines to ensure a successful and righteous union. Islamic freedom in marriage does not mean unrestricted relationships or casual dating. Instead, it promotes a structured approach where interactions are conducted within ethical boundaries to ensure mutual respect and dignity.

Parental Consent vs. Forced Marriage: Islam encourages parental guidance but strictly prohibits forced marriages. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) annulled a marriage in which a woman was married without her consent, reaffirming her right to choose (Sunan Abu Dawood).

Cultural Pressures vs. Islamic Teachings: In some cultures, marriage decisions are influenced by wealth, social status, or tribal affiliations rather than faith and character. Such practices contradict Islamic teachings, which prioritise righteousness over materialistic concerns.

Societal Norms and Their Impact on Choosing a Spouse: Societal expectations often shape how individuals perceive marriage. Some cultural norms align with Islamic teachings, while others create obstacles that contradict faith-based principles. Below are some societal factors affecting marriage choices: Materialism and Status: Many societies place undue emphasis on financial status, leading individuals to prioritise wealth over character. This can result in relationships that lack genuine compatibility and spiritual connection. Unrealistic

Beauty Standards: Social media and mainstream culture often promote superficial beauty standards, leading individuals to prioritise appearance over faith and values. This can divert attention from what truly sustains a marriage—character and compatibility. Family Expectations: While parental approval is important, excessive family pressure can lead to forced or compromised choices. Islam encourages balance—seeking family support while ensuring that the final decision aligns with Islamic principles. Fear of Social Judgement: Some individuals make marital decisions based on societal approval rather than personal compatibility. This can lead to unhappy marriages where expectations are met for external validation rather than genuine partnership.

Ensuring Safety in Choosing a Marital Spouse: Marriage should be a source of security, love, and companionship. Ensuring safety—both emotionally and physically—is crucial when selecting a life partner. Here are some key considerations: Background Checks and Family Inquiry: Islam encourages investigating a potential spouse's background to ensure they possess good character and intentions. Seeking information from reliable sources, such as family and community members, can help in making an informed decision. Observing Behaviour in Different Settings: A person's behaviour in social settings, with family and friends, especially where opinions differ (small fights) and under stress, reveals much about their character. If someone exhibits aggression, dishonesty, or disrespect, these are warning signs that should not be ignored.

Open and Honest Communication: Before marriage, both individuals with the consent of parents should discuss within permissible limits of sharia the key

aspects of life, including faith, family expectations, financial responsibilities, and personal goals. Transparency minimises misunderstandings later in marriage. This one action has proved successful in maintaining a successful relationship.

Recognising Red Flags: Some behaviours indicate potential danger in a relationship, including: Controlling or manipulative tendencies; Disrespect towards family or elders; History of substance abuse, dishonesty or violence illegal relationships (living or otherwise) Refusal to communicate openly, hiding some adverse information (health or other) which can affect marital bondages.

Involving Trusted Elders or Advisors: Seeking advice from knowledgeable and trustworthy elders or religious scholars always provides valuable insights into making the right choice.

Spiritual Guidance and Prayer (Istikhara): Seeking divine guidance through prayer (Salat al-Istikhara) is an essential step in making a wise marital decision. Placing trust in Allah ensures that the choice is made with sincerity and faith.

Choosing a marital spouse is a significant decision that requires a balance of faith, wisdom, and personal conviction. Islam provides clear guidance on the qualities to seek in a spouse—faith, character, honesty, and compatibility—while also emphasising the importance of individual choice and consent. Societal norms should be evaluated critically, ensuring that cultural expectations do not override religious principles. Furthermore, prioritising safety in selecting a partner is essential to fostering a secure and fulfilling marriage. Open communication, background verification, and spiritual guidance help ensure a successful union. By adhering to Islamic teachings and making informed choices, individuals can build marriages that are rooted in love, trust, and long-term harmony. Ultimately, choosing a spouse wisely is not just about finding a life partner but about building a relationship that aligns with one's faith, values, and long-term aspirations. By placing trust in Allah and following the principles of Islam, one can ensure a marriage that brings peace, joy, and spiritual growth.

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■ The Duty To Doubt

Who Does Journalism Serve?



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

In today's times, it's becoming more difficult than ever to distinguish between a journalist and a propagandist. The number of news outlets has increased, sources of information have expanded, and social media has given everyone a platform to express their views. But amidst this expansion, a serious question has arisen about the fundamental role of journalism: is journalism still a medium for questioning power, or is it becoming part of political and ideological factions? This question is not limited to any one person, organisation, channel, or ideology. The question of journalism's credibility in a democracy is much broader than this.

Today, the media is often accused of dividing journalism into two distinct camps. One camp appears to defend almost every policy, decision, and statement of the ruling party, while the other finds fault or flaw in almost every move by the ruling party. Both have their own audiences, readers, and supporters. Both have their own arguments, and both have their own ideological following. The problem isn't whether a journalist criticizes or supports a particular policy. The problem arises when a journalist's role is limited to supporting or opposing a political party.

The job of journalism is to stand up to power and question it. In a democracy, power isn't the private right of any one party, leader, or government. Power is a responsibility bestowed by

the people, and journalism is an important means of public oversight of that responsibility. Therefore, a journalist's primary responsibility should not be to any party, leader, or ideology, but to facts, the Constitution, democratic institutions, and the public interest.

This is why asking questions is the most important task in journalism. When the government makes a decision, the questions should be why it was made, what is its purpose, who will benefit from it, who will suffer its losses, how much public money will be spent on it, and how will its consequences be measured. Similarly, when the opposition makes a claim, the questions should be: what are the facts behind that claim, what is its basis, whether it has any alternative proposals, and how practical are its promises. The yardstick for questioning should be facts and public interest, not individuals or parties.

The biggest challenge facing journalism today isn't just political pressure. Another challenge is equally serious—viewer and reader preferences. People often want to hear only what confirms their preconceived notions. This puts pressure on media organizations to produce content that resonates with their target audience. This is where the line between journalism and propaganda begins to blur.

The purpose of propaganda is to create public opinion in favor of an idea, person, or system. The purpose of journalism is to inform the public based on available facts and raise relevant questions. The difference between the two is not always evident in words, but in the methodology of work. In journalism, it is important to verify sources, verify claims, examine context, and provide relevant parties with an opportunity to present their views. Conversely, when conclusions are predetermined and facts are selected solely to support them, the credibility of journalism is bound to be questioned.

