

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

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COAS Visits Chinar Corps' Sector Headquarters

Reviews Preparedness For Counter-Terrorist Operations



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth on Saturday visited Rashtriya Rifles Sector Headquarters under Chinar Corps to review operational preparedness for counter-terrorist operations, officials said.

They said the COAS was briefed on the prevailing security situation and measures instituted to detect, deter and decisively respond to terrorist threats.

The COAS commended all ranks for their professionalism, commitment and high

standards of operational preparedness. He exhorted them to maintain constant vigilance, sharpen intelligence led operations and retain the ability to respond swiftly and precisely to emerging threats. He also underscored the importance of seamless synergy and close coordination with all stakeholders to enhance situational awareness and strengthen the overall counter-terror response, officials said.

At the occasion, COAS Commendations were pinned to deserving soldiers for their gallantry **●P-06**

LG Praises Army Surgeons After 220 Eye Surgeries At LoC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha lauded the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) for restoring sight of 220 patients in an underground operation theatre in a challenging border

area in Tangdhar, Karnah under 'Operation Drishti'.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Kudos to surgeons & personnel of Armed Forces Medical Services for successfully conducting Mega Eye Surgical Camp under Operation **●P-06**

Railway Ministry Withdraws Baramulla-Uri Rail Line



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Railways has withdrawn two proposed railway projects in Jammu and Kashmir, the Baramulla-Uri new rail line and the Qazigund-Srinagar-Budgam doubling project, after the proposals were returned by the Cabinet Secretariat, according to a communication issued by the ministry.

In a communication addressed to the General Manager of Northern Railway, the

Ministry of Railways stated that the two projects "have been returned by Cabinet Secretariat and are no longer under consideration."

The projects include the 40-km Baramulla-Uri new line and the Qazigund-Srinagar-Budgam doubling project. The ministry's communication has also been forwarded to the Chief Administrative Officer (Construction)/USBR, Northern Railway, Jammu, for information.

The development **●P-06**

'Op Sindoor' Demonstrated India's Resolve To Protect Citizens: Rajnath

Says Action Led To Elimination Of Terrorists, Their Handlers Based In Pakistan

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said 'Operation Sindoor' demonstrated India's resolve to go to any extent to protect its citizens and led to the elimination of terrorists and their handlers based in Pakistan.

Addressing a blood donation camp at the Base Hospital in Delhi Cantonment, Singh, said the operation showcased the "unmatched valour" of the country's armed forces and sent a global message about India's determination to safeguard its people.

"Operation Sindoor demonstrated the unmatched valour of our defence forces who sent a global message that India will go to any extent to ensure the safety of its citizens," Singh said.

He said the operation demonstrated India's resolve to respond to terrorism and those behind attacks on the country.

Singh said the armed forces had eliminated terrorists and their handlers based in Pakistan, adding that those who attempted to target India had faced consequences.



Drawing a comparison between 'Operation Sindoor' and the blood donation campaign, Singh said while the military operation represented courage, the donation drive represented compassion and service.

He said the blood collected during the camp would help maintain reserves for soldiers and their families requiring medical treatment.

For the Armed Forces Medical Services, maintaining adequate blood reserves is particularly important as military hospitals cater not only to routine health-care requirements but also to operational emergencies, trauma cases and other contingencies.

Singh also called upon young people to make voluntary blood donation a regular practice, saying blood remained

a resource that could not be artificially manufactured despite advances in medical science.

He said every donor and recipient contributed to the larger cause of serving society and urged people to develop a culture of voluntary blood donation.

Nearly 1,000 sportspersons from Maharashtra were among those participating in the initiative, according to **●P-06**

OPERATION SINDOOR DEMONSTRATED THE UNMATCHED VALOUR OF OUR DEFENCE

forces who sent a global message that India will go to any extent to ensure the safety of its citizens," Singh said.

LoP Sunil Sharma Meets Amit Shah, Discusses Key J&K Issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma on Saturday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and discussed a range of issues concerning the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Sharma apprised Shah of matters related to the security situation, law and order, development initiatives, public concerns and issues concerning the ongoing session of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

He also raised the issue of enhancement of salaries of Special Police Officers (SPOs), which he said was at the final stage, and requested that the matter be expedited for early resolution.

Sharma also highlighted key



concerns being raised by the people of Jammu and Kashmir and discussed matters requiring continued attention, coordination and support from the Union Government.

The discussions also covered strengthening security, accelerating development initiatives,

addressing public welfare concerns and ensuring timely resolution of issues affecting the people of the Union Territory.

Shah reiterated the Union Government's commitment to peace, development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and assured continued **●P-06**

CS For Leveraging SBM-U For Cleaner, Greener J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: With Jammu and Kashmir making significant headway in modernising waste management and strengthening civic infrastructure under SBM-U and AMRUT 2.0, the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting to review the progress of these flagship Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) aimed at transforming the Union Territory's towns and cities into cleaner, greener and more sustainable urban centres.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Director ULBs, Kashmir/Jammu; Chief Engineer, UEED; Chief Town Planner, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior officers of the Department.



While speaking the Chief Secretary emphasised that the Swachh Bharat Mission must go beyond creating sanitation infrastructure to bring about a visible and lasting improvement in urban cleanliness, public health and the overall quality of life of citizens here.

He underscored that cleanliness is a basic necessity, assuming even greater significance in Jammu and Kashmir being a tourist area and given its ecologically sensitive **●P-06**

'Billions Connected, Millions Empowered'

Kashmir Women's Organization President Represents India At UNHRC

Says India's Digital Future Inclusive, Secure, And People-Centred

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GENEVA: Darakshan Hassan Bhat, President of the Kashmir Women's Organization, represented India at the 63rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, where she highlighted the theme "Billions Connected, Millions Empowered: India's Digital Transformation."

Addressing the Council, Bhat said India's digital journey could be understood through the extraordinary scale of its digital public infrastructure and the growing reach of technology among ordinary citizens. She noted that India had moved from



around 25.15 crore internet subscribers and users in 2014 to more than 109 crore internet users today, reflecting the rapid expansion of digital connectivity across the country.

Highlighting financial inclusion, Darakshan said that more than 55 crore Jan Dhan accounts have expanded access to formal banking, with women accounting for 55.7

per cent of account holders. She also pointed to the scale of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), through which more than 53 lakh crore has been transferred directly to beneficiaries, strengthening transparency and efficiency in welfare delivery.

India's digital payments ecosystem was another key focus of her address. Bhat noted that the country now processes more than 20 billion UPI transactions every month, while over 5.6 lakh Common Service Centres are helping extend digital and public services to rural and underserved communities.

She placed **●P-06**

Gandhi Family Threat To Indian Democracy: BJP

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Saturday attacked the Congress, alleging that the Gandhi family is not the guardian of Indian democracy but a threat to it.

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari also alleged that the Congress's sole objective is to bring back the "Gandhi-Vadra family" to power at the Centre.

"For Congress: Parivarwad First, Parivarwad Only," Bhandari said in a post on X.

The BJP spokesperson claimed that India has already suffered the consequences of the "Gandhi-Vadra family's rule."

"The Emergency was imposed. The horrific anti-Sikh riots of 1984 took place. India failed to give a decisive military response to Pakistan after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. India surrendered an opportunity to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. India was pushed into the infamous 'Fragile **●P-06**

JKPCSC, JKSSB Collect Over Rs 82 Crore From Aspirants As Exam Fee

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Two major recruiting agencies, Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPCSC) and Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) collected over Rs 82 crore as examination and application fees from job aspirants in two years, reveals the government data accessed by the news agency Kashmir News Observer.

It reveals that JKPCSC collected Rs 15,00,99,000, while JKSSB collected Rs 67,44,41,800 during the period.

The government, said the examination and application fees are utilised to partly meet the expenditure

incurred in the recruitment process.

It said the expenditure includes administrative, technical and logistical costs, scrutiny and processing of applications, conduct of examinations, engagement of examination centres and manpower, preparation and handling of question papers, security arrangements, IT infrastructure, evaluation and declaration of results.

The government further said recruiting agencies prescribe applicable fees in accordance with relevant rules and provide concessions to specified categories wherever admissible under the prescribed provisions.

The practice, it said, is broadly consistent with that followed by national **●P-06**

Div Com conducts Extensive Tour of SRR Phase-I from Galandar to Narbal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a bid to expedite the ongoing works on Srinagar Ring Road (SRR) Phase-I, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday conducted an extensive inspection of the 46-kilometre stretch from Galandar to Narbal to assess the progress of the project and address issues hampering its timely completion.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Budgam in their respective jurisdictions, besides Project Director NHAI, SSP Traffic Rural, engineers from KPDC, KPTCL, PHE, R&B and I&FC, DFOs, contractors and NHAI advisor.

At the outset of the tour, the Project Director NHAI briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the status of various components of Phase-I. It was informed that 143 culverts, 23 minor bridges, 3 major bridges, 18 light vehicular underpasses, 2 flyover-cum-interchanges, 6 overpasses, 12 siphons and 107 HPCs have been completed so far.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner visited several locations along the alignment and reviewed ongoing works, including the shifting and height clearance of transmission towers, construction of underpasses and connectivity to artillery roads.

He directed KPTCL to undertake parallel works for the erection of new transmission towers to



minimise power shut-downs during the shifting process and avoid inconvenience to the general public. He also called for augmentation of the workforce to ensure that the stipulated timelines are met.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the Project Director, NHAI, to take up the matter of bridge load testing with NIT on priority so that the process is completed without unnecessary delay.

He also stressed the need to establish road connectivity to NIFT and the airport in consultation with all concerned stakeholders, including the Airport Authority, Air Force and BSF. He called for resolving all associated issues in advance through coordinated efforts among the departments concerned.

At the conclusion of the tour at Narbal, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said that Phase-I of the Srinagar Ring Road extends for 46 kilometres from Galandar to Narbal.

He said that the primary objective of the visit was to assess the progress of the

project, review the issues affecting its execution and identify measures to facilitate the contractors in completing the works within the stipulated timeline.

Regarding the completion schedule, he said that efforts are being expedited to make the Phase-I stretch motorable by the end of December. He added that local representatives and MLAs have also been raising the issue of early completion of the project to provide service to the people.

On the issue of transmission towers, the Divisional Commissioner said that NHAI had highlighted the constraints caused by the existing towers. He, however, clarified that there are currently no pending issues regarding land compensation or utility shifting, as these matters have been completed by the District Administration.

Regarding connectivity to Budgam town, he said that NHAI would internally process a proposal aimed at ensuring that Budgam town also derives benefit from the Srinagar Ring Road project.

DC Anantnag directs sustained action against drug menace

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Saturday chaired the 35th meeting of the Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to review the measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse, strengthen enforcement, intensify awareness and ensure effective rehabilitation support across the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for sustained, coordinated and field-oriented action by all concerned departments and enforcement agencies to effectively tackle the drug menace. He called for stronger inter-departmental coordination, particularly in identified drug hotspots, and directed the concerned departments to ensure that vulnerable individuals are promptly identified and connected with counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services.

The DC emphasized that enforcement against drug peddling and illicit cultivation must go hand in hand with preventive measures, awareness generation, counselling and rehabilitation. He directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and ensure regular monitoring of vulnerable areas.

