

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

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Every Pashmina shawl, Kani and Sozni embroidery is a living heritage, shaped by patience and devotion. Honoring women artisans safeguards our legacy and empowers future generations. Their hands carry India's cultural memory to the world and the nation stands committed to their dignity, fair remuneration and global recognition.

GMK

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J&K To Draft Guidelines Regulating Social Media Journalists

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is working on a new media policy to regulate the mushrooming of social media journalists, the Legislative Assembly was informed on Wednesday.

Responding to a question from National Conference (NC) MLA Bashir Veeri, Minister Sakina Itoo said the Assembly's House Committee, constituted to examine the matter, has given the Information Department four months to formulate new guidelines. Itoo said the House Committee, headed by senior MLA and former minister, Ali Mohammad Sagar, met on July 13, 2026.

The government informed



the House that under proposed New Media Policy, 2026, adequate provisions for registration and regulation of the Online News Media Platforms have been incorporated to ensure their accountability.

The Minister informed the House that the issue was discussed in detail

Pashmina Artisan Awards 2026

Pashmina Artisans True Custodians Of J&K's Cultural Heritage: LG Sinha

Says Every Pashmina Shawl, Kani, Sozni Embroidery Is Living Heritage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday described Pashmina artisans as the "true custodians" of Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage, calling for fair remuneration, social security, global market access and greater institutional support to preserve the centuries-old craft.

"You should never feel that your work is ordinary. What you are doing is a form of devotion, an act of creation and a noble effort to keep India's cultural memory alive. I would like to say to all the honoured artisans that whenever a person anywhere in the world carries an original Pashmina product from Jammu



Kashmir on their shoulders, they carry with them a part of India's culture and history," the Lieutenant Governor said while gracing the Pashmina Artisan Awards 2026, organised by the Pashmeena Entrepreneurs

Makers and Artisans (PEMA) Foundation in Srinagar. He extended heartfelt congratulations to all award winners and PEMA Foundation for such excellent initiative.

In his address, the Lieuten-

ant Governor said the award ceremony is the celebration of Jammu Kashmir's cultural prosperity. He said the awards honour not merely individuals but an entire artistic civilisation of the country that has captivated the world for generations. The Lieutenant Governor invoked the spirit of Bhagwan Vishwakarma, the divine embodiment of craftsmanship and emphasised that India has always regarded artisanship as sacred knowledge.

Highlighting the extraordinary saga of patience and skill behind the Pashmina tradition, the Lieutenant Governor paid special tribute to women artisans, noting their central role in every stage

GMK NEWS NETWORK

'Op Drishti' Reflects Army's Service, Courage, Resolve: LG

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said the Army is not only a force that defends the country from external threats, but also a source of support and healing for ordinary citizens in times of need.

Sinha made these in the closing ceremony of the 11th Mega Eye Surgery Camp organised under Operation

Drishti, which marks another milestone in the Indian Army's healthcare outreach in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh and commended the Indian Army for their dedication. The Lieutenant Governor also appreciated the selfless service of

24,058 In Jammu
Govt Issues 2,486
EWS Certificates In
Kashmir: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, on behalf of Chief Minister who also holds the portfolio of Revenue Department, informed the House that during the last two years, 2,486 Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) certificates have been issued in Kashmir Division and 24,058 in Jammu Division.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Notice tabled by MLA Sajad Gani Lone

Notify New Car Policy Within 15 Days: Speaker

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Taking serious note of the prolonged delay in finalising the new Car Policy, Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather Wednesday directed the government to ensure that the policy is finalised and notified within 15 days.

The direction came after Transport Minister, Satish Sharma presented the status report on the Car Policy, saying that the department would undertake necessary inter-departmental consultations and



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■ Autumn Session

Rs 3 cr released under SDRF for relief in affected Budgam areas: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: An amount of Rs 3 crore has been released under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for extending relief assistance in the affected areas of Budgam district, including Beerwah Constituency. This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary while replying to a Calling Attention raised by MLA Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani regarding the plight of people affected by the recent flash floods in Beerwah constituency.