A journalist can make mistakes. A



fact may be misreported, or a story may be missing context. But the hallmark of credible journalism is correcting mistakes when they arise, rechecking sources, and constantly introspecting on one's reporting. Fairness also doesn't mean presenting both sides of an issue as equally valid. If one claim has strong facts to support it, while another lacks, a journalist's responsibility is to present the facts in the same proportion. Balance cannot mean giving equal weight to truth and falsehood.

Similarly, questioning the government does not imply opposition. In a democracy, questioning is not opposition but a process of democratic accountability. It is natural for the public to question a government that makes decisions in their name. Unfortunately, today, journalists are often identified less by their questions and more by their perceived political leanings. If a journalist asks a question to the government, they are labeled as belonging to the opposition camp. If

they present facts in support of a government decision, they are labeled as a supporter. Thus, the journalist's question becomes less discussed and more discussed about their perceived loyalty.

This situation is a challenge not only for journalism but also for democracy. A healthy media system should include both criticism of the government and factual reporting of its good work. The opposition's shortcomings should also be questioned, and their legitimate questions should also be given space. A journalist's job is not to appease any party but to empower citizens to reach their own conclusions by providing them with more information. The value of journalism should not be determined by who is pleased or displeased by its news but by how reliable and verified information it presents to the public.

Therefore, the path of unbiased journalism is not easy. The government may be displeased. The opposition may also be displeased. Advertisers may be uncomfortable. Social media crowds

may criticize, and their own readers or viewers may express disagreement. Yet, the true test of journalism occurs when a journalist has to publish facts that contradict their own comfortable perspectives. If a journalist only asks questions whose answers please their own supporters, they are bound to face the question of introspection.

Journalism means neither subservience to power nor loyalty to the opposition. Neither propaganda nor vengeance. Neither blind devotion to an ideology nor opposition for the sake of opposition. The fundamental foundation of journalism is facts, questions, context, and public interest. Democracy needs journalists who can question the government, question the opposition, verify their sources, and have the courage to question their own assumptions.

Because a journalist's job isn't to change power. Elections are a public right, and the decision to change or maintain power rests with the voter. A journalist's job is different. Their job is to ask the ruling party what they did, why they did it, for whom, and who will bear responsibility for the consequences. Similarly, their responsibility is to ask the opposition the basis of its allegations and promises.

In a democracy, a journalist should neither be a friend nor an enemy of power. They should be a medium for public questioning. Only when journalists ask questions, examine documents, verify claims, and demand answers from both the ruling party and the opposition does journalism fulfill its democratic role. And when journalists stop asking questions, the sources of information remain abundant, but journalism gradually diminishes. After all, the true identity of journalism lies not in siding with any camp, but in the courage to question every camp.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

■ India At The UN

The Case For A New Global Equilibrium



DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The United Nations is once again witnessing a world in search of a new equilibrium. Wars and geopolitical tensions, disruptions in supply chains, economic uncertainty, climate shocks, technological transformation and growing pressure on international institutions have made the global order increasingly complex. Against this backdrop, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has carried a message to New York that goes beyond the conventional vocabulary of diplomacy. It is a message about a changing world, a changing Global South and the need for a more representative international system. Jaishankar was scheduled to address the high-level General Debate of the 81st United Nations General Assembly on September 26. Until that formal address, his interventions during the UNGA week have already outlined several of the central themes of India's position. India's Permanent Mission to the UN has identified multilateralism, development, South-South cooperation, peaceful coexistence and shared prosperity as important priorities for the current session.

The first message is unmistakable: the existing global order needs reform. Speaking at the inaugural Partners for Multilateralism, International Law, Peace and Prosperity summit in New York, Jaishankar argued for stronger multilateralism at a time when geopolitical competition and conflict are placing international cooperation under pressure. He emphasised more participatory deliberations, transparency and respect for international law and rules. This is an important distinction. India is not questioning the idea of multilateralism; it is questioning whether present institutions adequately represent contemporary realities. The United Nations was created in 1945, when the political and economic structure of the world was very different. Asia, Africa and Latin America have since undergone enormous demographic, economic and political transformations. Yet the



architecture of global decision-making has not evolved at the same pace. India therefore wants a system in which representation corresponds more closely to present-day realities.

The second message concerns the Global South. At a high-level meeting of like-minded Global South countries and friends on the sidelines of the UNGA, Jaishankar described developing countries as being in the "front row" of global crises but the "back row" of decision-making. He pointed to conflicts, geopolitical tensions, disrupted supply chains, trade barriers, fragmented investment flows, climate shocks and pressure on international rules as elements of the present uncertainty. The phrase captures a central Indian diplomatic argument. Developing countries often experience the consequences of international crises without possessing proportionate influence over the decisions that produce or manage those crises. A rise in fuel prices, for example, can have consequences for transport, food prices and household expenditure in countries far removed from the original geopolitical dispute. Similarly, disruptions in fertiliser supplies can directly affect agricultural economies.

This leads to Jaishankar's third message: the world needs safeguards against the economic consequences of geopolitical rivalry. At the Partners for Multilateralism summit, he referred to the interconnected problems of fuel, food, fertiliser and finance—the "4F" crisis—and called for international guardrails. He also advocated diversified and more resilient supply chains.

The importance of this argument extends beyond economics. Globalisa-

tion created highly interconnected production and distribution systems, but excessive concentration of production and resources can create vulnerabilities. A conflict, sanction, shipping disruption or sudden policy change in one part of the world can affect consumers and producers elsewhere. India's advocacy of supply-chain diversification is therefore connected with its broader concept of strategic autonomy. Strategic autonomy does not necessarily mean isolation. Rather, it implies having sufficient choices so that dependence on any single source does not become a strategic vulnerability. The fourth message is about the United Nations Security Council.

India has for decades sought permanent membership of the Security Council. During the present UNGA, Jaishankar has continued to connect the question of UN reform with the broader issue of representation. India has also received fresh support for its permanent-membership aspiration from the four Visegrád countries, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia—during their meeting with Jaishankar in New York. The issue is not merely India's national ambition. It reflects the wider question of whether the Security Council adequately represents the contemporary international system. Reform discussions have acquired greater urgency because the UN's ability to respond effectively to major conflicts has repeatedly been questioned. India has argued that the Global South requires stronger representation in institutions that make decisions affecting international peace and security. The fifth message is that India wants to function as a bridge

rather than merely as a bloc.