The DC also directed the Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to conduct regular drives against the growth of cannabis plants in public places, including



riverbanks, parks, roadsides and other urban areas. The concerned officers were asked to undertake regular field visits and ensure that public spaces do not become vulnerable spots for drug-related activities.

The Tehsildars were directed to ensure immediate identification and destruction of illicit cannabis cultivation in their respective jurisdictions and to coordinate closely with the Police Department for identification and legal action against persons involved in illegal cultivation.

Dr. Bilal stressed the importance of strengthening database management and field-level intelligence, besides ensuring effective handling of Lambardars, Chowkidars and other field functionaries so that information regarding illicit cultivation, drug abuse and related activities reaches the concerned authorities promptly.

The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under the 100 Days

Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign and the action taken on the directions issued during previous NCORD meetings. Representatives of various departments and institutions briefed the chair about the measures undertaken since the last meeting to curb drug abuse and generate awareness about its harmful effects.

The Principals of Government Degree Colleges informed the meeting that CCTV cameras have been installed in college campuses, while frisking, regular monitoring and visits to college premises are being undertaken to ensure a safe and drug-free environment for students. Awareness programmes and other preventive measures are also being conducted in the institutions.

The Excise Department informed the meeting that 18 marlas of poppy cultivation had been destroyed, while 124 FIRs involving 139 NDPS cases had been registered against persons involved in drug-related offences. Regular field-monitoring teams

have also been deployed to identify illicit cultivation and initiate action as per law.

The Assistant Drug Controller apprised the meeting that eight medical licences had been cancelled for violations of prescribed regulations, reflecting strict regulatory action against violations under the drug-control framework.

Representatives of the Education Department informed the meeting that awareness programmes and counselling activities are being conducted in schools, particularly among targeted classes. Schools are also actively participating in the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir initiative and undertaking activities aimed at sensitizing students about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Doctors from Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag informed the meeting that more than 21 patients had been treated in the IPD during the last 15 days. The GMC currently has 10 rehabilitation beds avail-

able for persons affected by drug addiction. It was further informed that more than 150 counsellors have been trained to undertake awareness and counselling activities at the grassroots level.

The Chief Agriculture Officer informed the meeting that poppy and cannabis cultivation had been destroyed at several locations by constituted teams. He stated that the process of identifying and destroying illicit cultivation is continuing, while agricultural seeds and seedlings are also being distributed among people as part of efforts to promote alternative agricultural activities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to maintain continuous surveillance, strengthen enforcement, intensify awareness campaigns and ensure timely rehabilitation and counselling support. He called for collective and sustained efforts to protect the younger generation from substance abuse and reiterated that the fight against drugs requires coordinated action at the administrative, enforcement, educational, healthcare and community levels.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Anantnag, Principal GMC Anantnag, CMO Anantnag, CEO, ACD, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Excise Officer, Tehsildars, DySP Headquarters, Medical Superintendent GMC Anantnag, CEO Municipal Council Anantnag, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees and other concerned officers.

SWD Srinagar organizes Vocational Training Programme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a vocational training programme at Srinagar women's College Zakura Saturday, aimed at creating awareness among students about various avenues of skill development, vocational education and employment opportunities.

Resource person from District Employment and Counselling Centre, Srinagar participated in the programme and interacted with the students. They briefed the participants about various skill-development initiatives, career opportunities, entrepre-

neurship prospects and avenues available for pursuing self-employment.

The resource person encouraged the students to acquire practical skills alongside formal education and make informed choices regarding their future careers.

The programme concluded with an interactive session in which students actively participated and sought clarification on various career and skill-development opportunities.

The Department reiterated its commitment towards creating awareness among students and youth about skill development and livelihood opportunities, thereby facilitating their socio-economic empowerment.

ADDC Shopian reviews preparations for Kisan Mela

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Saturday convened a meeting of district officers at the Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review preparations for the upcoming Kisan Mela.

During the meeting, the ADDC took a detailed review of the arrangements and activities planned for the event and stressed upon all concerned departments to work in close coordination for its successful conduct.

He directed the officers to ensure effective participation of farmers, adequate arrangements at the venue and proper dissemination of information regarding various schemes, technologies and farmer-oriented initiatives.

The ADDC underscored the importance of the Kisan Mela in providing farmers with a platform

to interact with experts, access information on modern agricultural practices and to learn about various government schemes and support programmes. He called for concerted efforts and meticulous planning by all stakeholders to make the Kisan Mela informative, beneficial and successful for the farming community of the district.

The ADDC also directed all district officers to undertake extensive mass awareness among farmers to ensure greater participation in the event and encourage the farming community to adopt and derive benefits from the latest technologies in agriculture.

The meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer, Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah, CHO, Muneer Ahmed, CAHO, Gh Mohiuddin, District Manager, NRLM and other concerned district officers and officials.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC Saturday informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Airforce line will be observed due to which power supply to Amargarh, Seer, Krankshivan Colony, Old Town Sopore, Wagub, Singhpura, Delina, BSF, Kanispora, Kralhar, PHE, Jetty, TC and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 29 September 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Delina line will be observed due to which power supply to Amargarh, Seer, Krankshivan Colony, Old Town Sopore, Wagub, Singhpura, Delina, BSF, Kanispora, Kralhar, PHE, Jetty, TC and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 29 September 2026.

DLSA Srinagar conducts Legal Awareness Programme at Khonmoh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the guidance of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA (Incharge), Saturday conducted an awareness programme on NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016, NALSA (Legal Services to the workers in the Unorganized Sector) Scheme 2015 and NALSA (Effective Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes) Scheme 2015, at Sangri, Khonmoh, Srinagar, with the objective of sensitizing the local community about legal rights, free legal aid and access to justice.

The programme was conducted by Panel Lawyers Advocate Sofiya Mudassir and Advocate Suhaila Ali,



along with Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) Imtiyaza, Basira Jan, Shabir Kathwari, Hashim Qureshi and Muzamil Zahoor.

During the programme, participants were informed about their basic legal rights, the availability of free legal services through Legal Services Authorities and the various avenues available for seeking legal assistance and accessing justice.

The speakers also encouraged the participants to approach the Legal Services Authorities whenever they require legal assis-

tance, particularly those who are unable to afford legal representation.

Pamphlets containing information regarding legal rights, free legal services and available legal assistance were also distributed among the participants and members of the local community to further enhance legal awareness.

The programme formed part of the ongoing legal awareness and outreach initiatives of DLSA Srinagar aimed at taking legal services to the doorsteps of the community.

■ CENSUS 2027

Quiz competition-cum- seminar held at GMHSS Ranibagh Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Emphasising the vital importance of accurate, inclusive and technology-driven census data in strengthening governance, public policy and sustainable development, the Principal Census Officer, Anantnag, in collaboration with the Chief Education Office, Anantnag, organised a Quiz Competition-cum-Seminar on "Census 2027 in Digital Mode and the Role of Census Data in Nation Building and Policy Frameworks" at Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Ranibagh, Anantnag Saturday.

The programme brought together enthusiastic student participants from various educational institutions, providing them with a meaningful platform to enhance their understanding of Census 2027, its digital transformation and the crucial role of reliable census data in evidence-based planning, governance, resource allocation and policy formulation.

The occasion was graced by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, as the



Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the significance of census data in understanding demographic patterns, identifying developmental priorities and strengthening the effective delivery of public services.

He appreciated the active participation and enthusiasm of the students and encouraged them to remain aware, informed and responsible citizens.

District Education Planning Officer, Anantnag, Assadullah Mir, graced the occasion as the Nodal Officer and Guest of Honour. In his address, he emphasised the important role of educational institutions in disseminating awareness about Census 2027 and nurturing among students a deeper understanding of the significance of authentic data in informed decision-making, effective planning

and nation building.

The Quiz Competition constituted a key component of the programme, providing students with an engaging and intellectually stimulating opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of census concepts, digital census methodology, demographic data and the wider significance of census information in public policy and development planning.

The seminar further focused on the themes of digital literacy, data awareness, informed participation and responsible citizenship, enabling students to appreciate that a census extends far beyond the collection of population statistics. It serves as a foundational source of information for understanding society, planning public services, identifying emerging needs and supporting informed policy decisions.

DLSA G'bal conducts training programme for community mediators

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal conducted a training programme for the Community Mediators under the NALSA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on "Community Mediation Towards Litigation-Free Rural India" at the Meeting Hall of District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, in his address, emphasized the significant role of Community Mediators in promoting a culture of dialogue, reconciliation and peaceful settlement of disputes, particularly in rural and local communi-



ties. He stressed that effective community mediation can help reduce unnecessary litigation and strengthen access to justice for the common people.

Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, in his welcome address, highlighted the importance of community-based dispute resolution mechanisms in facilitating accessible, timely and amicable settlement of disputes at the grassroots level.

The training programme

provided the participants with a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework governing mediation and legal services, including the relevant provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the Mediation Act, 2023. The participants were also sensitized about the concept and objectives of Community Mediation, its basic principles, the nature of disputes amenable to community-level resolution, and the role and responsibilities of Community Mediators.

JKKT04-000615-2021



Form No. 4
Chief Judicial Magistrate
IN THE COURT OF **Lakshay Badyal**
Munsiff/JMIC, Hiranagar

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82)

PUBLISHED THROUGH
Officer Incharge of Police Station/Police Station Officer

SHO P/S BANDIPURA THROUGH SSP KATHUA

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that **Saleem Ali Bhatt**, . . .
- ALIAS HAPPY JAN/S/O MOHD SHAFI BHAT R/o House No 30 Main city
NEAR DC OFFICE BANDIPURA, PH NO 9596210201 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence of **CHEQUE BOUNCE** punishable under section 138 of the **Negotiable Instrument Act** , and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Saleem Ali Bhatt** cannot be found, and whereas It has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Saleem Ali Bhatt** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Saleem Ali Bhatt**, Age – 0 is required to appear at **Chief Judicial Magistrate** before **Munsiff/JMIC, Hiranagar** to answer the said complaint on the day of **13-10-2026** .

Dated, this day of **07-09-2026**

Munsiff/JMIC, Hiranagar

FORWARDED IN ORIGINAL TO SHO P/S BANDIPURA WITH ADIRECTION TO PASTE A COPY OF PROCLAMATION OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE OF ACCUSED, COURT COMPLEX BANDIPURA, TEHSIL COMPLEX BANDIPURA AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES.
[Visit eCourts.gov.in for updates or download mobile app “eCourts Services” from Android or iOS](#)

The process is system generated and transmitted in secured manner by authorised user as such physical signature not applied.

Assistant Public Prosecutor
JMHC Hiranagar
Distt Kathua (J&K)

DIPK-6146-26
DT: 26/09/2026

NEWS

1,476.11 crore outstanding

PHE biggest defaulter in power tariff payments

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) emerged as the biggest defaulter among Jammu and Kashmir government departments in power tariff payments, with outstanding dues of Rs 1,476.11 crore.

According to government data, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FC) follows with Rs 594.25 crore in outstanding power dues, while the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) owes Rs 344.30 crore.

The Home Department has Rs 297.93 crore in outstanding dues, followed by municipalities with Rs 262.75 crore, data shows.

The Army owes Rs 212.75 crore, while the Revenue and Relief Department has out-



standing power dues of Rs 170.60 crore. The Housing and Urban Development Department has arrears of Rs 166.40 crore.