The Dy CM informed the House that in respect of the flood-related death case reported from the constituency, ex-gratia compensation amounting Rs 4 Lakh has been recommended for release to the legal heirs of the deceased, as per applicable SDRF norms. He also informed that as per reports a double-storey shopping complex comprising twenty-nine (29) shops, along with one residential shed, was damaged/washed away in the floods at Qasba Beerwah.



The Deputy Chief Minister said that the concerned departments (PWD-R&B, Municipal committee, Revenue and other concerned departments have made certain preliminary assessment(s) and land title and final assessment of losses/damage regarding the structure is under process.

Surinder Choudhary informed that a detailed assessment of crop and horticulture damage in Beerwah Constituency has also been carried out by the Agriculture Production Department. He informed that a total crop damage of 5 hectares, comprising 3.15 hectares of Paddy, 1.65 hectares of Vegetables and 0.20 hectares of Maize besides, horticulture

damage over an area of 0.334 hectares affecting 7 orchardists, with claims amounting Rs. 30,000/-, has been reported and compensation in respect of these losses shall be extended as per the applicable norms.

He said that the District SDRF Committee has assessed the damage to roads, bridges and culverts in the R&B Division, Beerwah and recommended a fund requirement of Rs. 1,092.92 lakh for their restoration. Further, an amount of Rs. 11.41 Lakh has been recommended for restoration of the 33 KV Ahmad Pora-Beerwah power transmission line under Sub Transmission Division-II, KPDC, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti Department Javed Rana Wednesday informed the House that the Jal Shakti Department is implementing various Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) under Jal Jeevan Mission, NABARD and UT CAPEX (SASCI) for providing adequate and potable water supply to the habitations of Pahalgam Constituency.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention notice moved by MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani.

The Minister said that a total of 56 water supply schemes have been taken up under JJM at an estimated cost of Rs. 11649.66 lakh to cover the entire area of Pahalgam constituency with the Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCS). Of these, 31 schemes have been

completed and made functional while the remaining 25 schemes are under execution and have achieved more than 75% physical progress, he added.

The Minister said that the balance works will be completed and the schemes commissioned within the extended timeline prescribed under JJM 2.0, as the Mission has now been extended up to December, 2028.

The Minister informed that in case of water supply Scheme Regional Dachnipora, the pace of execution could not be maintained as the matter remains sub-judicial since long time due to land dispute. The villages/habitations coming under the scope of WSS Regional Dachnipora viz, Awoora, Dehwatoo, Nagipora, Charigam, Kullar, Wullerhama, Sofipora Hardekathal Movera, Yanner, Wehdan, Sallar, Livar Zaigund, Bag-



wani are being provided drinking water supplies partly through an existing old water supply schemes, he said.

The Minister further informed that there is one more water supply scheme (WSS Litroo) which has been taken up under NABARD with an

estimated cost of Rs. 564.75 lakh which has achieved 80 percent physical progress.

He said that the water supply to the villages/habitations of Wullerhama, Hardekathal and Sofipora was adversely affected due to back-to-back cloudbursts in Nallah Awoora during July and August.

The affected water supply infrastructure has, however, been temporarily restored and a proposal for permanent restoration has been submitted. He informed the House that the drinking water to these affected areas is being provided through an old existing system besides tanker services are deployed as per the need within available resources.

He said that the proposals for augmentation/coverage of some left out habitations restoration works have been reflected under various other programmes like UT Capex, District Capex and SASCI.

The Minister said that the department is taking all necessary measures to resolve the water supply issues and will continue to take necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted drinking water facilities in the Pahalgam Constituency.

J&K Bank drives green mobility initiative at IIM Jammu under CSR

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Strengthening its commitment to youth-focused development and environmental sustainability, J&K Bank Wednesday supported the launch of a green mobility initiative at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme. As part of the initiative, 71 bicycles, along with dedicated cycle stands, were flagged off at the Institute's Jagti Campus.

Bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee flagged off the bicycles in the presence of Director IIM Jammu Prof B.S. Sahay and the Bank's GM & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta. Also present on the occasion were Prof (Dr) Shakti Gupta; Dean Academics Prof Nitin Upadhyay; Chairperson Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Skill Development Dr Muqbil Burhan; Chairperson Student Affairs Prof (Dr) Brigadier Neeraj Soni; and Chairperson Anandam Prof Shyam Narayan Lal, besides other faculty members, officers, staff and students of the Institute.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Educational institutions shape not



only knowledge but also the habits, values and choices of future generations. When students experience sustainability as part of their everyday campus life, it becomes a value they carry into the organisations and communities they go on to lead. This initiative is, therefore, an investment not merely in mobility infrastructure, but in healthier living, environmental awareness and responsible leadership."

"At J&K Bank, our CSR approach is guided by the enduring impact that the intervention can create. Our partnership with IIM Jammu brings together two institutions committed to shaping a better future - one through education and leadership development, and the other through responsible financial and social engagement. We are pleased to support an initiative that places young

people at the heart of climate-conscious change," he added.

Earlier, Director IIM Jammu Prof B.S. Sahay welcomed and felicitated MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and the Bank's representatives. Acknowledging the Bank's support under its CSR Programme, he appreciated its contribution towards strengthening sustainable mobility infrastructure at the Institute and promoting healthy and environmentally responsible practices among students.

The initiative seeks to encourage students to adopt clean, healthy and non-motorised transportation for movement within the campus. The dedicated cycle stands will provide organised parking facilities and support the proper upkeep and sustained use of the bicycles.

Govt takes note of premature apple fruit fall in Shopian; orders probe: Javid Dar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The government has taken serious cognizance of premature and extraordinary fruit fall reported in apple orchards of Zainapora and other areas of Shopian district and certain areas of Anantnag district.

This was stated by Minister for Agriculture Production, Javid Ahmad Dar, while replying to a Calling Attention Notice raised by MLA Showkat Hussain Ganai regarding premature fruit fall in orchards of Zainapora.

The Minister said the issue has caused substantial losses and hardship to fruit growers. He informed that a Joint Enquiry Committee comprising Director Horticulture Kashmir and Director Law Enforcement, J&K, has been constituted to examine the matter from scientific, regulatory, enforcement and crop-damage perspectives. The Committee submitted its status report to the government on September 21, 2026 while the complete report is awaited.

As part of the scientific investigation, Javid Dar said multidisciplinary teams from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) conducted field inspections in the affected areas on June



18, June 29 and July 3, 2026. During the inspections, 37 villages and 61 farmers' orchards were surveyed and premature fruit drop was observed in all 61 orchards. Of these, 20 growers had reportedly used the fungicide marketed as "Super M-45" alone while 41 had used it in combination with other agro-chemicals.

The Minister said the extent of fruit fall in several orchards increased progressively from around 30 percent during the initial inspection to nearly 70 percent during the second visit and close to 90 percent in certain cases during the third visit. Simultaneously, the Law Enforcement Wing of the Agriculture Department undertook verification of the manufacture, distribution and sale of the product. Twelve licensed dealers dealing with Batch No. SP-1902 were identified while 238 kilograms of the said batch were seized in District Shopian.

The enquiry, he said, has

revealed serious discrepancies concerning regulatory particulars and provenance of the batch. Discrepancies were noticed in the QR code, registration number, manufacturing licence particulars, approved label, manufacturing date and Certificate of Analysis (COA).

Javid Dar informed the House that the QR code printed on the package reportedly corresponded to a different registered entity besides discrepancies in manufacturing licence particulars and other regulatory documents.

"Legal and police action has already been initiated. Proceedings under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Insecticides Rules, 1971 are underway in connection with the alleged misbranding. In view of discrepancies relating the identity of the manufacturer, registration, licence, label and other regulatory particulars, the matter was also referred for police investigation. Accordingly, FIR No. 0200 dated September 23, 2026 has been registered at Police Station Shopian against the suspected persons. The investigation will establish the actual source of manufacture and packaging of the batch, trace its supply chain and determine responsibility in accordance with law," said the Minister.