India's foreign policy increasingly involves simultaneous engagement with different power centres. It maintains relationships with the United States and Europe while remaining engaged with Russia and other major powers. It participates in the G20, BRICS, the Quad and numerous regional and plurilateral arrangements. Its UN diplomacy similarly stresses dialogue across political divisions. This approach becomes particularly relevant in a period of strategic competition. The world is not divided into two rigid ideological blocs as it was during the Cold War. Instead, multiple centres of power coexist, cooperate in some areas and compete in others. India's diplomacy seeks room for independent choices within this complex environment.

The sixth message concerns development. India's UN agenda continues to place the developmental needs of the Global South near the centre of its multilateral diplomacy. The Permanent Mission of India has specifically highlighted South-South cooperation and development as core priorities for the 81st UNGA. It has also identified climate initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Global Biofuels Alliance as areas through which India seeks to contribute to international cooperation.

This development-orientated diplomacy also changes the meaning of India's global role. India does not present itself only as an emerging major power seeking influence. It also presents itself as a developing country that understands the constraints confronting other developing countries. Technology forms another part of this changing diplomatic landscape. Artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure and emerging technologies are becoming central to economic competitiveness and national security. During the current UNGA week, India has participated in discussions involving AI, including its trilateral engagement with France and the United Arab Emirates.

The challenge is to ensure that technological progress does not create another permanent division between technologically advanced economies and countries that merely consume imported technologies. For India, digital public infrastructure and technological cooperation can become instruments of development as well as strategic capacity. There is, finally, a philosophical dimension to India's message.

The international order cannot survive indefinitely on power alone. Nor can it function effectively through institutions that lack legitimacy in the eyes of large sections of the international community. Rules become meaningful when countries believe that they are fairly formulated and consistently applied.

That is why Jaishankar's emphasis on international law, transparency, reform and participation is significant. It places India's argument within a larger debate about legitimacy rather than simply national power. The world watching New York is therefore listening for more than a conventional statement of foreign policy. It is listening for an Indian interpretation of a rapidly changing international system. When Jaishankar speaks formally before the UN General Debate on September 26, the context will already have been established through these interventions. India has argued that the Global South needs greater representation, that multilateral institutions require reform, that economic shocks need collective safeguards, that supply chains must become more resilient and that international cooperation remains essential despite geopolitical rivalry.

The ultimate message is neither isolationist nor interventionist. It is a call for greater agency, representation and strategic choice within a cooperative international system. The world order is changing. The central question is whether its institutions will change with it. India's voice through Jaishankar at the United Nations is essentially asking the international community to recognise that a twenty-first-century world cannot indefinitely be governed by institutions designed for a twentieth-century balance of power.

The future of multilateralism will depend on whether the UN can become more representative, more transparent and more capable of responding to the crises that affect ordinary people across continents. On September 26, Jaishankar's formal address will provide the clearest expression of India's position. But even before that speech, New Delhi had placed one proposition firmly on the global diplomatic table: India seeks not merely a place in the changing world order but a greater role for the Global South in shaping it.

Author is International Tagore Awardee. He can be mailed at prftratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

Mandeep Bhandari appointed CBSE chairperson

AGENCIES



SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Friday appointed Mandeep K Bhandari as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

A 2001-batch IAS officer, Bhandari, is presently serving as Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

He has held several key administrative positions during his career in the Union Territory—(KNO)

26 yrs on, CHC Thanamandi still awaits 24 posts, finance nod pending

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Over 26 years after the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Thanamandi in Rajouri was upgraded to a Community Health Centre (CHC), the institution is still awaiting the creation of 24 additional posts proposed to strengthen its manpower.

The issue came up in the Assembly in response to a question raised by Thanamandi MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan regarding the availability of doctors and paramedical staff in health institutions in the area.

In its reply, the Health and Medical Education Department, said PHC Thanamandi was upgraded to a CHC in 1999 through Government Order No. 30-HME of 1999 dated February 2, 1999.

The department said a proposal for the creation of 24 posts across various categories on a bare-minimum basis has been submitted to the Finance Depart-

ment. The proposal carries an annual financial implication of Rs 225.76 lakh, and approval is still awaited.

The MLA had also sought details about staffing deficiencies at health institutions in Thanamandi and adjoining areas, including PHCs Dodasan, Lah, Manjakote and Gambhir Mughlan, besides NTPHC Dhoke.

The government said doctors are currently available at PHC Manjakote and PHC Gambhir Mughlan and added that the department is continuously monitoring staffing at peripheral health institutions.

It stated that vacancies, wherever they exist, would be filled shortly in view of the availability of a fresh selection list of 416 Medical Officers. Appointment orders have already been issued to 335 Medical Officers, who are being posted on priority to peripheral, far-flung and underserved health institu-

tions facing acute shortages, subject to the availability of sanctioned vacant posts.

On paramedical and non-gazetted staff shortages, the government said 292 vacant posts under Family Welfare, MCH and Immunisation programmes across J&K, along with 290 vacant non-gazetted and paramedical posts under the Directorate of Health Services Jammu, have been referred to the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for recruitment.

It added that recruitment for various other posts, including paramedical categories under the Health and Medical Education Department, is also underway through the JKSSB.

Additionally, 839 non-gazetted posts and 261 MTS/Class-IV posts in Jammu Division are under examination in the Administrative Department and are proposed to be referred to the JKSSB after obtaining the required concurrence from the Finance Department.—(KNO)

No Specific Plan For Restoration Of Degraded Karewas In J&K: Govt

NAVEED UL HAQ

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that no specific action plan has been formulated exclusively for the restoration and ecological rejuvenation of degraded Karewas in Jammu and Kashmir or the Chadoora constituency.

The information was provided by the Mining Department in response to a question raised by Chadoora MLA Ali Mohammad Dar regarding restoration and ecological rejuvenation of degraded Karewas and environmental compensation in cases of unauthorised mineral extraction.

The department, as reported, said mineral extraction in Karewa areas is regulated under the J&K Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016, along

with other applicable statutory guidelines. It said district survey reports prepared as per guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are also taken into consideration.

The government further stated that measures are being undertaken to prevent unauthorised mining, with enforcement teams and agencies taking punitive action under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 in cases of violations.

However, it said that while there is no exclusive restoration plan for degraded Karewas, every mineral concession holder is required to undertake restoration, reclamation and rehabilitation of land affected by mining and complete the work before abandoning the mine.