The Power Development Department itself has Rs 123.73 crore in outstanding dues, followed by the Health and Medical Education Department with Rs 100.19 crore.

Among other major defaulters, MES owes Rs 89.50 crore, JK Cements Rs 59.57 crore and the Tourism Department Rs

57.90 crore.

The department-wise figures were provided by the government in response to Sajad Lone's question in the Assembly. The total outstanding power tariff against UT and Central Government departments stands at Rs 4,385.30 crore.

The PHE's outstanding dues alone account for over one-third of the total amount listed in the government statement—(KNO)

Speaker Inaugurates 2.4-Km Inner Link Roads at Tangnar

Lays Foundation Stone for Bridge Connecting Dharamsala Khampora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Saturday inaugurated the development works of inner link roads at Tangnar Sheikh-pura, Chadoora, covering a total length of 2.4 kilometres and executed at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

The newly developed road links are aimed at improving connectivity within the area and providing better and more convenient transportation facilities to the local population. The development of the inner link roads is expected to facilitate the movement of residents, students, farmers and other commuters, besides strengthening connectivity with adjoining areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker emphasized the importance of strengthening basic infrastructure and improving road connectivity in rural areas. He said that well-developed road infrastructure is essential for ensuring better access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services, while also contributing to the overall socio-economic development of communities.

He stressed on the executing agencies that development works should be executed in a timely manner and in accordance with the prescribed quality standards so that the



benefits reach the people at the earliest. He also called upon the concerned agencies to ensure proper maintenance of the infrastructure after completion.

Later, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather laid the foundation stone for a bridge connecting village Dharamsala Khampora Saria with village Wanpora.

The proposed bridge is expected to provide an important connectivity link between the two villages and ease the movement of local residents. Once completed, it will improve accessibility and facilitate smoother transportation, particularly for people who presently face difficulties in crossing the existing route.

The Speaker said that the bridge would address a long-standing connectivity requirement of the people of the area and contribute to improving communication between the adjoining habitations. He underscored the importance of taking up infrastructure projects based on the genuine requirements of the local population and

ensuring that such works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

He further stated that development of road and bridge infrastructure remains crucial for improving the quality of life in rural areas and creating better opportunities for economic activity and public services.

Local residents and representatives expressed their appreciation for the initiation of the development works and the bridge project, stating that improved connectivity would provide considerable relief to the people and facilitate easier movement between the concerned villages.

The Speaker reiterated his commitment towards strengthening basic infrastructure and ensuring that developmental works are taken up in a planned and people-centric manner across the constituency.

The projects inaugurated and initiated today are expected to give a further boost to local connectivity and contribute towards the overall development of the area.

Casual daily wagers' forum calls for Assembly gherao on Monday

Over 60,000 workers await regularisation, JKCDF questions delay in panel report

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Casual Daily Wagers Forum (JKCDF) on Saturday announced an Assembly gherao on Monday, demanding regularisation of casual and daily-rated workers.

Addressing a press conference here, JKCDF president Sajad Ahmed Parry, said over 60,000 workers were awaiting regularisation and questioned the delay in the report of a government-appointed committee tasked with preparing a roadmap on the issue.

Parry said the committee

was initially given six months to submit its recommendations and workers were assured that regularisation would be taken up during the current financial year. However, he said, 18 months later, the government had indicated there was no timeline for regularisation.

He said the issue was raised in the Legislative Assembly by CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, and the government's response had left workers disappointed.

Accusing successive governments of delaying the matter through committees, Parry said thousands of workers and their

families continued to live with uncertainty despite years of service in government departments.

He said the forum would intensify its agitation and urged workers to gather outside the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

Parry also appealed to political parties and legislators to press the government for an early resolution of the issue.

Earlier, the government informed the Assembly that 1,00,501 casual and other daily-rated workers had been registered through Aadhaar-based biometric identification and skill profiling—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stones for development projects in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, Saturday visited Kulgam and laid the foundation stones for various developmental projects in Banimullah and adjoining areas.

The projects, spanning road connectivity, education and healthcare sectors, were initiated in her presence.

During the visit, the Minister also held a public outreach camp in the remote and far-flung areas of the district to assess the public grievances and strengthen the healthcare, education and road infrastructure.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for a Health Sub-Centre at Zangalpora, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 29 lakh by



the R&B Sub-Division, Devsar. She also laid the foundation for a double-storey, six-room school building at Banimullah, to be established with an earmarked cost of Rs 95.88 lakh.

In addition, she laid the foundation stone for the 1.53-km Banimullah road, estimated to cost Rs 382.80

lakh and for an AYUSH Centre at Chandergi, Banimullah, coming up at a cost of Rs 29.12 lakh, aimed at enhancing access to healthcare and traditional systems of medicine for the local population.

The projects are aimed at strengthening the developmental infrastructure in the area and improving

access to essential public services, including healthcare, education and road connectivity.

Sakeena Itoo interacted with the local people and enquired about development and welfare issues and the availability of government services being extended to them. She listened to the concerns

raised by the people and stressed the importance of ensuring effective delivery of public services at the grassroots level.

The Minister directed the executing agencies to ensure that the projects are executed in line with the set regulations. She instructed the officers to regularly monitor the progress of the works and ensure their timely completion.

The Minister was accompanied by Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Nighat Yasmeen, Director AYUSH, Ajay Kumar Tikoo, Assistant Commissioner Development Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Chief Medical Officer Kulgam, Executive Engineer R&B Kulgam and other concerned officers.

J&K govt tweaks juvenile justice rules to tighten accountability of JJB, CWC members

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has introduced key changes to the Jammu and Kashmir Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules to ensure accountability for misconduct by members of Juvenile Justice Boards as well as the chairpersons and members of Child Welfare Committees.

As per the amendments, the Department of Social Welfare has mandated that any complaint against a Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) member will be subject to a government inquiry.

"If any complaint is made against a member of the Board, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir shall hold necessary inquiry except in respect of judicial officers; complaints against judicial officers shall be forwarded to the Registrar of the High Court for action," the Rules state.

The Rules further specify that such inquiries must



be completed within two months, with appropriate action taken within one month thereafter.

It has also been notified that a JJB member can be suspended if a criminal case is registered against them.

"If a criminal case is registered against the member concerned, if necessary the Government of Jammu and Kashmir may suspend the member immediately pending inquiry, for such term as appropriate; or after holding an inquiry and giving an opportunity of being heard in the matter," the Rules add.

The amendments also bar individuals associated with organizations receiving foreign contributions from being appointed as

Chairperson or member of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Similarly, those working in NGOs or organizations implementing the Act, where a conflict of interest may arise, are also ineligible for appointment.

According to Rules, in case of complaints against a CWC Chairperson or member, the Government must hold an inquiry and may suspend the person immediately, pending investigation.

"The inquiry shall be completed within a period of two months and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir may take appropriate action within one month of completion of the inquiry," the Rules note—(KNO)

Habba Khatun Memorial and Research Institute proposed for Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Habba Khatun Association has proposed setting up a Memorial-cum-Research Institute in Srinagar dedicated to preserving, researching and promoting Kashmir's literary and cultural heritage.

The initiative, being developed under the patronage of former Supreme Court judge Justice Markandey Katju, seeks to establish a permanent institution dedicated to the memory and literary legacy of 16th-century Kashmiri poet Habba Khatun.

According to the association, the proposed institute will combine a memorial with a research centre, specialised library, archive and museum focusing on Habba Khatun and the wider literary, historical and cultural heritage of Kashmir.

The association said it plans to collect and preserve manuscripts, books, translations, photographs, recordings and oral histories, while encouraging research on Habba Khatun and other significant Kashmiri literary and historical figures.

The proposed museum would feature distinguished Kashmiris from different periods and communities, with the association saying it aims to highlight the contributions of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and others to the region's shared cultural heritage.

The plans also include developing a digital archive,

translating and publishing Kashmiri literature, and organising research projects, lectures, conferences, exhibitions, poetry readings and music programmes.

The association said a key objective would be to encourage systematic research into the life and times of Habba Khatun.

While her contribution to Kashmiri literature is widely recognised, the association noted that aspects of her biography have been transmitted through oral traditions and legends. It said the proposed institute would bring together manuscripts, historical records and published research to facilitate further scholarly work on the subject.

The initiative also seeks to connect Kashmir's cultural heritage with the Kashmiri diaspora in India and abroad, particularly younger generations seeking greater access to the region's language, literature and history.

The association has invited historians, researchers, writers, poets, artists, musicians, archivists, educators, students and members of the Kashmiri diaspora to contribute to the initiative. It also plans to collaborate with universities, libraries, museums and cultural institutions in India and abroad.

Individuals and families possessing manuscripts, rare publications, photographs, correspondence, recordings or other historically significant material related to Habba

Khatun or Kashmir's cultural history have also been invited to share them with the association.

According to the association, Justice Markandey Katju is its patron, while Kashmiri-American cybersecurity executive and Harvard alumnus Tasawar Jalali is the chairman.

Rajya Sabha member and Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court Vivek Tankha, academic scientist Aamir Rashid Khan, Dr Hyder Zabet of the Iranian Cultural House in New Delhi and a Sikh businessman from Punjab who spent his early years in Kashmir are listed as vice chairmen.

Sadaf Mir, principal of Imamia High School in Srinagar, has been named the association's general secretary.

The association said the project will require financial and institutional support for its establishment, collections, research programmes and long-term operations. It plans to register itself as a society or trust and has said that transparent accounting and institutional governance will be maintained.

The initiative has been described by its organisers as non-political, non-sectarian and cultural in purpose, with the proposed institute envisioned as a centre where Kashmir's literary and intellectual heritage can be documented, studied, preserved and shared with future generations. Localevents guide

Div Com reviews new Alignments of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the proposed new alignments for various stretches of Srinagar Ring Road (SRR) Phase-III, including Lasjan-Dalgate, Dalgate-Pandach and the proposed Parimpora-Dalgate Flyover.



The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), SSP Traffic, Director Airport Authority of India, Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Project Director NHA and senior officers from KPDCL, KPTCL, PHE, I&FC, PWD, Air Force and BSF.

During the meeting, the technical team of the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) made a detailed presentation on the proposed new alignment for the

Lasjan-Dalgate stretch. The revised alignment has been designed to bypass the Cantonment area as well as the Jhelum Bank.

After detailed deliberations, officers of the concerned departments observed that the proposed alignment was suitable and feasible for construction of the first eight kilometres of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III.

Regarding the Dalgate-Pandach stretch, the Divisional Commissioner directed NHA to undertake a comprehensive comparative analysis of the three proposed alignments. He directed that the analysis be submitted to the concerned departments to facilitate selection of an appropriate alignment.

The meeting also discussed the proposed Parimpora-Dalgate Flyover. Following deliberations, it was recommended that the alignment be revised to avoid affecting M.A. Road

Man dies of electric shock in Pulwama's Keegam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Pulwama: A 40-year-old man died after suffering an electric shock at his home in the Keegam area of Pulwama district on Saturday.

An official said that the man suffered an electric shock at his home in Keegam, Pulwama.

He said the man was shifted to District Hospital (DH) Pulwama in an unconscious state, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. He was identified as Showkat Ahmad Rather (40), son of Bashir Ahmad Rather, a resident of Keegam.

Cognizance of the incident has been taken and an investigation has been initiated—(KNO)

Bear mauls man in Kulgam's Chimmer

AGENCIES

KULGAM: A 45-year-old man was injured after being attacked by a bear in the Chimmer area of Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon.