New building for Gandhi Nagar Hospital in Pipeline: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday informed the House that the proposal regarding construction of new building for Gandhi Nagar Hospital is in pipeline.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Vikram Randhawa regarding declaration of the old hospital building of Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, as unsafe pursuant to the Safety Audit conducted by the Superintending Engineer (Structural Wing), Jammu, necessitating its demolition and construction of a new, modern hospital building at the site.

The Minister informed the House that, during 2025, the old building of Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, developed severe water seepage and waterlogging issues. Accordingly, a Structural Safety Audit was conducted by PWD (DIQC), Jammu, which highlighted certain safety concerns pertaining to the building, she added.



Keeping in view the safety of patients and staff, the Minister said that all hospital services, except the OPD Block, were shifted to the 200-bedded MCH Building of GMC Jammu. She added that, simultaneously, the necessary process for construction of a new hospital building at the existing site has been initiated.

Sakeena Itoo informed the House that the requisite floor-wise service plans, duly approved by the Committee constituted for the purpose, have already been submitted to the Chief Architect and Chief Engineer, PWD, Jammu. The total station site plan, required for preparation of the architectural design, is presently under finalization, she added.

Govt restoring Ramban filtration plant, boosting water supply in Batote: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The government is vigorously implementing the necessary remedial measures to restore the Slow Sand Filtration Plant (SSFP) at ward number 2, Ramban-Maitra Town, which has developed choking and resulted in reduced filtration capacity.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, stated this while responding to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju, MLA Ramban, regarding the shortage of clean drinking water in Batote and Ramban towns due to non-functioning of filtration plants and shortage of water tankers.

The Minister informed that necessary measures are being put in place and the water filtration plant is expected to be made functional shortly. He said that

as an alternative and sustainable source of drinking water, drilling of a borewell has also been taken up, with the work presently in progress.

Regarding water supply to Batote Town, the Minister informed the House that the water supply there is presently being catered through a 5,000 GPH Rapid Sand Filtration Plant (RSFP) and another 15,000 GPH RSFP is under execution. He further said that the project is expected to be completed within the current financial year.

On the issue of shortage of water tankers in Ramban, the Minister informed that water supply in water-stressed areas is presently being supplemented through two hired water tankers, which are being deployed in Batote Town and Ramban-Maitra Town as per requirement.

Tanvir Sadiq congratulates Speaker on successful NeVA rollout

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq on Wednesday congratulated Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather and the Assembly Secretariat for the successful introduction of the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) during the Autumn Session of the House.

Speaking on the concluding day of the Autumn Session, Tanvir Sadiq appreciated the efforts of the Speaker and the Assembly Secretariat in successfully introducing the digital platform for legislative business, describing the initiative as an important step towards making the functioning of the House more accessible and technology-driven. He said the successful imple-

mentation of NeVA would facilitate the availability of legislative business, questions and replies on a single digital platform, enabling members and other stakeholders to access relevant information more conveniently.

Sadiq expressed his appreciation to Speaker JKLA Abdul Rahim Rather for taking the initiative forward and also placed on record his gratitude to the J&K Legislative Assembly Secretariat and all officials involved in the implementation of the project.

He said that it is a significant step towards digitising the functioning of the House. The availability of questions, replies and other legislative business on the platform will make the proceedings more accessible and transparent.

Adequate measures in place to strengthen water sources in Banihal: Min Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that water supply infrastructure in the Banihal-Gool constituency is being restored and augmented through sustained measures to address the drinking water shortage in the affected areas. He stated this while responding to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Banihal Sajad Shaheen, regarding acute shortage of drinking water in Sumar, Thachi, Manjit, Chajloo, Ramsoo, Tajnihal and several other habitations of the constituency.

The Minister informed the House that flash floods

during August-September 2025 had damaged several water supply schemes in the Banihal-Gool constituency. "The damaged infrastructure was temporarily restored to maintain continuity of water supply while works for permanent restoration have been allotted under the SASCI and are presently under progress," added the Minister.

He said that measures are also being taken to identify and develop alternative water sources in the affected and water-stressed areas. Deep drilling of borewells has been proposed/taken up at Luru for Ramsoo, Kharwan and Dhak habitations; Runigam for WSS Dhanmasta; Luru Alloos for Dhanmasta area and

Tajnihal for the Tajnihal area. He said that the required works have been included in the SASCI pool of projects, with preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) currently in progress.