On environmental compensation, the department said Rs 7.46 lakh and Rs 8.33 lakh had

been imposed on lease holders of e-auctioned Mineral Blocks 11 and 12 through NGT orders dated March 15, 2024. The department noted that the order was subsequently stayed by the Supreme Court on May 15, 2024.

The government also said Rs 1 crore in environmental compensation had been imposed in connection with illegal mining in Doodh-ganga Nallah through an order dated March 15, 2022. The amount was utilised for restoration works in Doodh-ganga and Mathan Kull.

Separately, Rs 3.10 crore in environmental compensation was imposed on NKC Projects Pvt. Ltd. for violations of environmental clearance conditions during extraction from Shaliganga Nallah. The issue has also been raised in the Assembly in connection with mining-related environmental violations in the Chadoora area.—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LoP Sharma Says

using the statehood issue to divert attention from governance-related concerns.

“The BJP is prepared for a discussion on statehood but will oppose bringing Article 370 and autonomy into the debate. If you want to debate statehood, we are ready to debate,” Sharma said—(KNO)

J&K Assembly

meaning this is more than a common promise,” Abdullah said.

He asked then why is it not being fulfilled? Abdullah said the LoP makes some statement over statehood every second or third day, and so, the government thought it is better to discuss the issue in the assembly.

He claimed files of the Power Development Corporation and SKIMS do not reach the elected government.

Referring to the wording in the intro — the reference to the autonomy resolution — Abdullah said the reference was put so as not to provide opportunity to anyone to “misinterpret it”.

“If we hadn’t initially written it, some of our friends might have said, we have abandoned the rest, and come to just statehood. So, we are saying that those resolutions have their place. This resolution neither abrogates them, nor subjugates them, nor ignores them,” he added.

On speculation about full restoration, he said, “This is what we hear every now and then: we will get half a state, we will get a quarter state, we will get a state without law and order. Sir, we don’t want that kind of state. We were promised a full state, and we want the full state back.”

As he finished his remarks, BJP members stood on their feet and protested.

BJP’s Balwant Singh Mankotia said the government was not discussing issues of the people “but wants to discuss autonomy”.

NC and Congress MLAs also stood on their feet and chanted slogans including “apna haq leke rahenge”, “Jo statehood na desake, woh sarkar nikami hai”, and “cheen ke lenge apna haq”.

Mankotia responded saying “Jammu Kashmir ke logon ke dushman hi hi”.

The BJP members also raised slogans like “autonomy resolution nahin chalega”, “jo Kashmir hamara hai woh saare ka saare hai”, “Jahan huwe balidan Mukherji, woh Kashmir hamara hai”, “Ali Baba ke challis chor”, and Bharat mata ki jai”.

As the pandemonium continued, the Speaker adjourned the House for half an hour. After the House resumed, the BJP continued with its protest. The Speaker told them that a discussion on the resolution will take place on Monday.

BJP’s R S Pathania asked the Speaker under which rule was the resolution allowed.

Jumping into the arguments, minister Sakina Itoo asked the BJP members under which law were Article 370 and statehood “taken away”.

BJP members again stormed into the Well and shouted slogans like “anti-national agenda nahin chalega”.

In between, the PDP members raised placards demanding restoration of Article 370.

As the melee continued, BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa tried to grab a chair but he was marshalled out.

The Speaker then adjourned the House for the day due to Friday prayers.

Speaking to reporters outside the House, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said BJP won’t allow a debate or admission on autonomy or Article 370.

MeT Predicts

harvesting apples and paddy and carrying out other farm operations.

It has, however, advised safe storage of harvested crops during September 27-28 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 27.9 degrees Celsius on Friday, 0.9 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 12.4 degrees Celsius, 1.4 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 26.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.4 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded 22.6 degrees Celsius and 7.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum temperature of 28.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10 degrees Celsius. Koker-nag recorded 25.6 degrees Celsius and 9.2 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 18.4 degrees Celsius and 5.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 31.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 22.6 degrees Celsius.

Katra recorded a maximum of 29.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 19.4 degrees Celsius, while Banihal recorded 26.6 degrees Celsius and 10.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Batote recorded a maximum temperature of 25.3 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 14.3 degrees Celsius, while Bhadarwah recorded 26 degrees Celsius and 9.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

No rainfall was recorded at Srinagar, Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Koker-nag, Gulmarg, Banihal, Batote, Katra or Bhadarwah during the period from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, while Jammu recorded 1 mm of rainfall during the period—(KNO)

Army Chief Reviews

individuals who needed these surgeries the most. I commend everyone for their dedication to that effort,” he said.

The camp was led by Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Head of Ophthalmology at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantonment. His team carried advanced equipment for phacoemulsification, vitreoretinal and glaucoma procedures to the border area.

Patients from several LoC villages were screened before the camp, with the Indian Army facilitating their movement, treatment and post-operative care.

The 11th camp in the series is scheduled to be held in Srinagar from September 27 to 29, while the formal closing ceremony is scheduled for September 30 and will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha—(KNO)

50% Representation

for consideration and approval, the government said the position was “same as above”.

On measures being taken to ensure a fair and equitable balance between reserved and Open Merit categories in recruitment and admissions, the government said appropriate measures were being taken.

It said the Cabinet Sub-Committee was constituted to address grievances raised by different stakeholders and rationalise reservation quotas across all categories.

The government reiterated that the committee, constituted under Government Order No. 2061-JK (GAD) of 2024 dated December 10, 2024, examined the existing reservation structure in detail and submitted its report/recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

“The recommendations thereafter stand submitted to the Competent Authority,” the government said—(KNO)

J&K Eyes Revenue

well-defined Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure seamless implementation across the Union Territory.

He directed CITaG to organise a specialised capacity-building workshop for all concerned departments to familiarise officers with carbon accounting, data standards and their respective implementation responsibilities.

Emphasising technology-driven monitoring and transparency, the Chief Secretary suggested exploring collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) for developing an integrated digital monitoring platform and carbon registry.

During the deliberations, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, highlighted the immense potential of J&K’s agriculture, hydropower and forestry sectors in generating carbon credits and attracting green investments.

He asked CITaG to prioritise these sectors while also incorporating emerging opportunities arising from rooftop solar installations under PM Surya Ghar Yojana and the growing adoption of electric vehicles across the Union Territory.

The ACS Finance also advocated the early establishment of a dedicated Green Fund to pool carbon proceeds and green revenues, safeguard their utilisation and leverage these resources for financing future climate-resilient development initiatives.