An official said that the man was attacked by a bear in Chimmer area of Kulgam.

He said the man was shifted to a hospital soon after the incident

and was later identified as Mohammad Rasheed Khatana (45), son of Mohammad Ismail Khatana, a resident of Chimmer.

Meanwhile, details regarding the incident are being verified, while locals have urged the administration to look into the matter and take measures to prevent further attacks—(KNO)



Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Srinagar’s Ring Road Needs Vision, Not Just Alignment

The proposed realignment of various stretches of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-III is a welcome opportunity to rethink how the city will move in the coming decades. The decision to examine alternatives for the Lasjan-Dalgate, Dalgate-Pandach and Parimpora-Dalgate stretches shows that infrastructure planning cannot be reduced to drawing lines on a map. The proposed Lasjan-Dalgate alignment, designed to bypass the Cantonment area and the Jhelum Bank, has reportedly been found suitable and feasible for the first eight kilometres. But feasibility today must not become a limitation tomorrow. Every alignment should be judged not merely by the ease of construction, but by its impact on traffic, settlements, water bodies, the environment and Srinagar’s future expansion.

The Dalgate–Pandach stretch deserves particularly careful scrutiny. With three alternatives on the table, the administration has rightly sought a comprehensive comparative analysis before taking a final decision. This assessment should be transparent and should consider land acquisition, traffic capacity, construction costs, environmental consequences, displacement and long-term maintenance, not simply the cheapest or quickest option.

The proposed Parimpora–Dalgate Flyover also highlights the importance of protecting the existing character and functionality of Srinagar. The recommendation to revise the alignment to avoid affecting M.A. Road is a sensible reminder that major infrastructure must integrate with the city rather than unnecessarily disrupt established arteries.

Srinagar desperately needs better mobility. But it also needs infrastructure that respects its geography and heritage. The city sits around a fragile network of rivers, lakes, wetlands and densely inhabited neighbourhoods. Any major road project that ignores these realities may solve one traffic problem while creating several others. The involvement of NHAI, SMC, traffic authorities, power, water, irrigation, defence and other agencies is therefore important. Yet coordination must continue beyond meetings and presentations. Departments must work from a common long-term vision, with clear accountability for decisions and their consequences. The Ring Road should not merely be another road project. It should become part of a comprehensive mobility strategy for Srinagar—one that reduces congestion, improves connectivity and protects the city’s environmental and cultural assets.

Srinagar has paid heavily in the past for fragmented urban planning. Phase-III offers an opportunity to avoid repeating those mistakes. The right alignment is not necessarily the one that is easiest to build today; it is the one that serves Srinagar best for generations.

From Offline To Online

The Digital Transformation Of Everyday Life



MIR ULFAT

Nowadays, the Internet has become a part of the daily lives of many people in Kashmir. Previously, various activities involved standing in queues, visiting places, presenting documents, and waiting during working hours. Now, a mobile phone and internet connection can accomplish the same tasks with just a few clicks. This change is in the sphere of studies, work, buying, paying bills, accessing healthcare, and connecting with the government. This transformation especially impacts women by opening new doors of learning and earning.

From Cash to Digital Payments

UPI, mobile banking, and QR codes are common in various places ranging from restaurants to local shops. A woman running a business from home can directly deposit the money into her respective bank account. A customer can scan a QR code and make a payment. This is particularly beneficial for women selling homemade food items, handicrafts, clothes, jewellery, and other items on social media. Payment through digital platforms facilitates day-to-day activities like electricity bill payments, recharging mobile, making online purchases, and other activities.

At Your Fingertips: Banking

The same revolution has taken place in the case of banking too. Previously, a person had to go to a bank for a number of activities, ranging from checking account balance to making a transaction. It has now become possible, by using mobile banking, to check one’s financial status, make necessary transactions, and so on. A woman can have control of her own finances through online transactions as well. For instance, a working woman can receive her salary in a bank account, check the same on her mobile phone and make necessary payments.

Education beyond the Classroom

The revolution has been particularly beneficial for the education sector in Kashmir. Students can watch educational videos and learn through videos and study material. For a girl living in a village, online lectures can spare her the journey to a coaching centre, saving her time and money. Digital education has also played a pivotal



role in students being able to stay in touch with their teachers and institutions even in the wake of disruptions to classes.

Healthcare from Home

Healthcare too is witnessing a change. It is now possible for a person to book a hospital appointment, access information, connect with doctors and even get reports digitally. For a woman, especially one who may not be able to travel as frequently as one would like to, an online appointment system spares her the hassle of going out to make a hospital appointment.

Imagine a woman living miles away from Srinagar consulting a doctor through an online platform, discussing the necessary tests and the further procedure and then taking a call on whether she would travel down to the city for the same. While digital healthcare facilities cannot replace a hospital or a doctor, they certainly ease the initial steps.

Government Services Becoming More Accessible

Various government services are also going digital. From applying for a service to submitting a complaint or certificate and so forth, it will be possible to do the same through online platforms. For a woman managing a house and working, it could prove to be extremely helpful. Instead of spending half a day going out to file a complaint or submit a request, she might just have to do the same from her house. At the same time, digital services must be simple to navigate. Nothing is accessible if an ordinary person cannot comprehend it.

Social media: More than Just a Photo Sharing Platform

The use of social media by Kashmiri

women has been revolutionary in various ways. Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp have come to serve as a platform to not just share photos but to sell products as well. A woman working from home on handicrafts can take photographs of what she sells and post them online. Another woman can share her tailoring and baking services on social media. The power to market oneself through social media has especially empowered women who might not have the resources to open a shop.

Digital Work and New Employment Opportunities

The meaning of work has changed for the youth in Kashmir as well, thanks to the advent of the Internet. Today, anyone can learn graphic design, content writing, digital marketing, and accounting. Subsequently, a person can work with clients or organisations without stepping out of their hometown. This has been particularly beneficial for a woman, who might not have the resources to go to an office every day. Being able to work from home can be a blessing for a woman.

A young woman can learn graphic design online, show off her portfolio on the same platform and start earning money by completing a project assigned by her digital client. She might start developing skills on her mobile phone and slowly make the Internet a means to earn money. This does not mean that online work is a bed of roses. A stable Internet connection, skills, the right resources and opportunities play a role in making online work possible.

Digital Kashmir and Local Businesses

The Internet has also brought changes for local businesses. A handicraft seller, a baker or any other business owner can capitalise

on the use of WhatsApp and Instagram to put the products of their business on display. A local business which used to sell handcrafted items in a city can now use Instagram to sell their products in other cities as well.

This can prove to be vital, especially in the case of Kashmiri products. The use of online platforms to promote the products of Kashmir can help in making contact with people interested in buying the same, without having to rely on local markets only.

Digital Safety and Awareness

With increased use of digital platforms, there comes an increase in responsibilities. It is important that people develop digital safety awareness, such as not sharing OTPs or bank account passwords. Women and older people, especially those new to the concept of banking, can become targets of online fraud if not aware of how to protect their finances.

Digital literacy, therefore, should not just be knowing the basics of using the application. Digital literacy should involve understanding how to protect one’s money and hence the importance of knowing the ways of online safety. A digitally empowered person is one who is not just able to go online, but is digitally safe as well.

Challenges Still Remain

The digital journey of Kashmir is by no means perfect. Poor Internet connection in various areas, lack of digital literacy, online fraud, privacy issues and lack of access to devices can be hurdles on the road to a Digital Kashmir. Older people might not be adept at using a smartphone or a website.

Some young women might not feel as confident in using online facilities as others do. As such, digital transformation is not just about putting systems online; it is also about making people safe online. Digital literacy, cyber awareness, affordable Internet connections and accessibility are vital.

A More Connected Future

Kashmir’s journey from offline to online is a work in progress. Technology is now a part of education, banking, healthcare, business, and work and government services. The biggest part of this transformation is the amount of time it saves as well as the opportunities created. For women, digital empowerment could be a path to education, financial independence, business and involvement in society. A Digital Kashmir will not just be about a larger number of people being online, but about how people will use that to better their lives.

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Sustainable Agricultural Future

Can Technology And Tradition Coexist?



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

As the shadows of climate change become increasingly evident across the globe, water scarcity for both human consumption and agricultural practices has emerged as a pressing concern. In this context, it is of paramount importance to prioritise agricultural practices and crops that can withstand drought conditions while producing higher yields. Such climate-resilient practices can play a vital role in ensuring food security and sustainable agricultural development in the face of changing climatic conditions.

A day before, on DD Kashir Srinagar’s Jahanbeen programme, I had the opportunity to watch an informative and insightful podcast hosted by renowned television host Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, with Dr. Tawseef Mairaj Shah as the guest. The discussion featured a series of thought-provoking questions related to Kashmir’s agricultural sector and the challenges it is facing amid the growing threat of climate change and increasing water scarcity. The conversation offered valuable insights into the changing agricultural landscape of Kashmir and highlighted the urgent need to adopt sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices to safeguard the livelihood of farmers and ensure food security in the region.

Hailing from Lelhar Kakpora village of Pulwama district, Dr Tawseef Mairaj Shah is a food systems researcher and an impact entrepreneur. Tawseef is a trained environmental process engineer with a doctorate in agroecology from the Hamburg University of Technology (TU Hamburg). He is



the COO and Co-Founder of the Berlin-based startup CinSOIL, which is developing a software tool to enable sustainable decarbonisation pathways in the agrifood sector through insetting. He did his bachelors in process engineering from the National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT Srinagar) and masters from TU Hamburg. Tawseef’s research interests include agrifood systems transformation, agroecology, food, soil and water security, biodiverse farming systems, and technology enhanced ecological systems.

During the podcast, Dr Tawseef Mairaj Shah shared an interesting observation from his early understanding of agriculture. Although he had seen people engaged in farming, he himself had never actively participated in agricultural practices. This experience eventually helped him understand a basic yet important fact—that rice comes from the soil. The discussion further brought to light that, at the global level, nearly 80 per cent of available water is used for agriculture. Although Kashmir is blessed with considerable water resources, groundwater levels are continuously declining, while water from various sources is also becoming polluted. The excessive and indiscriminate use of agrochemicals is one of the major factors contributing to water pollution. According to Dr Tawseef, there is, therefore,

an urgent need to shift towards research-based and technology-driven farming practices.

Modern technology and scientific research have created considerable potential for producing crops while using significantly less water. He also recalled that in 2019, the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, had advised farmers not to cultivate rice because of water shortages. That warning should have been taken as a wake-up call. The situation now demands that we think rationally, adopt scientific approaches and take timely measures to ensure the sustainability of agriculture and our precious water resources. Speaking about the concept of I-Rice, Dr Tawseef said that the devastating floods of 2014 encouraged him to explore sustainable agricultural practices that could consume less water without compromising the quality and quantity of the crop. This led him to develop the I-Rice module. I-Rice is a non-traditional method of rice cultivation in which a single seedling is planted instead of a bunch of seedlings.