The Minister stated that augmentation of Banihal Town water supply has also been proposed under the SASCI pool, for which the DPR is being prepared.

Regarding Ahma Kawalin habitation under WSS Dardahi Sujmanta, Javed Rana said that the existing water source has been depleted. He informed that an alternate source has been proposed to be tapped under the permanent restoration works being undertaken through SASCI, with the work presently in progress.

Young Srinagar brothers win praise for promoting Kashmir's heritage brands

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A young entrepreneurial initiative from Srinagar has drawn appreciation at the two-day event held on the 29th and 30th of the month, with Nasreen Kashmir Company winning accolades for showcasing a range of traditional and premium Kashmiri products.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and SKUAST-Kashmir Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai were among those who appreciated the products displayed by the company during the event.

At the centre of the initiative are two young brothers from Srinagar, Tufail Shah and Adnan Shah, who have taken up the task of promoting Kashmir's rich product heritage while giving traditional brands a contemporary platform.

The brothers have been promoting Kashmiri saf-



from, the world-famous rice varieties Mushk Budij and Kanagich, besides Shilajit, gummies and other rare and distinctive products associated with Kashmir.

Hailing from Nowpora, Srinagar, the brothers belong to a business family and are carrying forward a legacy established by their grandfather, Ahadullah Shah. Their initiative reflects an effort to blend the family's traditional business values with the aspirations of a new generation of entrepreneurs.

The appreciation

received at the event has provided further encouragement to the young entrepreneurs, who are working to take Kashmiri products beyond local markets and present the Valley's distinctive agricultural and traditional offerings to a wider audience.

Their journey also highlights how young Kashmiris are increasingly looking towards entrepreneurship to preserve traditional products, build brands around local identity and create new opportunities for the next generation

eral of India (CAG), on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, for periods ended March 2023 and March 2024.

The Reports laid before the House include the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the period ended

March 2023 (Report No. 03 of 2026, Composite Audit Report-Civil and PSEs) and the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the period ended March 2024 (Report No. 04 of 2026, Composite Audit Report-Civil).

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Regulate, Don't Let Self-Styled News Portals Run Wild

The mushrooming of self-styled social-media news portals in Jammu and Kashmir has become a serious challenge to the credibility of journalism itself.

A mobile phone, a Facebook page, a YouTube channel and a few sensational headlines are increasingly being presented as a substitute for a newsroom. The result is a digital environment in which the distinction between a trained journalist, a legitimate news organisation and an anonymous social-media operator is becoming dangerously blurred.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has now taken note of this growing problem, with members raising concerns over unregulated digital platforms. The government has announced that a new Media Policy is being prepared, with fresh guidelines for journalists and digital media expected within four months.

This reform is overdue. The issue is not the existence of social media. Nor is it the entry of young people into digital journalism. Technology has unquestionably expanded access to information and created new opportunities for genuine journalists.

Can Artificial Intelligence Humanise Education?