Earlier, the presentation by CITaG highlighted the considerable untapped potential of J&K’s ecological assets, observing that the Union Territory has yet to generate revenue from global carbon markets despite substantial investments in environmentally sustainable activities.

Citing successful initiatives elsewhere, the meeting was informed that BMC has earned 27 crore, Gujarat 22 crore, Indore Municipal Corporation 8.34 crore and Himachal Pradesh 20 crore through carbon credit monetisation and similar initiatives.

The proposed framework envisages integrating carbon screening into existing development programmes, including CAMPA, MGNREGS and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), to maximise environmental and financial returns while avoiding duplication of expenditure.

The meeting also deliberated on a proposed revenue-sharing mechanism under which 35 percent of net carbon proceeds would accrue directly to primary growers or community project owners, 30 percent to the J&K Green Fund, 15 percent to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and aggregators, and 10 percent each to district-level climate initiatives and sector-specific sustainability accounts.

Another key proposal discussed was

the introduction of a Green Tourism Contribution to mobilise resources for climate resilience and environmental conservation at major tourist destinations.

The meeting also considered a 180-day implementation roadmap involving a comprehensive inventory of green assets, identification and execution of five to seven priority pilot projects across Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations, agriculture and forestry sectors, and establishment of a secure digital repository for project-related data.

The proposed initiatives are intended to establish a sustainable institutional and financial mechanism for translating J&K’s environmental assets and climate-positive investments into measurable economic benefits for local communities and the Union Territory.

J&K Recognised As

National Health Authority and other dignitaries.

The achievement is the result of the collective efforts of SHA J&K, Chief Medical Officers, district teams, frontline health workers and field functionaries across the UT. Their continued efforts at the district and grassroots levels have helped ensure that frontline workers are covered with Ayushman Cards and are able to avail the benefits associated with the scheme.

The recognition is a proud moment for the teams working across Jammu & Kashmir and adds further momentum to the ongoing efforts of SHA J&K to strengthen AB-PMJAY SEHAT and ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach people across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

No Applications

Jammu and Kashmir could apply under the scheme through the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and/or the Information Department, while eligible cases from the Union Territory could be forwarded with due recommendation.

On district-wise details of applications received, funds sanctioned and financial assistance released during the last five financial years, the government said the JWS-2023 was not specific to Jammu and Kashmir.

“No such application has been received by the Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K under the JWS-2023 for recommendation to the MoB,” it said.

On extending welfare benefits to non-accredited and digital-media journalists, the government said the existing scheme already covered accredited and non-accredited journalists, including freelancers, and their families in cases of extreme hardship.

The government also said that no dedicated and non-lapsable welfare fund for journalists currently exists in Jammu and Kashmir.

It said statutory obligations concerning service conditions, wages, gratuity, provident fund, employment injury insurance and medical care of employed journalists rested primarily with employers or media houses under applicable laws.

On establishing a dedicated J&K Journalists Welfare Fund, the government said it would require finalisation of the corpus and funding pattern, eligibility and income criteria, institutional mechanisms for administration and concurrence of the Finance Department.

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Govt intensifies Agriculture, Irrigation, Market-linkage interventions in Lolab: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is implementing a comprehensive package of schemes and interventions to strengthen agriculture and allied activities, irrigation, mechanization, post-harvest management and market linkages in Lolab Constituency of Kupwara district.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA Qaysar Jamshaid Lone in the House today .

Javid Dar said that Lolab constitutes an important Agricultural belt of Kupwara district, with agriculture and horticulture plantations spread over approximately 9,134 hectares. Of this, 4,320.44 hectares (47 per cent) are irrigated, while 4,813.6 hectares (53 per cent) are unirrigated, besides around 1,213 hectares classified as uncultivable.

He said the Government has established a dedicated field-level departmental structure in the area, including the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Office at Sogam, to ensure effective implementation of agricultural schemes and delivery of extension services to farmers.

The Minister stated that the Agriculture Department is implementing various Central Sector, Centrally



Sponsored and UT Government schemes in Lolab, with particular emphasis on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), J&K Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Seed Village Programme, farm mechanization, protected cultivation, natural farming and allied-sector activities.

Highlighting the impact of HADP, Javid Dar said that the programme represents a collaborative approach involving farmers, scientists, academicians, policy-makers and administrators, aimed at bringing transformative changes in the agriculture sector through technology, innovation, diversification and value addition.

He informed the House that, as of August 2026, approximately 4,226 units under HADP/CAPEX had been approved and established in Lolab, with financial assistance of around ₹269.88 lakh. The subdivision also has 28 functional

Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) and 28 Krishi Udyamis (KUs), providing localized support and services to farmers.

On JKCIP, the Minister said that the project is focused on improving the competitiveness and climate resilience of farming operations through a value-chain approach encompassing production, value addition and marketing of high-value commodities. During 2025-26, 127 JKCIP units were established in Sogam block, with financial assistance of around ₹15.75 lakh.

He further informed the Assembly that ₹33.62 lakh had been provided to 1,867 beneficiaries under PM-KISAN, while ₹37.44 lakh had been extended to 422 beneficiaries under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The Minister said that the Government is providing support to farmers through a wide range of interventions, including quality seed production and replacement, demonstrations, farmer training, subsidized farm machinery, Custom Hiring Centres and Farm Machinery Banks, soil testing and Soil Health Cards, natural farming, protected cultivation, irrigation development, water conservation and efficient water-use practices.

He added that interventions under MIDH and horticulture schemes are also being utilized for orchard development, quality planting material, protected cultivation and post-harvest

management, while allied-sector schemes are promoting dairy, sheep and goat rearing, poultry, apiculture, mushroom cultivation and fisheries as additional sources of rural income.

On irrigation and infrastructure, Javid Dar said that the Government intends to strengthen irrigation, water harvesting, storage, grading, sorting, packaging, processing and other post-harvest facilities in Lolab through convergence of ongoing schemes and programmes, including CAPEX, NABARD, SACS, PMC, HADP, MIDH and JKCIP, subject to scheme guidelines and availability of funds.

He said that priority is being accorded to the improvement and restoration of irrigation infrastructure, promotion of drip and sprinkler irrigation, water conservation and efficient utilization of available water resources.

The Minister further stated that efforts are being made to strengthen FPOs and market linkages to facilitate aggregation, value addition, post-harvest management and better marketing of farm and horticultural produce.

Emphasizing the Government's focus on improving farmers' livelihoods, Javid Dar said that convergence of agriculture, horticulture and allied-sector schemes is being pursued to increase productivity, reduce cultivation and post-harvest losses, improve market access and enhance farm incomes.