Wider spaces are maintained between the plants, while water is supplied only once a week. He experimented with the I-Rice module with five to six farmers in Sagam village of Kokernag in Anantnag district. In some fields,

wider spaces were maintained between rice seedlings and beans were sown in the intervening spaces, while in other fields rice seedlings were planted without leaving such spaces. The experiments revealed that the fields with wider spacing produced better and more desirable results, while also enabling farmers to obtain a second crop. According to Dr. Tawseef, diseases such as rice blast have not been observed in fields where the method has been adopted. It helps conserve nearly 50 per cent of water, allows farmers to raise a second crop, reduces the use of agrochemicals, and, importantly, produces a very high yield. Responding to a question about soil health, Dr Tawseef said that soil is the second most important natural resource, with nearly 98 per cent of the world’s food being obtained from it.

However, soil health is increasingly under threat due to salinization, a process in which excessive salts accumulate in the soil. He cautioned that this gradual accumulation of salts can severely degrade soil quality and eventually turn this living natural resource into an unproductive or “dead” resource. Regarding the growing trend of high-density apple orchards, Dr Tawseef said that the reduced spacing between plants tends to create conditions conducive to the frequent spread of microbes and pathogens, compelling orchardists to rely

more heavily on pesticides and other agrochemicals. He observed that Kashmir’s climatic conditions may not be ideally suited to such practices and stressed that the issue needs to be examined and discussed at the expert level before promoting high-density plantation systems on a wider scale.

Healthy soils have a greater capacity to retain water and absorb essential nutrients, thereby supporting healthy crop growth. However, when water remains in the soil for prolonged periods without being adequately absorbed, contaminants can leach into the food chain. Studies and reports from regions such as Punjab and Bangladesh have highlighted the presence of arsenic in soil and groundwater, which is highly toxic and is also classified as a carcinogenic substance, posing serious risks to human health. When asked about the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in water management, Dr. Tawseef remarked that AI may not be the ultimate solution, but it can certainly help in identifying and developing sustainable, long-term solutions.

Speaking about the younger generation, he observed that students today have access to facilities and resources that were not available to previous generations. With the internet, YouTube and numerous other informative platforms at their fingertips, young people have unprecedented opportunities to acquire knowledge and explore new areas of research. Overall, the podcast proved to be a vibrant, insightful and informative programme, bringing several important aspects of agriculture, water management and sustainability to the fore. For this valuable initiative, both Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) Srinagar and the host, Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz, deserve appreciation and commendation.

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Can Intelligence Be Artificial?

Hallucination And The Problem Of Knowing What You Do Not Know



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

For most of human history, intelligence came with an unspoken condition: it belonged to living beings. A mathematician solved an equation. A doctor diagnosed an illness. A poet found a metaphor that captured something ordinary language could not. A chess player anticipated a dozen moves ahead. A scientist noticed a pattern in nature that everyone else had missed. We called these acts intelligent because there was a human mind behind them. Then machines began doing some of the same things.

They defeated world champions, translated languages, wrote computer programs, generated essays, identified patterns in medical data, solved mathematical problems and increasingly became involved in scientific research. And something interesting happened. We changed the question. Instead of asking, "Is this intelligent behaviour?" we began asking, "Yes, but does the machine really understand what it is doing?"

That shift deserves attention, because the debate about artificial intelligence may no longer be only about machines. It may also be about us, about how willing we are to accept that intelligence might not be an exclusively human possession. So, the real question is not simply: Can intelligence be artificial?

It is more unsettling than that: If a machine can learn, reason, solve unfamiliar problems and discover patterns at a level comparable to, or sometimes beyond, human performance, on what basis do we continue denying it the word "intelligence" simply because it does not think as we do?

Alan Turing recognised the difficulty of this question as early as 1950. Rather than getting trapped in an endless philosophical argument over what it means to "think," he suggested looking at behaviour. His famous imitation-game approach shifted attention away from whatever might be happening inside a machine and toward what the machine could actually demonstrate. There is something compelling about that approach. After all, when we call another person intelligent, we do not examine the physical contents of that person's brain. We infer intelligence from what the person does. A student solves a problem she has never encountered before. A scientist develops an original hypothesis. A child learns from experience. A strategist anticipates consequences that others overlook. A mathematician finds an elegant proof. From behaviour such as this, we infer an underlying cognitive ability.

Why should a machine be subjected to an entirely different standard? Take the game of Go. For decades, Go was considered one of the most difficult challenges for artificial intelligence because of the staggering number of possible positions and the intuitive strategic judgement required at elite levels. Yet AlphaGo defeated world-class players and produced moves that surprised professional experts themselves. DeepMind presented the achievement as evidence that AI could learn sophisticated strategies rather than simply execute a catalogue of human-written instructions.

At that point, saying, "It is not intelligence because a machine did it," begins to sound rather convenient. There has been a recurring pattern in the history of AI. Once a machine master's something that had previously been treated as evidence of intelligence, we quietly redefine the achievement. Arithmetic? Just calculation. Chess? Brute force. Go? Pattern recognition. Translation? Statistical prediction. Writing? Word generation. Programming? Code completion. Scientific reasoning? Data processing. The list keeps growing.

Eventually, we have to ask whether the phrase "mere computation" is becoming less an explanation and more a way of protecting a boundary that machines keep crossing. Recent developments sharpen the issue.

Stanford's 2026 AI Index reports substantial gains by frontier AI systems on difficult reasoning benchmarks. Tests specifically designed to remain challenging for advanced models are being overcome much more quickly than many researchers expected.

The picture in science is more complicated, and therefore more interesting. Leading models can outperform average human experts on some chemistry question benchmarks, and AI systems are increasingly being used in areas such as biology, astronomy and weather prediction. At the same time, AI agents remain significantly weaker than PhD-level researchers when asked to carry out complex, end-to-end scientific investigations.

That mixed record tells us something important. AI is neither magic nor fraud. Its abilities are powerful, uneven and still limited. But human intelligence is uneven too. A gifted mathematician may be socially awkward. A brilliant musician may struggle with accounting. An outstanding surgeon may have little ability as a poet. We do not conclude that such people lack intelligence. We recognise that intelligence appears in different forms and at different levels. Why should artificial systems be excluded from that possibility? The Case Against: Perhaps Performance Is Not Understanding. The argument against machine intelligence, however, is far more serious than simply saying, "Humans are special." Perhaps AI does not understand anything at all. Perhaps it has simply become extraordinarily good at producing the appearance of understanding. John Searle's famous Chinese Room thought experiment attacks exactly this possibility.

Imagine a person sitting inside a room who knows no Chinese. Chinese symbols are passed into the room. The person has an enormous

because human consciousness itself is still not fully understood. That should make us cautious in both directions. To declare today's AI conscious simply because it speaks fluently would go far beyond the available evidence. But to declare that a machine could never become conscious would also claim more certainty than science presently allows. Hallucination and the Problem of Knowing What You Do Not Know There is another weakness in current artificial intelligence that deserves serious attention. Intelligence is not only about producing an answer. It also involves recognising the limits of one's own knowledge.

AI systems often struggle with this. They can generate false information with remarkable confidence—a problem generally described as hallucination. A 2026 Nature paper notes that plausible but incorrect outputs continue to limit the reliability of state-of-the-art language models despite sustained efforts to reduce them.

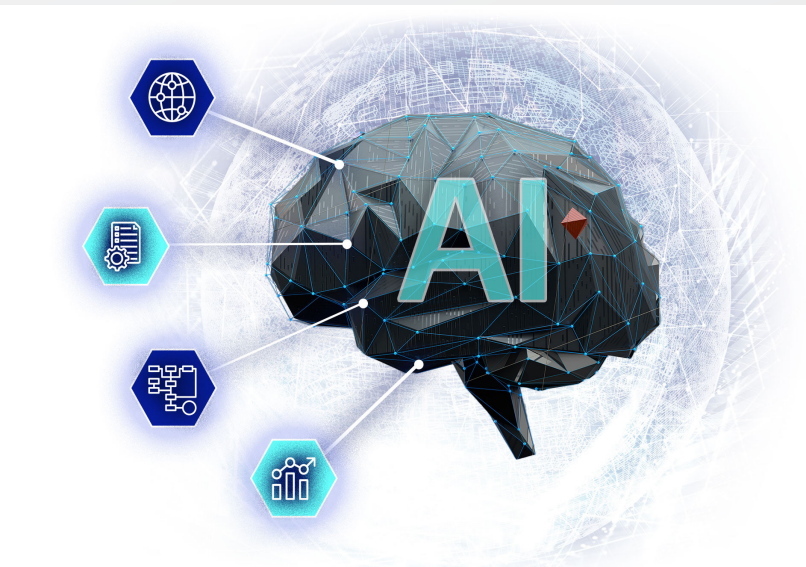
The difficulty is not merely that AI makes mistakes. Humans make mistakes constantly. The deeper issue is epistemic responsibility: knowing when you know something, when you are uncertain and when you simply do not know. A person faced with an unfamiliar question may say: "I don't know." An AI system may instead produce an elegant, detailed and entirely fictional answer. That is a serious limitation. One could therefore argue that present-day AI possesses considerable intellectual performance without the mature self-monitoring that we associate with reflective human reasoning. Yet here too the comparison becomes uncomfortable. Human beings are hardly models of perfect epistemic discipline. We misremember events. We confidently repeat false information. We invent explanations after the fact. We rationalise decisions. We become

anything resembling human subjective experience. If so, it would still make sense to call that intelligence.

It simply would not be human intelligence. That may turn out to be one of the most important distinctions of the coming decades. Is Human Exceptionalism Part of the Problem? There is also a psychological side to the argument that we do not often acknowledge. Human beings have a long history of defining themselves through abilities supposedly unavailable to other creatures or systems. We considered ourselves uniquely rational. Research revealed surprisingly sophisticated cognition in animals. We regarded tool-making as distinctly human. Other species use tools. We believed complex communication separated us from the rest of life. Research into animal behaviour complicated that assumption as well. Strategic mastery appeared uniquely human. Then machines defeated world champions. Creativity seemed to offer safer ground. Now generative systems produce music, images, prose and designs. And so we retreat to a final line of defence: "Yes, but it doesn't really understand." Perhaps that defence is correct.

Perhaps consciousness, genuine meaning and deep understanding ultimately depend on biological life

It is more unsettling than that: If a machine can learn, reason, solve unfamiliar problems and discover patterns at a level comparable to, or sometimes beyond, human performance, on what basis do we continue denying it the word "intelligence" simply because it does not think as we do?



rulebook explaining which symbols should be returned in response to particular combinations. By following the instructions perfectly, the person produces answers so convincing that Chinese speakers outside the room believe they are communicating with someone who understands Chinese. But the person inside understands nothing. He is manipulating symbols according to rules. Searle's point was simple but profound: syntax is not the same as semantics. Correctly manipulating symbols does not necessarily mean understanding what those symbols mean. Modern AI makes that thought experiment remarkably relevant. A language model can write a deeply moving paragraph about grief.

But has it ever grieved? It can describe the fear of death in exquisite detail. But does it know that it exists? It can define love. Has it ever missed someone? It can discuss humiliation. Can it feel ashamed? It may tell a distressed person: "I understand your pain." But what exactly is the "I" in that sentence? This is where fluent language can mislead us. An AI system may have learned the patterns, structures and associations of human language so well that its responses create the impression of an inner life. Yet linguistic competence and subjective experience are not obviously the same thing. A machine can write: "I am afraid." There may nevertheless be no one there who is afraid. That distinction cannot simply be brushed aside.