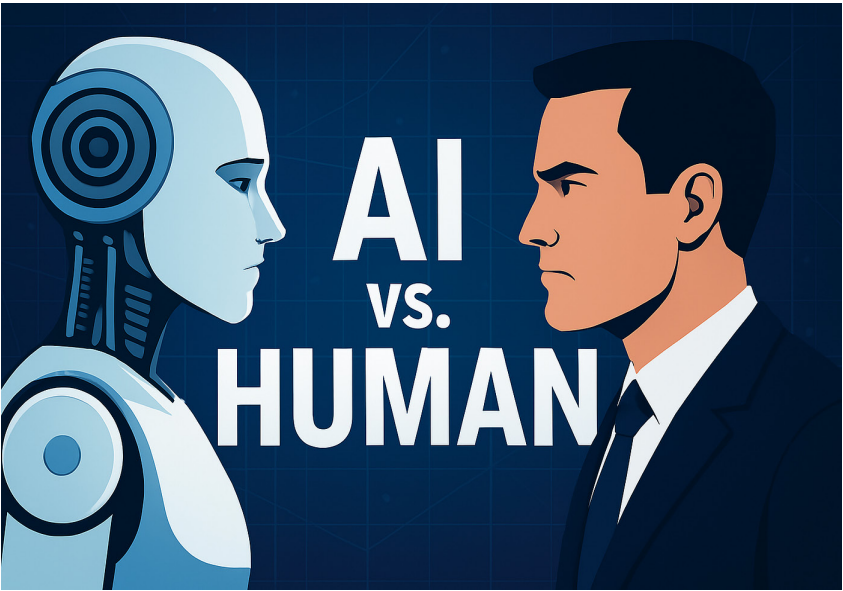
DR. BRODATI CHAKRABORTY

DR. PRASANTA GAYEN

What happens when the machine that knows everything begins to enter the classroom, but the teacher has less time to know the child? This is the paradox at the heart of the artificial intelligence revolution in education. AI can explain a difficult concept in seconds, generate an essay, translate a lesson, personalise learning materials and provide instant feedback. It can analyse patterns in student performance that might take a teacher hours to identify. Yet education has never been simply about delivering information. A machine can produce an answer, but can it recognise the silence of a student who has lost confidence? It can identify declining academic performance, but can it understand whether the cause is anxiety, family pressure, poverty or loneliness?

The central question, therefore, is no longer whether AI will enter the classroom - it already has. The real question is whether, in our rush to make education smarter, faster and more efficient, we risk making it less human. Used wisely, AI could give teachers something education systems have long struggled to provide: more time to listen, mentor, encourage and connect. Used carelessly, however, it could turn the classroom into a data-driven space where efficiency replaces empathy and personalisation is mistaken for genuine human attention.

The most constructive way to understand AI in education is not as a replacement for teachers but as a tool for augmenting human capability. Teachers devote enormous time to routine tasks such as preparing instructional materials, creating worksheets, generating assessments, organising information and compiling reports. AI can potentially reduce some of this workload, allowing educators to spend more time on discussion, mentoring, collaborative learning and individual support. It can also help students receive explanations according to their learning needs and provide additional opportunities for practice. But technological personalisation should not be confused with genuine individual attention. Students are



not simply collections of marks, behavioural patterns and learning preferences.

A student who repeatedly submits assignments late may appear academically disengaged, while the actual reason may be family responsibilities, financial difficulties, emotional pressure or a lack of confidence. An algorithm can identify a pattern; a teacher must understand its context. AI may tell us what a student has done, but a teacher often has to discover why. This distinction will become increasingly important as educational institutions collect more student data and depend more heavily on automated systems. The purpose of technology should therefore be to strengthen the teacher-student relationship, not to make that relationship unnecessary.

Generative AI is also forcing education to confront an uncomfortable question: if a machine can produce the answer, what exactly should the student be learning? Consider a familiar Indian classroom. A Class VIII teacher in a government school asks students to write a short paragraph in English on "My Village." A student who struggles with English uses an AI-enabled tool to produce a polished paragraph. If the teacher simply marks the submission, the exercise may measure the student's access to technology rather than the student's language ability. But imagine the teacher using that same AI-generated paragraph differently: asking the student to read it aloud, identify unfamiliar words, explain the ideas in Bengali or Hindi, rewrite two sentences in their own words and describe their actual village to the class. Suddenly, AI is no longer doing the learning for the

student; it is becoming a starting point for learning. This small example captures the larger challenge.

Students must learn not only how to use AI, but how to question, verify, adapt and improve what AI produces. Instead of simply asking learners to write essays, teachers can ask them to examine AI-generated responses, identify factual weaknesses, verify evidence and develop stronger arguments. For India, this approach is particularly important because classrooms differ enormously in language, geography, socioeconomic conditions, digital access and institutional resources. AI can support multilingual education, learners with disabilities and students requiring additional academic assistance, but technological progress without digital inclusion could deepen existing inequalities. The AI classroom must therefore be accompanied by teacher training, equitable access, data protection and ethical safeguards.