DC Anantnag reviews ATR on stray dog issue

Calls for effective implementation of Supreme Court directions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Friday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) to review the Action Taken Report (ATR) and the measures being undertaken by various departments for prevention of dog bites, stray dog management, sterilization and vaccination.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, ARTO, Chief Education Officer, District Informatics Officer, NIC, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Anantnag, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, representatives from various departments and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Action Taken Report of the concerned departments and took stock of the measures being implemented for prevention of dog bites, stray dog management, sterilization and vaccination. He directed all concerned officers to ensure effective and time-bound implementation of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and subsequent GAD instructions. He stressed that all departments must accord due priority to the issue and ensure regular monitoring and inspection of vulnerable and important

locations.

Dr. Bilal instructed the departments to prepare a comprehensive inventory of their infrastructure, including government buildings, hospitals, schools, colleges and other public institutions, and ensure that such premises are adequately secured through proper fencing, boundary walls and gates. He further directed that gaps identified during inspections be incorporated in the relevant departmental plans for necessary action.

The Deputy Commissioner further called for identification of suitable land and buildings at feasible locations for establishment of animal shelters/kennels in the district. He stressed the need for adequate infrastructure for housing and managing dogs undergoing sterilization and other related activities.

Reviewing the availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccines (ARV), the DC directed the health authorities to maintain adequate and uninterrupted stocks of ARV at healthcare institutions across the district so that dog-bite victims receive timely treatment.

The DC directed the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer to undertake the Animal Birth Control/sterilization programme on a regular basis and constitute dedicated veterinary teams for the purpose. He stressed that adequate veterinary manpower, equipment and teams should be deployed to ensure accelerated focus on sterilization and stray dog management in accordance with the SOPs and approved procedures.

DLSA Pulwama organises Awareness Programme on NALSA Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama organised an awareness programme on the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness & Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, with the objective of strengthening awareness regarding the legal rights, entitlements and access to free legal services for persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities.

During the programme, participants were sensitised about the provisions of the Scheme, the importance of legal aid and the role of Legal Services Authorities in ensuring equal access to justice for vulnerable and

disadvantaged persons. Emphasis was laid on protecting the dignity, rights and interests of persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities and ensuring that they are not deprived of legal representation or other available legal remedies.

The resource person Advocate Masood Ahmad Magery, Panel lawyer highlighted the various mechanisms available through DLSA/TLSCs for seeking free legal aid, legal advice, assistance and representation, wherever required. The participants were also informed about the importance of identifying persons in need of legal assistance and facilitating their access to the appropriate legal services.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of

Haji Gh. Mohammad Wani,

R/o Tral Payeen,

who left for his heavenly abode on 25th September.

★

The Fateh Khwani will be held on Monday, 28th September, at Tral Payeen.

All relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to join us in offering Fateha and praying for the departed soul.

May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, forgive his shortcomings, and grant patience and strength to the bereaved family. Ameen.

★

Bereaved

Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Wani & Family

SRINAGAR MASTER PLAN

Salman Sagar moves resolution seeking denotification of Phaak, Harwan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Salman Sagar, Friday moved a resolution in the House seeking denotification of the Phaak area and Rural Block Harwan from the Srinagar Master Plan.

The Resolution reads, "This House resolves that the Phaak area

and Rural Block Harwan be denotified from the Srinagar Master Plan, thereby limiting the jurisdiction of Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) in the area and to regulate the predominantly rural area under applicable Panchayati Raj and Rural Development laws, and to withdraw unnecessary urban planning restrictions causing hardship to residents."

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I Nighat Kaisar intend to correct the name in my JK Bank passbook bearing account no. 0346040100017524 in which my name was wrongly recorded as Nighat Shabir while as my correct name is Nighat Kaisar. This needs to be rectified. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with Branch Manager JK Bank Branch Botashah Mohalla Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

E-NIT NO. 21 of 2026-27

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K U.T., e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on "Percentage basis" (Single Click) from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K U.T. Govt./ CPWD/Railways/Other Governments/ Union Territories for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Advt. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Amt in Rs)@3%	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	Major Head of Account	Tender Opening Authority
01.	C/o Crate bund from Eidgah to Hospital Bonpora Issoo, Block Achabal, Anantnag	3.98	11940/=	07 Days	DEE	300/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
02.	C/o Crate bund near Wagay Mohalla Issoo, Herpora Anantnag	2.00	6000/=	05 Days	DEE	200/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
03	C/ crate bund near H/O Gowhar Ahmad Mochi, Mohd Shafi Dar and others at Adbal Telwani.	3.89	11670/=	07 Days	DEE	300/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
04.	C/O Crate bund near land of Gh Nabi Ganie and others at Adbal Arpath Telwani	0.99	2970/=	04 Days	DEE	100/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
05.	C/O Crate Bund near Play field Tumbripora	1.99	5970/=	05 Days	DEE	200/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
06.	C/O Crate bund from H/O Ab. Majeed Lone. Mohd Amin Wani, Ashiq Hussian & Others Kulwin Pora Telwani.	0.99	2970/=	04 Days	DEE	100/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
07.	C/o Crate bund near H/O Mohd Ashraf Khan to Girls Middle School Telwani	1.50	4500/=	05 Days	DEE	150/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
08.	C/O Crate bund near H/o Manzoor Ahmad Lone Bakalpura Telwani	1.49	4470/=	06 Days	DEE	150/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
09.	C/O Crate bund near Adbal Stadium Crossing at Telwani	3.00	9000/=	06 Days	DEE	250/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer
10	Construction of Crate bund from peerpora Footbridge from the land of Mohd shaban Ganie & Miss Jana Begum Brakpora Achabal Anantnag	4.86	14580/=	07Days	DEE	300/=	CDF 44-Anantnag	Executive Engineer

Position of Funds:

Position of Administrative Approval: -

Position of Technical Sanction: -

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, set of terms and conditions, and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

Budgetary allocation 2026-27.