Researchers themselves do not have an agreed method for deciding whether an artificial system is conscious. Contemporary work on consciousness acknowledges that the question remains unresolved, partly

overconfident. We mistake something familiar for something true.

Human error does not lead us to conclude that humans have no intelligence. In the same way, AI hallucination may demonstrate the limitations of machine intelligence without proving its absence. Perhaps the lesson is simpler: intelligence, whether human or artificial, does not guarantee truth. Intelligence, Understanding and Consciousness Are Not the Same Thing Much of the confusion in this debate comes from treating three different ideas as though they were interchangeable: intelligence, understanding and consciousness. They are related, but they are not necessarily identical. Intelligence can refer to the ability to learn, reason, predict, solve problems and adapt to changing circumstances. Understanding involves grasping relationships, meaning and context. Consciousness is something stranger: subjective experience, the fact that there is apparently something it is like to be a conscious being.

There is no obvious reason why all three must always appear together. A calculator performs computation, but we have little reason to think it understands mathematics. A dog clearly experiences the world, yet it cannot solve calculus. A human infant is conscious long before displaying sophisticated reasoning or abstract problem-solving. So why insist that intelligence and consciousness must always travel as a pair? Perhaps one of AI's greatest philosophical contributions will be to force us to separate abilities that biology happened to package together in the human brain. A future artificial system could, in principle, possess extraordinary problem-solving intelligence without

in ways machines can never reproduce. That remains entirely possible. But another possibility also deserves consideration. Perhaps part of our resistance comes not from science, but from human exceptionalism—the instinctive desire to preserve some final intellectual territory as uniquely ours. Recognising that possibility does not prove machine intelligence. It simply reminds us to examine our assumptions as critically as we examine the machines. AI Has Another Problem: Its Intelligence Was Built From Ours. There is, however, an equally important warning for those who are too eager to declare machines independent minds.

Today's AI did not develop in intellectual isolation. It has been trained largely on human-generated language, mathematics, science, literature, images, software and culture. Its intellectual environment was created

by us. When an AI writes Shakespearean prose, solves a mathematical problem or discusses philosophy, we therefore have to ask a difficult question: how much of what we are seeing is genuine generalisation, and how much is extraordinarily sophisticated compression and recombination of humanity's accumulated knowledge? That is not a minor objection. Imagine a parrot somehow exposed to civilisation's entire library and trained to recombine everything it had encountered. It might become astonishingly impressive. But would that make it a philosopher? The real test comes when a system faces something that cannot simply be recovered from existing patterns. Can it develop genuinely new theories? Can it recognise when accepted assumptions are wrong? Can it design experiments? Can it revise its most basic beliefs when evidence demands it? Can it pursue a question whose answer does not already appear somewhere in the material on which it was trained?

Current evidence points in both directions. On well-defined tasks, AI can perform extraordinarily well. But on long, open-ended research problems requiring planning, experimentation, validation and replication, experienced human researchers still hold substantial advantages. That is why neither hype nor dismissal is sufficient. Perhaps the Word "Artificial" Is Misleading Us. The phrase artificial intelligence may itself encourage confusion. An artificial heart pumps blood. Artificial light illuminates a room. An artificial limb can restore movement. We do not usually say that artificial light provides "fake illumination." We mean that the same broad function has been achieved through a different mechanism.

Why should intelligence necessarily be different? If a non-biological system can learn, generalise, reason, predict, form useful abstractions and solve unfamiliar problems, then refusing to call any of those abilities intelligence merely because silicon rather than neurons produced them risks turning intelligence from a scientific concept into a membership privilege of the human species. Yet the opposite mistake would be just as serious. Fluent language is not evidence of consciousness. Prediction is not automatically understanding. Performance is not self-awareness. Simulation is not necessarily experience.

And a machine saying, "I think," does not establish that there is a conscious "I" behind the sentence. These distinctions matter. So, Can Intelligence Be Artificial? My answer is uncomfortable precisely because it does not fit neatly into either camp. Yes, intelligence can probably be artificial. But artificial intelligence does not therefore have to possess an artificial version of the human mind. That distinction changes the debate. Today's AI already demonstrates several capacities historically associated with intelligence: pattern recognition, learning, reasoning, prediction, problem-solving and increasingly sophisticated generalisation.

What has not been established is that current AI possesses consciousness, subjective experience, an inner self or understanding in the same sense that humans experience these things. Those are separate claims, and we should resist the temptation to collapse them into one.

The sceptic says: "If it does not think exactly as humans do, then it cannot be intelligent." The enthusiast says: "If it behaves intelligently, then it must experience the world as humans do." Both positions may be too simple. What we may be witnessing is something far stranger than either side expected: intelligence without biology, competence without childhood, memory without lived experience, language without a tongue, and perhaps reasoning without consciousness.

For thousands of years, human beings have asked what makes us intelligent. Artificial intelligence is forcing us to turn that question around. Was intelligence ever uniquely ours in the first place? Perhaps the deepest surprise will not come when a machine finally persuades us that it can think. It may come when we realise that intelligence never needed to think exactly as humans do.

(The author works at the Faculty of Mathematics, Associate at HBMSU Dubai, UAE)

COAS Visits Chinar

and exemplary service, recognising their courage and contribution to counter-terrorist operations.

He emphasised the need to remain ahead of the threat, maintain relentless operational focus and ensure a coordinated, calibrated response, while safeguarding the safety and security of the people.

The officials maintained that Indian Army remains resolute in countering terrorism, strengthening synergy, protecting the people and maintaining a secure environment.

LG Praises Army

Drishti at Tangdhar, Karnah. Restoring sight to 220 people in underground operation theatre in a challenging border area is a remarkable achievement.

The dedication of the medical team, led by Brig. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, embodies the true spirit of Operation Sadbhavna. Bringing advanced eye surgeries, including phacoemulsification, retinal and glaucoma procedures, to remote border hamlets ensures that no citizen is left behind.”

‘Op Sindoor’

the Defence Ministry. Singh also linked physical fitness with social service, saying healthy and fit citizens were better placed to contribute to society and participate in activities such as blood donation.

The Minister said the country should aspire to become not only a developed economy by 2047 but also a compassionate society where people are healthy and safe and essential resources such as blood are available during emergencies.

The event was attended by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Minister of State for Ayush Pratap Rao Jadhav, Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Ravindra Samant, MP Srikant Shinde, Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth and senior military and civil officials.

Pertinently, the ‘Operation Sindoor’ was launched by India in response to the April 2026 terror attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 civilians dead, and marked a major escalation in India’s military response against terrorism—(KNO)

—Locals Seek

the lack of facilities and development.

“A tree of such significance should be conserved and promoted as a major attraction so people from across the country and abroad can learn about its history,” he said.

Residents said the Chinar remains green and healthy, though some dry branches fall during winter. They sought scientific conservation, landscaping, signage and basic visitor amenities to protect the tree and enhance the visitor experience.

MLA Aga Muntazir Mehdi, who raised the issue in the Assembly, said efforts are underway to preserve Chinar trees while addressing concerns related to overhanging branches.

“The administration has ensured the preservation of these trees, which are symbols of our heritage, culture and tradition,” he said.

Mehdi also called for greater environmental awareness, saying changing weather patterns, including rising temperatures and reduced snowfall, underscore the need to safeguard Kashmir’s natural heritage.

Residents said the Chattergam Chinar could emerge as a major heritage and tourism attraction if authorities undertake proper conservation and site development while ensuring the long-term protection of the historic tree—(KNO)

Railway Ministry

comes months after the Railways had prepared Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for both projects. In February, the Ministry of Railways said a 118-km Qazigund-Srinagar-Budgam doubling project and a 40-km Baramulla-Uri new line had been proposed to strengthen rail connectivity in the border region.

At the time, the ministry said preparation of DPRs did not amount to final sanction, with project approval requiring consultations with stakeholders and clearances including

appraisal by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance.

The Baramulla-Uri project was envisaged as an extension of the existing rail network towards Uri, while the doubling project was aimed at augmenting capacity on the Kashmir Valley’s existing rail corridor. Earlier, in July 2026, the Centre had notified both projects as Special Railway Projects under the Railways Act, according to Gazette-tracking records. Regionalnews

The reported withdrawal therefore marks a change from the position in April, when Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Uri-Baramulla line was under planning and DPR stage, while doubling work between Qazigund and Baramulla was described as underway.

The Baramulla-Uri proposal had also come under scrutiny in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. A private member’s resolution sought an independent geological, geotechnical and seismic assessment of the proposed alignment before further progress.

LoP Sunil Sharma

support and cooperation in addressing matters concerning the people.

Sharma expressed gratitude to the Union Home Minister for his guidance and continued support on issues related to the security, development and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

CS For Leveraging

environment and the imperative of preserving its fragile ecosystems.

He underscored that the success of SBM would ultimately be measured by cleaner neighbourhoods, efficient waste management and sustained behavioural change. He urged ULBs to actively engage communities and ensure that the infrastructure created under the mission delivers tangible benefits to the public.

The Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur took this occasion to present a comprehensive status of both the flagship urban development programmes, apprising the meeting of significant progress in scientific waste management, urban water security, wastewater treatment, legacy dumpsite remediation and technology-driven town planning.

She also highlighted the financial utilisation, timelines for ongoing works and measures being taken to achieve the targets within the stipulated schedules.

The Commissioner, JMC, Devansh Yadav, who is also the MD, SBM (Urban) & AMRUT, while talking over the presentation revealed that under SBM-U 2.0, against a total Phase-II allocation of 692.12 crore, expenditure of 96.97 crore has been recorded, with 57.95 crore available for ongoing works during the current financial year.

Elaborating further he apprised the meeting that the implementation of SBM-U 2.0 has achieved a significant progress here especially in dry waste processing, bio-remediation of legacy waste and establishment of waste-to-resource facilities.

It was revealed that out of the 78 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) targeted for setting up Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), 62 have completed the works, while the remaining 16 are targeted for completion by December 2026.

Additionally the meeting was informed that the 225 TPD Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has achieved 50 per cent physical progress. Meanwhile the 300 TPD CBG plant proposed by Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is presently under an extended bidding process.

In the Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste management sector, the 65 TPD JMC facility has been completed and is undergoing trials, while the 125 TPD SMC facility has achieved 95 per cent physical progress and set for completion by this year.

On legacy waste remediation, out of a total target of 26.29 lakh metric tonnes, 13.29 lakh MT has already been bio-remediated. JMC is scheduled to clear its remaining 0.80 lakh MT by October 2026, while complete remediation in the Kashmir Division is targeted by December 2026. Similarly work on the bio-remediation of 10.20 MT balance legacy waste of SMC is going on round the clock to be completed in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was also informed that treated wastewater from the Mehdi Kadal and Pahalgam STPs is being reused for irrigation of floriculture fields, promoting sustainable water-use practices.

With respect to AMRUT 2.0, the MD, divulged that a Central Assistance of 867 crore has been secured by the UT under this Mission, with works amounting to 852.90 crore already allotted. He further added that during the current financial year 2026-27, 113.51 crore has been utilised out of 150 crore released so far.

The meeting was informed that J&K has completed all 22 approved water-body rejuvenation works, marking a significant milestone in the restoration and revival of urban water resources.

Moreover of the 65 approved water supply schemes under AMRUT 2.0, seven have already been completed, while 30 are targeted for completion by December 2026 and another 18 are scheduled for completion by March 2027.