The arrival of AI does not make the teacher less important; paradoxically, it makes the teacher more important. When information becomes abundant, the educator's value lies less in possessing information and more in helping students interpret, question and apply it. Teachers will increasingly need to become facilitators, mentors, designers of learning experiences and ethical guides. They will also need to know when not to use AI. Not every educational problem requires a technological solution. Sometimes a student needs a conversation rather than a chatbot, encouragement rather than automated feedback, or a classroom debate rather than another digital activity.

Yet education has never been simply about delivering information. A machine can produce an answer, but can it recognise the silence of a student who has lost confidence? It can identify declining academic performance, but can it understand whether the cause is anxiety, family pressure, poverty or loneliness?

The future classroom will undoubtedly contain more AI, but the real measure of progress should not be the number of algorithms installed in schools and universities. It should be whether students emerge more curious, more critical, more compassionate and more capable of thinking independently. AI can make education more personalised, efficient and accessible, but it cannot decide what kind of human beings education should help us become. That responsibility remains ours. The future should therefore not be framed as AI versus the teacher, but as AI in the service of the teacher and technology in the service of the learner. If education is ultimately about preparing human beings to understand the world and one another, then the greatest success of artificial intelligence may not be teaching machines to behave more like humans. It may be giving human teachers more time to do what machines cannot: see the person behind the performance, hear the voice behind the answer and inspire the human being behind the student.

Dr. Brodati Chakraborty, Assistant Professor & Head of the Department, Department of Education, School of Education, Adamas University

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

Remembering The Generation That Taught Us Meaning Of Life



SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT

Every year, the International Day of Older Persons reminds us of something simple yet deeply important: we must respect and care for our older persons. They may be our fathers, mothers, grandfathers, grandmothers, relatives, neighbours or other elderly people in our society and locality. Their presence carries experiences, memories and lessons that cannot always be found in books or on the internet.

Whenever I get the opportunity to meet or interact with an older person, I experience a different kind of feeling. Their conversations often make me curious to know more about how they lived their lives, how they faced difficulties and how they managed their families and relationships. There is an innocence in many of their stories, a simplicity in their words and a purity in the way they remember the past. They belong to a generation that lived without the internet, smartphones and the rush of today's life. Their world was different. Communication was slower, families were often closer, and spending time together was a natural part of everyday life.

Many of them grew up in joint families where grandparents, uncles, aunts, parents and children lived under the same roof. Family members shared responsibilities, meals, celebrations, difficulties and happiness. Children grew up surrounded by elders, listening to their stories and learning from their experiences. Today, the

picture has changed considerably. Nuclear families have become common. People are busy with work, education, social media and other responsibilities. Even when family members live together, everyone can sometimes be occupied with their own screens and schedules. A person may sit in the same room with their family and still be connected more to the digital world than to the people around them.

This is why the International Day of Older Persons gives us an opportunity to pause and think about what we may be losing. For me, this day also brings back memories of my own grandparents. I remember my maternal grandmother giving me 100 or 500 secretly and saying, "Kisi ko batana nahi." At that age, perhaps I did not understand the value of that moment. Today, when I look back, I realise that those small gestures were much more than money. They were expressions of love. They were memories. They were blessings.

Our grandparents and elders often gave without expecting anything in return. Their intentions were simple. Their happiness was often connected to seeing children and grandchildren happy. A small gift, a prayer, a piece of advice, a story or simply a hand placed on our head could carry a meaning that we understand much better as we grow older. Perhaps this is why older persons are treasures for families and society.

They have witnessed different stages of life. They have seen changes in technology, education, transportation, family structures and social relationships. Many have lived through periods when resources were limited and life demanded greater patience and cooperation. Their experiences can teach younger generations about resilience, relationships, responsibility and gratitude. We



often talk about learning from books, teachers and the internet. However, there is another source of knowledge standing quietly around us: our elders.

Ask an older person about their childhood and you may hear a story about a completely different Kashmir. Ask them about festivals, weddings, village life, traditional food, agriculture, crafts, family customs or childhood games, and they may open a window into a past that younger generations have never experienced. These conversations are valuable because memories disappear when they are not shared. An elderly person may remember how people helped each other during difficult times, how neighbours knew one another, how children played outdoors for hours and how families gathered together without needing a digital invitation. They may remember names, places and traditions that are slowly disappearing from everyday life.