Accorded

Accorded

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	25-09-2026 at 14:00 PM
2	Date of start of downloading	25-09-2026 at 14:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial	25-09-2026 at 14:00 PM
4	Bid submission end date	01-10-2026 at 06:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	03-10-2026 at 11:00 AM

Terms and Conditions:

- Bids must be accompanied with proof of the cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (tender inviting authority). The name of the work shall be legible along with NIT number and item number neatly written on the face of TR. Any deficiency/ correction will lead to cancellation of the tender also the date of treasury challan should be in between the date of start of Bid and bid submission end date.
- The successful bidder shall have to submit the hardcopy of EMD/Performance Security @ 3 % in the shape of CDR/FDR and additional performance security in case of unbalanced bid duly uploaded, treasury challan and other allied documents.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.FCD/AG/2026/4273-95
Dated :- 24-09-2026

DIPK-6075-26
DT: 25/09/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer,
Flood Control Division Anantnag

Asian Games: With seven gold medals on debut: Zhang Zhanshuo makes history

IAN S

TOKYO: Moments after touching the wall in the men's 400m freestyle final on Friday, Zhang Zhanshuo surfaced, raised both hands and slowly counted from one to seven.

The 19-year-old Chinese swimmer had just completed his first Asian Games with seven gold medals. The Tokyo Aquatics Centre was filled with cheers. Zhang, however, appeared remarkably calm.

"I feel much calmer than I had imagined," Zhang said after winning the 400m freestyle in an Asian Games record of 3 minutes 41.28 seconds. "Of course, I'm very happy to win these seven gold medals, and I will turn them into greater motivation going forward."

The victory made Zhang the first swimmer to win seven gold medals at a single edition of the Asian Games. More significantly, his haul equalled the Games record for most gold medals won by an athlete at a single edition, a mark set by DPRK shooter So Gil-san in 1982.

For Chinese swimming, it was also a new benchmark, as Zhang surpassed the six-gold haul of teammate Zhang Yufei at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023. His seven titles came from a demanding mix of indi-



vidual and relay events: the men's 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m freestyle, the men's 4x100m and 4x200m freestyle relays, and the mixed 4x100m medley relay.

He won gold in seven of the eight events he entered, while setting an Asian record in the 200m freestyle. Games records in the 400m and 800m, and Asian records in the two men's freestyle relays, reports Xinhua.

But the seven medals did not change the way Zhang viewed the competition. Asked what had excited him most during the Games, he did not point to the medal ceremonies or the seven-gold haul. Instead, he recalled the instant he touched the wall.

"When I touched the wall and came out of the water, I looked back at the big screen and saw my time flashing, or the 'AR' mark," he said.

Then came the quiet count from one to seven. "It was a perfect finish to the Games," Zhang said.

The calmness was not a sign that Zhang considered his work finished. Quite the opposite, when asked about his ambitions for the Los Angeles Olympics, Zhang stressed that the Asian Games was not his ultimate goal.

"I need to settle down and face the gaps between myself and the world's best. The Asian Games is not my ultimate goal," he said.

And his next target is the world record. Zhang's 3:41.28 was just 1.25 seconds outside the world record, and he said breaking that mark would be one of his next goals over the coming two years. "I think that will be one of my next goals, and I will give my all to chase the world record," he said.

Delhi's initial Ranji games may happen in Palam due to major drainage revamp at Arun Jaitley Stadium

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Delhi's initial home matches in the 2026/27 Ranji Trophy season could be shifted to the Air Force Ground in Palam as the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) prepares to undertake a major overhaul of the drainage system at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The venue, which recently hosted three T20Is between India and Afghanistan earlier this month, will require an extended period of downtime once the civic work commences. "A proposal has been sent out to improve the drainage system at the venue. Right now, people concerned are waiting for the final approval.

"Let's be clear - this process needs time; in winter, it takes time for the grass to grow, and for this, proper sunshine is needed, and you can have an idea of it by seeing the weather in December and January," a source familiar with the matter told IANS on Friday.

Delhi, which kicks off their Elite Group C campaign against Bengal in Kalyani from October 11, have two scheduled home fixtures in the first phase - against Gujarat (October 18-21) and Services (November 2-5). Both



matches are now expected to take place at the Palam Air Force Ground.

"The upgradation in the drainage system will also lead to the soil-based outfield being converted into a sand-based one. The process will involve a lot of watering, and the invitation for tenders is expected to begin soon.

"People who have worked in upgrading drainage systems at other Test venues and are known to the BCCI are expected to be preferred for this work. A final confirmation is likely to come by the first week of October," added the source.

The timeline for the outfield work, initially understood to be of four months, could also cast doubt over New Delhi hosting the men's ODI between India and Sri Lanka, to be played on December 13.

Should the upgradation work and grass cultivation

face delays, the BCCI may have to look at an alternative venue for the match. Delhi will have a second-phase Ranji Trophy home game against Maharashtra, slated to be held from February 1 to 4.

Previously, former India wicketkeeper-batter Vijay Dahiya was appointed head coach of the Delhi men's domestic team for the 2026/27 season and will take over from Sarandeep Singh, who was on the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) and notably recommended his name for the role.

Former India pacer Parvinder Awana and Sanjeev Sharma join as bowling coaches, while Kshitiz Sharma and Kuldeep Rawat have been named assistant coaches. Rajkumar Sharma, Virat Kohli's childhood coach, has been appointed as the team mentor of all Delhi men's teams.

Gill suffers injury scare after being hit on elbow during net session ahead of first India-WI ODI

IAN S

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: India captain Shubman Gill has suffered a major injury scare on Friday after being struck on the right elbow by a rearing delivery from pacer Mohammed Siraj during a nets session ahead of the opening ODI against the West Indies, to be played on Sunday.

The incident occurred two days before the series opener at the Greenfield International Stadium when a length ball from Siraj climbed sharply and hit Gill flush on his elbow. The Indian skipper immediately dropped his bat and walked away writhing in pain, requiring medical attention from the team physiotherapist Kamlesh Jain for nearly 20 minutes.

A concerned Siraj and vet-



eran batter Virat Kohli, who was batting in an adjacent net, rushed to check on Gill. Gill appeared in considerable discomfort as he sat on the sidelines while the support staff strapped his arm.

Though he spent the

remainder of the evening recovering and did not return to bat, Gill was later seen sharing a light moment with young pacer Gurnoor Brar. With the first ODI to be played on Sunday, the Indian team management will keep a close eye on Gill's recovery. Notably, Gill had faced a similar fitness concern last month in Sri Lanka when he was struck on his ring finger during practice, though he recovered in time to play the full series, as India won 1-0.

Before the blow to his elbow, Gill looked in fine touch while batting alongside Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rituraj Gaikwad. Rohit and Kohli both logged extensive 20-minute sessions in the nets, facing a mix of national squad bowlers and local net options.