Under the ‘Jal Hi Amrit’ initiative, against an incentive of 10.50 crore sanctioned for 14 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), five works have been completed. The STPs had also been incorporated with advanced systems including SCADA and Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (CEMS).

The meeting was further informed about the progress under the GIS-based Master Plan for Class-II towns, being implemented at a cost of 22.50 crore in collaboration with the Survey of India. Drone-based mapping has already been completed for 14 towns, while mapping of all 18 identified towns is scheduled for completion by October 2026.

It was also highlighted that the Community participation has also emerged as an important component of the urban transformation initiatives. In this direction Five Self-Help Groups (SHGs) had been engaged under the AMRUT Mitra initiative completing 100 per cent of the targeted 78,000 water-quality tests. Another 11 SHGs are undertaking green-cover initiatives and have so far planted 798 trees around sensitive water bodies and dumping sites.

Under sanitation workers’ welfare initiatives, H&UDD has profiled 7,422 Sanitation Response Workers (SSWs) and distributed 713 specialised PPE kits. As many as 627 workers have been covered under Ayushman Bharat Health Cards, while the National Sanitation Helpline 14420 is fully operational, the meeting was apprised.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the department’s initiatives under the Clean Himalayan and Hill Cities Initiative (CHHCI), under which 22.37 crore is being deployed across key eco-tourism destinations.

At Katra, initiatives include container-based Pink Toilets and development of a plastic-free green corridor towards the Railway Station. In the same vein at Pahalgam and Patnitop, automated road sweepers, Reverse Vending Machines and women-friendly smart toilets are being introduced. Initiatives planned for Gulmarg/ Tangmarg and Bhadarwah include a Waste-to-Wonder Park, eco-friendly SHG-based packaging and CCTV-enabled waste monitoring systems.

The Chief Secretary emphasised the need for sustained monitoring of ongoing works, adherence to prescribed timelines and effective utilisation of available resources to ensure that the benefits of these flagship urban development programmes reach citizens across the Union Territory.

Kashmir Women’s

particular emphasis on women’s participation in India’s digital and financial transformation. According to the figures highlighted in her address, more than 10 crore rural women are connected through Self-Help Groups, creating a vast grassroots platform for financial inclusion, livelihoods and women-led economic empowerment.

Darakshan also highlighted the scale of India’s digital public infrastructure, including more than 1.44 billion Aadhaar enrolments and over 724.3 million DigiLocker users, while stressing the importance of privacy, consent, cybersecurity and data protection as digital systems continue to expand.

“Digital progress becomes meaningful when technology reaches those who have traditionally remained furthest from opportunity,” Darakshan said.

She emphasised that the true measure of digital transformation should not be technology alone, but whether it expands access, opportunity and dignity for people at the last mile. In her concluding remarks, she called for greater cooperation among governments, international institutions, civil society and technology partners to build a digital future that is inclusive, secure, accessible and people-centred.

She urged the international community to ensure that women, rural communities, and vulnerable populations are not left behind as digital transformation accelerates worldwide.

The figures presented at the Council underscored the scale at which India’s digital public infrastructure is expanding access to connectivity, banking, digital payments and public services. Bhat reiterated that the larger objective should remain ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation reach communities and individuals at the last mile, particularly women, rural populations and vulnerable groups.

Gandhi Family

Five’ economies. Nearly 60 per cent of Indians were left struggling in poverty,” Bhandari said.

“The Gandhi-Vadra family is not the guardian of Indian democracy. It is a threat to Indian democracy,” he said.

Bhandari alleged the Congress has openly admitted that its battle is “solely” about bringing the Gandhi family back to power.

“The truth is finally out in the open,” the BJP leader said, posting a video of Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy purportedly exhorting people to stand with “Gandhi parivaar to defeat the Sangh Parivaar”.

“The Congress has nothing to do with ‘Vote Chori’, the Election Commission, the Constitution or democracy. The Congress’s only objective is to restore the Gandhi-Vadra family to power,” the BJP spokesperson added.

JKPSC, JKSSB Collect

recruiting agencies such as the UPSC and SSC.

“Accordingly, the examination/application fee is not treated as a source of revenue or profit,” the government said, adding that the fee is primarily intended to partly defray the expenditure incurred by recruiting agencies in carrying out the recruitment process—(KNO)



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Ganderbal's historic ziyarats get reconstruction push under Waqf Board

AGENCIES

GANDERBAL: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on Saturday inaugurated the reconstruction project of the ziyarats of Hazrat Syed Jaffar Sahib (RA), Hazrat Syed Abdul Rehman Sahib (RA) and Syed Hajah Sahiba at Rayil Gund in Kangan area of Ganderbal district.

Andrabi said the J&K Waqf Board had resolved in 2022 to undertake the beautification and development of dargahs associated with Sufis and 'Awliya-e-Kiram' across Jammu and Kashmir.

She said the Board had undertaken works for beautification of dargahs and ziyarats, renovation of mosques and development of other assets under its jurisdiction.

"We have beautified the dargahs and ziyarats, renovated mosques and developed all the dargahs, ziyarats and other assets that come under the Waqf. In 2026, we have reconstructed and beautified our buildings and dargahs," Andrabi said.

She said the Waqf Board was working in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of taking forward infrastructure and development works.

On reports regarding removal of books related to Islamic literature from



a library, Andrabi said she did not have sufficient information about the matter to comment on it.

On restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, the Waqf Chairperson said the Centre had already given an assurance regarding the same.

"When Article 370 was removed, our Home Minister had said on the same day that statehood was the right of Jammu and Kashmir, and that statehood would be given. When the Home Minister and the Prime Minister have given this assurance, it is like a line carved in stone, and nobody can erase it. I am fully confident that the promise will be fulfilled," she said.

Reacting to criticism surrounding the functioning of the J&K Legislative Assembly, Andrabi said

the Opposition had a role in raising issues concerning the people.

She said governments should fulfil the promises made to the people and work towards addressing their concerns.

Referring to the works undertaken by the Waqf Board, Andrabi said several development works had been taken up despite there being no demands from the public.

"We had not made any promise, and no work had been done here for nearly 40 years. But we prepared a plan and started working. When you occupy a position of responsibility, it becomes your duty to work and understand your responsibilities," she said.

Andrabi also welcomed former Chief Minister and Union Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad's appreciation

of the Waqf Board's work during his recent visit to a dargah.

She said Azad's remarks and reaction after witnessing the development works had encouraged the Board to work further.

"Whatever he said is a great source of encouragement for us, and his words have motivated us to work even harder. We thank him," she said.

On future work in Ganderbal, Dr Darakhshan said the Waqf Board would continue efforts to improve facilities at shrines and ziyarats under its jurisdiction.

"We want to beautify all the shrines, ziyarats and Sufi dargahs under the Waqf Board so that the faith and beliefs of the people associated with these places are further strengthened," she said— (KNO)

JKAACL, KU sign MoU for Two-Year Diploma in Professional Calligraphy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) and the University of Kashmir have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly offer a two-year Diploma Programme in Traditional and Professional Calligraphy, marking a significant initiative towards preserving, promoting and imparting structured training in the rich calligraphic traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The MoU was signed by Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL, and Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir, in the presence of senior officials and academic functionaries of both institutions.

The programme has been conceived to provide systematic training in traditional as well as contemporary calligraphic practices while creating avenues for skill development and professional advancement in the field. The collaboration will bring together the cultural expertise and resources of JKAACL with the academic and institutional framework of the University of Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Harvinder Kour, said that the collaboration represents an important step



towards safeguarding the region's traditional knowledge and artistic practices through formal education and structured training.

She said JKAACL has a significant role in promoting the languages, literature, arts and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir and would extend its expertise and resources for imparting practical training in traditional calligraphy.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, said that the programme would place traditional calligraphic practices within a structured academic and skill-development framework and provide learners with opportunities for professional training and advancement.

B. M. Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture, appreciated the initiative and said that such institutional collaborations have long-term

significance in strengthening cultural and academic activities. He added that the Department would explore further avenues of collaboration with the University of Kashmir in other areas.

The programme will be offered through the Pran Krishan Kaul Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA), University of Kashmir, in collaboration with JKAACL. The two-year diploma programme will have an intake of 10 students in each academic session, with candidates who have passed 10+2 or an equivalent examination being eligible to apply.

Under the programme, three months of academic instruction each year will be conducted at IMFA, while the remaining period, dedicated to practical and traditional calligraphy training, will be conducted at the premises

of JKAACL. The arrangement is intended to provide students with both academic grounding and hands-on exposure to traditional calligraphic techniques.

Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Kashmir, and Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir, highlighted the academic significance of the collaboration and said that the programme would establish a meaningful linkage between the University's academic framework and JKAACL's cultural expertise and resources.

The signing ceremony was attended by Ideel Saleem, Additional Secretary, JKAACL; Dr. Habibullah Shah, Principal, IMFA, University of Kashmir; Dr. Ashfaq Zarri, Special Secretary to Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir besides other senior officials and functionaries of both institutions.

The initiative is expected to contribute towards the preservation, promotion and transmission of traditional calligraphic practices while equipping young learners with specialised skills and creating opportunities in the cultural, creative and professional fields.

JKTPO organizes export awareness-cum-e-commerce onboarding drive

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized an Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce On-boarding Drive at Budgam as part of its scheduled activities for the year 2026-27.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, District Industries Centre, Budgam, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Flipkart Samaratha and SBDU Mission Yuva. The event was attended by officers from various concerned departments.

The workshop aimed at empowering local artisans, weavers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), startups and MSMEs of Budgam to leverage e-commerce platforms for wider market access. The workshop witnessed an overwhelming response with participation of over 130 sellers from the district, dealing in Kani shawls, Crewel Embroidery, MushkBudji Rice, walnuts and other ODO products of Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, representative of

JKTPO briefly explained about the role of JKTPO and its objectives for promotion of trade and exports from district level and the aim of this workshop is to take district products to national and global markets. This workshop at Budgam is part of our mission to make every district export-ready.

Adil Javaid Khan from Flipkart subsequently delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Flipkart Samartha platform, providing participants with detailed insights into the platform and the opportunities available for artisans and MSMEs.

The session familiarized participants with the various aspects of establishing their presence on Flipkart Samartha and leveraging the platform for reaching wider markets

Sajid Bashir representative from ONDC-Mission Yuva highlighted the role of Open Networking platform, registration process and documents required therein. The session also provided an opportunity to participating enterprises to understand the practical benefits of joining the ONDC Network and explore avenues for taking their products to a wider customer base through digital channels

ADDC Shopian presides over 'Moon Gazing & Night Sky Observation Camp'



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: To foster scientific temper, curiosity and a passion for astronomy among students, School Education Department, through Chief Education Officer (CEO) Shopian, organized a "Moon Gazing and Night Sky Observation Camp" at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sedow, first of it's kind in the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The programme was organized in collaboration with the Innovative Science Communicators Association and supported by the Cultural Education Wing of the CEO Office Shopian.

The camp provided a hands-on platform for participating students and teachers to engage in practical astronomical observations, explore celestial bodies and learn about space science.

The programme featured interactive sessions, sky observation through specialized telescopes, guided

lectures and expert-led theoretical sessions aimed at inspiring young minds to explore STEM fields.

Addressing the gathering, ADDC emphasized the vital role of experiential learning and praised the Education Department's initiative in bringing practical scientific exploration directly to the students.