Historic clash against India was a massive learning curve, says Japan skipper Kadowaki-Fleming

IAN S

TOKYO: Reflecting on their historic T20I encounter against current T20 World Cup holders India, Japan captain Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming said his side displayed commendable confidence against a top-tier opponent, adding that it was a massive learning curve for his team.

At the same time, Kadowaki-Fleming felt there's an urgent need to expand grassroots programs across Japan to bridge the gap with elite cricketing nations. Japan played host to India for the very first time in international cricket through a commemorative match organized by the Japan Cricket Association (JCA) at the Sano Interna-

tional Cricket Ground in Tochigi Prefecture to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

The landmark match, which saw tickets sell out within hours, drew a record-breaking crowd of 2,149 spectators - the highest-ever attendance for a cricket match in Japan. It also recorded over two million views across official online streaming in English and Japanese.

"Despite the ranking gap between India and Japan, we were able to play with confidence throughout the match and challenge them. Although we unfortunately lost this time, we want to use today's experience to eventually beat top-ranked teams and aim higher,"



Kadowaki-Fleming said in a statement by JCA on Friday.

In a rain-hit match, with the game reduced to five overs per innings, Japan lost by just two runs in the chase despite restricting India to 32/4. "A major difference lies in the edu-

cational programs; India has an environment where cricket is played everywhere.

"For us in Japanese cricket, the challenge is to expand awareness of the sport not just in Sano, but across the country. I

believe we need to create programs that allow children to improve their skills," added Kadowaki-Fleming.

Echoing similar sentiments, Japan head coach Dhugal Beddingfield praised his side's adaptability against India, adding that the exposure would accelerate the group's growth.

"It was an honour to play against a top-tier team featuring the world's best batters and bowlers. I believe we put up a good fight against them, and the players - including the younger ones - adapted well to the match situation. The players gained valuable experience from this game, so I am excited about the future. We will work hard to reach the next level," he said.

South African women to attend four-day red-ball camp ahead of Tests against India, Australia

IAN S

TSHWANE: Gearing up for a packed home summer featuring two Test matches against India and Australia, Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Friday announced an extended 28-player squad for a four-day red-ball training camp scheduled to be held in Centurion from September 27 to 30.

The training camp, to be held at Irene Cricket Club, is the first of two specialised sessions designed to prepare the Proteas Women for their four-day Test against India, to be played at St George's Park in Gqeberha from December 9 to 12. It is followed by a marquee Test match against Australia, to be played at Potchefstroom in March next year.

The extended roster features nationally contracted players, Emerging Academy recruits, and top performers from domestic cricket alongside Test-capped regulars like captain Laura Wolvaardt, Suné Luus, Nadine de Klerk, and Anneke Bosch, though Marizanne Kapp is a notable omission.

"This is another great



chapter for the Proteas Women as a group. Preparing for and playing red-ball cricket is something that excites us as players and coaches. We are a team that is always eager to learn and grow as cricketers, and the longer format of the game goes a long way towards helping us achieve that continuous development," head coach Mandla Mashimbyi said in a statement released by CSA.

"We've purposefully cast the net wide with the players we have invited to the camp, with the aim of building a solid base of cricketers we can look to when it comes to the skills and mentality required to be successful in red-ball cricket and beyond," he added.

Mashimbyi also noted that the camp would also help strengthen team

culture and elevate the side's technical foundation across white-ball formats. "Another important goal for us is simply spending more time together as a squad and continuing to grow the culture within the group.

"It also gives us an opportunity to enhance our technical and tactical blueprint, which is not only applicable to the longer format but will also help us prepare for the challenges ahead in One-Day International and T20 International cricket.

"In terms of the work we'll be doing, the first camp will largely focus on the various skills required for Test cricket before we look to put those into practice with a training match during the second camp," he added.

Asian Games: Gurindervir, Animesh bow out in 100m semis, Pooja finishes sixth in heptathlon

IAN S

NAGOYA: India's runners Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur bowed out of the men's 100m event at the ongoing Asian Games 2026 after failing to qualify for the final, while Pooja and Anamika Kozhinjaparambil finished sixth and eighth, respectively, in the women's heptathlon here on Friday.

Gurindervir, who had advanced to the semifinals after finishing second in his heat with a timing of 10.38 seconds, clocked 10.32 seconds to finish fifth in Semifinal Heat 2.

Oman's Ali Balushi won the heat, while China's Zhenye Xie finished second to secure their places in the final. Gurindervir made a strong start but could not maintain his position against a faster field.

Animesh also failed to progress after finishing seventh in his semifinal heat with a timing of 10.38 seconds.

Earlier, Animesh had produced a strong finish in Heat 1 to secure third place in 10.36 seconds, while Gurindervir fin-

ished second in Heat 4 in 10.38 seconds. Both Indians automatically qualified for the semifinals by finishing inside the top three in their respective heats.

Thailand's Puripol Boonson was the standout performer in the heats, clocking 9.95 seconds in Heat 1, just 0.03 seconds outside the Asian Games record.

In the women's heptathlon final event, Pooja clocked 2:16.43 in the 800m event, while compatriot Anamika Kozhinjaparambil finished third in the event with a timing of 2:18.06.

However, the Indian duo could not secure an overall medal. Pooja finished sixth with 5,368 points, while Anamika ended eighth with 5,234 points.

Japan's Yuri Tanaka won the heptathlon gold with 5,920 points, followed by compatriot Nanaka Kajiki with 5,673 points. Kazakhstan's Alina Chistyakova claimed bronze with 5,568 points.

Uzbekistan's Ugiloy Norboeva finished fourth with 5,412 points, while Chinese Taipei's Cai-juan Chen was fifth with 5,378 points.

INOX
LIVE the MOVIE
SRINAGAR

MOVIE SCHEDULE
26 SEPTEMBER 2026
SATURDAY

THE VVAAN
(UA 16+)
HINDI

11:00 AM | 01:50 PM | 04:40 PM | 07:30 PM

MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE
(A)
HINDI | HINDI ATMOS

05:40 PM | 11:05 AM

**AVENGERS :
ENDGAME ENCORE**
(UA 16+)
3D ENGLISH MS - INFINITY VISION
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE

02:55 PM | 06:35 PM

HEART OF THE BEAST
(UA 16+)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

12:05 PM | 03:25 PM

TASRUFDAAR
DJINNS OF KASHMIR
(UA 13+)
KASHMIRI , URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE

02:20 PM