In his speech, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone stated that students should fully involve themselves to prepare for every field so they can bring laurels to their teachers and parents. He urged students and educators to pursue their chosen professions religiously and emphasized that when dedication is maintained, the nation proceeds to produce better professionals, including doctors, engineers and scientists.

The ADDC further added that the government is actively working to facilitate students regarding scientific inventions and initiatives. He stressed the need to train students to compete, excel and go ahead in their respective fields at both national and global levels, noting that it requires dedicated effort.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.

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EXTENSION NOTICE 5TH.

Subject: Construction of Borewell at Nagbal (Vail Nagbal, K Pora in District Anantnag).

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 30/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/4631-42, Dated: 14-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_316831_2.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 26-08-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	10-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	12-10-2026 11.00 AM

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.
No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./13009-24.
Dated: 26-09-2026.
DIPK-6159-26
DT: 26/09/2026

Sd/= Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

2. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406/Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Kamraj Forest Division.

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

4. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2026-27, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).

6. The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.

7. As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.

8. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).

9. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/ policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.

10. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

11. The down percentage bids shall have to deposit additional performance security as per the circular issued by the finance department J&K vide No. FD-CODE/441/2021-02-158 dated 08/08/2025.

12. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No: DF0/Kmj/Acctt/2026-27/ 309-12
Dated: 19/09/2026

DIPK-6117-26
DT: 26/09/2026

Divisional Forest Officer,
Kamraj Forest Division,
Zangli Kupwara.

SLC Reds Crowned Champions In Late Prof. Gh. Rasool Bacha Memorial Cricket Tourney

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: The grand finale of the annual Late Prof. Ghulam Rasool Bacha Memorial Cricket Tournament concluded today at Pethseer, Sopore, with SLC Reds putting on a commanding performance to defeat Legal Legends and lift the coveted championship trophy.

The annual sporting fixture is hosted by Sopore Law College to honor the enduring legacy of Late Prof. Ghulam Rasool Bacha, reverently remembered as the 'Sir Syed of Kashmir' for his pioneering contributions to education. The tournament serves as a key platform for law students to showcase their athletic talent, foster camaraderie, and nurture a spirit of healthy competition alongside their academic pursuits.

The tournament was conducted under the patronage of Maryam Bacha, Chairperson of Sopore Law College, alongside Tamkinah Naseem Bacha (Vice Chairperson), Javid Ahmad Bhat (Trustee), and Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq (Principal).



son of Sopore Law College, alongside Tamkinah Naseem Bacha (Vice Chairperson), Javid Ahmad Bhat (Trustee), and Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq (Principal).

The smooth execution of the 2026 edition was spearheaded by the organizing committee comprising Faheem Rasheed Shah (Course Coordinator), Dr. Mudassir Ahmad

Bhat (Librarian), and Ummar Rashid (Assistant Professor of Law), with dedicated administrative and operational support from Akhter Rasool (Administrative Incharge).

Speaking at the post-match presentation, Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq highlighted the significance of co-curricular activities, describing the tournament as a welcome break from academic routines. "Sports play an indispensable role in shaping student personality by instilling discipline, cooperation, teamwork, and resilience," he noted while commending the players for their spirited conduct.

Adding charm to the occasion, two young special guests, Zoya Javid and Assad Javid, graced the event and participated in the post-match presentation by presenting the trophies to the champion and runner-up squads.

The event concluded with an energetic felicitation ceremony where awards and trophies were distributed amid loud cheers from faculty members, administrative staff, and an enthusiastic student audience.

UT-Level Inter-Divisional Wushu Championship For Girls Kicks Off In Shopian



GMK SPORTS DESK

SHOPIAN: Inter-Divisional UT Level Wushu Competition for Under-17 and Under-19 Girls commenced Saturday in Shopian with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit.

The championship is being organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Shopian, bringing together talented young athletes from across various districts of the Union Territory.

The event was formally inaugurated by Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Shopian.

In his address, he emphasized the importance of sports in promoting discipline, confidence, fitness and unity among youth, while encouraging the participants to compete with dedication and true sportsmanship.

A large number of players from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions are participating in this prestigious championship. The opening day witnessed impressive performances and enthusiastic participation from the young athletes.

To ensure a seamless event, the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Shopian, has made all necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the competition, including boarding, lodging, transportation, medical assistance, and technical support for all participants.

The championship will continue over the coming days, showcasing the talent and competitive spirit of young Wushu players from across the Union Territory.

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Asian Games Prachi Choudhary Wins Bronze In Women's 400M

IAN S

NAGOYA: India's Prachi Choudhary won the bronze medal in the women's 400m at the Asian Games 2026 in Japan on Saturday, clocking 53.21 seconds to finish third and take India's overall medal tally at the Aichi-Nagoya Games to 30.

Salwa Eid Naser of Bahrain won the final, taking the gold medal with a time of 49.20 seconds and thereby setting a new Games Record. Zahra Jaree Manojan from Iran secured silver with a time of 52.38 seconds.

Kiran from India came fifth with a time of 53.41 seconds, and Seoyeon Kim from South Korea obtained fourth place.

Prachi's bronze medal has increased the total number of India's medals to four gold, twelve silver and fourteen bronze.

India has won gold medals at the Games in both the men's and women's kabaddi events; the Indian women's cricket team also secured a gold medal, and Kamaljeet and Suruchi Singh won the gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event in shooting.

Meanwhile, Animesh Kujur secured his spot in the 200 metres final by coming second in the third semifinal with a time of

20.81 seconds. Puripol Boonson of Thailand completed the race in 20.10 seconds, setting a new Games Record, while Kujur finished after him. After failing to secure a spot in the men's 100m final, the Indian sprinter



has now advanced to the 200m medal race.

India also obtained two spots in the men's 1500 metres final, with Gulveer Singh and Yoonus Shah qualifying from their respective heats.

In Heat 2, Gulveer came third with a time of 3:45.79, and Yoonus also obtained third place in Heat 1 with a time of 3:45.77.

The two Indian athletes will take part in the men's 1500 metres final, which is set for Monday.

Decided To Drop Risk-Averse Approach And Play With More Freedom In ODIs: Kohli

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Shedding the self-imposed anchor role that defined much of his career, senior India batter Virat Kohli on Saturday revealed he has consciously unlocked a new layer of 'freedom' in his 50-over batting approach to help India consistently push past the 350-run benchmark.

Kohli, who will turn 38 in November, has been playing ODIs with a renewed sense of vigour. His tally over the past 18 months reflects that freshness - punctuated by three centuries, four fifties, and a score over 90 in his last 10 ODI appearances alone.

"What's changed is, firstly, I promised myself that I'm going to play more freely. I'm not going to worry about the expectations that people might have around me. My role had always been, for a long period of time, that I'm going to stabilise things. I know I can play; I know I can hit shots.

"But the demands are such that if it's a tricky situation...you eventually get into a space where you're like, 'I can hit, but I've been given a role'. Now, the game is changing in a way that, especially if the conditions are fast-paced and good, and other teams are looking to push you towards 340-350, we should be able to get 350-360 as well," Kohli told JioStar ahead of India's first ODI against West Indies, to be played in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday.

Crucial to this tactical shift, Kohli pointed out, is his complete trust in India's long batting lineup. "I'm very willing to take risks now because I know that if I make runs there, we'll get 350-360 easily. And



if I do that and play longer, then I can hit more at the end."

"I had to unlock a little bit of that freedom in my own mind. That's also helped me in the IPL as well... because I'm not thinking that if I get out, the situation might get difficult for us. I have faith in the fact that other players around me are very good and will be able to handle the situation," he added.

Delving into the contrasting physical and mental demands across formats, Kohli drew a sharp line between bilateral 50-over matches and the gruelling environment of a World Cup. "T20 cricket in bilateral series was very different from World Cups. The intensity of the World Cup was extreme. ODIs are quite simple.

"Bilateral series run at a certain intensity, and you're always working towards a big competition... figuring out combinations and giving players game time under pressure. The intensity of a 50-over World Cup is greater because now it's about 10 games at a T20 level of intensity. To maintain that intensity for 10 games in a big tournament... especially in foreign conditions, is a big deal. It takes a lot of you," he added.

Kohli credited his rigorous physical training for allowing him to sustain peak performance through such long campaigns. "I am placed very well today because of the work I have put in physically. I feel like I can sustain that kind of intensity for 10 games easily if I continue to keep working hard on my fitness," he said.

Kohli also shared his thoughts on captain Shubman Gill's ongoing evolution in the leadership role, and praised the young opener's tactical sharpness and proactive field placements. "Shubman, the captain, is still learning. He is still young in the role, but he has got the right perspective and the right kind of intensity to lead the Indian team.

"He thinks of ways to get batters out in the field, which is always a sign of doing something different or staying a step ahead. He is not shy to use different kinds of fields, put guys under pressure, communicate the same to the bowlers, and bring in a certain kind of bowling attack," he added.

Bandipora Clinches UT-Level U-14 Boys Handball Championship



GMK SPORTS DESK

BANDIPORA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Bandipora, Saturday concluded the Inter-District UT-Level U-14 Boys Handball Competition at SK Stadium Bandipora, with the host district emerging as the champion.

In the much-anticipated final, Bandipora defeated Baramulla in a closely contested encounter to lift the championship title. Baramulla secured the runner-up position, while Kulgam finished third

after defeating Jammu in the third-place play-off.

At the conclusion of the competition, DYSSO Bandipora, Ab Majeed Rather presented trophies to the winning, runner-up and third-position teams.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation of young athletes from across the Union Territory, highlighting the efforts of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, towards nurturing sporting talent and promoting discipline, teamwork and competitive spirit among young players.

When And Where To Watch 50-Over Series

IAN S

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: With little over one year left for the ODI World Cup 2027, India ramps up their preparations for the global showpiece as they host West Indies for three ODIs from Sunday onwards, with the opener slated to take place at the Greenfield International Stadium here.

Eyes will also turn to stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, both of whom will be in action after some time off the field, with them last playing in the away England ODI series in mid of July.

While Virat has mostly been in strong touch, Rohit stormed back among runs with a century in the third ODI against England as speculations were rife on his future with the Indian team.

With some of India's top stars away for the Asian Games gold medal defence, India can test their bench strength, with game time crucial for the likes of Nitish Kumar Reddy, Dhruv Jurel, Ramandeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar



and Auqib Nabi.

It would also be interesting to see whether and how many games India give to their third opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is the back-up to Rohit and captain Shubman Gill.

For West Indies, though, this series presents them with strong preparation ahead of the World Cup qualifiers in February next year, as they have not automatically qualified for the 2027 showpiece and would need to come through the long route to avoid the embarrassment of a double World Cup miss after they

failed to qualify for the 2023 showpiece.

The first ODI will take place on Sunday, followed by the second one on Wednesday at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium, while the third one is slated for October 3 at the PCA International Cricket Stadium, Ground A.

When and where to watch India vs West Indies ODIs?

The ODI series between India and West Indies will be available for telecast on the Star Sports Network, while the streaming will be available on the JioHotstar app and website.

Squads: India: Shubman Gill (C), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul, Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Mohammed Siraj, Auqib Nabi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Naman Dhir.

West Indies: Shai Hope (c), Jewel Andrew, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Vitel Lawes, Gudakesh Motie, Kemo Paul, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales.

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