We should listen to them. Listening is also a form of respect. Sometimes older persons do not need expensive gifts. They may simply need someone to sit with them, ask how they are doing,

listen to their stories or spend some time drinking tea together. A short conversation can make someone feel remembered and valued. As society changes, the responsibilities of families also change. Children and adults have education, employment and other commitments. However, being busy should not mean becoming emotionally distant from our elders. Caring for them is not merely a responsibility; it is also an expression of gratitude for everything they contributed to our families. The people who once held our hands when we were learning to walk may one day need us to hold their hands. The people who stayed awake when we were sick may one day need us to stay beside them. The people who celebrated our smallest achievements may need us to celebrate their presence.

This is where dignity becomes important. Older persons should not be treated as a burden. They deserve respect in family decisions, access to healthcare, emotional support, safety and the freedom to live with dignity. We should also remember that not every elderly person has a family around them. Some

live alone. Some have lost their spouses. Some may have limited financial resources. Some may experience loneliness even while living among people. Therefore, our responsibility extends beyond our own homes. We can check on an elderly neighbour, help someone cross the road, assist an older person with a task, speak respectfully or simply ask whether they need anything.

Small acts of care can have a lasting impact. The International Day of Older Persons is therefore more than a date on the calendar. It is a reminder to look around us and recognise the people who helped build the families and communities we live in today. If you have old parents, grandparents or other elderly persons in your family, respect them. Care for them. Listen to them. Spend time with them. Do not wait for a special day to remind them that they matter. Perhaps they are among the last generations who experienced a slower, simpler and more closely connected way of life. Their stories carry memories of a world that is changing rapidly.

One day, we may miss their voices. We may wish we had asked more questions. We may want to hear that same old story again. But they may no longer be there to tell it. So, while we still have the opportunity, let us sit with them, listen to them and learn from them. Let us give them the dignity, affection and respect they deserve. Because our elders are not simply people from our past. They are living memories of our families, our communities and our changing society. And sometimes, the greatest treasures in our lives are the people we realise the value of only when we look back.

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Social Media And Information Warfare

New Challenge To India's National Security



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Today, social media has become a vital part of our lives. Through Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, and other digital platforms, people access information about the country and the world in seconds. Social media has made the exchange of information easier, but it has also brought with it some serious challenges. Information can now be used not only to inform people but also to influence their thoughts and emotions. This is why information warfare has become a crucial national security issue.

Information warfare refers to the use of information to influence people's thoughts, feelings, beliefs, and decisions. This can include false news, incomplete information, linking old photos or videos to new events, presenting true information in a false context, and persistently conveying a specific message. The goal isn't always to damage a building or military base. It's often to create confusion, fear, anger, or distrust.

Social media has significantly accelerated information warfare. Previously, widespread dissemination of propaganda required newspapers, radio, television, or other media. Today, a video created on a mobile phone can reach thousands or even millions of people in a matter of minutes. People often forward messages without verifying their veracity, making it difficult to prevent misinformation.

This challenge becomes even more significant in a large and diverse country like India. India is home to people of different religions, castes, languages, and regions. If false or inflammatory information about a



community spreads on social media, it can have a negative impact on society. A small local incident can be misrepresented and given a religious or communal spin. This can increase distrust and worsen law and order.

The impact of rumors on social media can sometimes be very serious. False accusations against individuals, spreading false narratives against a community, or presenting a false picture of an incident can inflame mob sentiment. In such situations, the police and administration suddenly face a significant challenge. Therefore, it is crucial to quickly provide accurate and authoritative information during sensitive incidents.

Deepfakes are a new form of information warfare. Artificial intelligence can be used to create fake videos by altering a person's face and voice. At first glance, these videos may appear real to the viewer. If a false video is circulated in the name of a politician, official, military officer, or other famous figure, it can create confusion. Such content can be especially harmful during elections, wars, terrorist incidents, or major crises.

The challenge of information warfare becomes even more serious in the military domain. During a mili-

tary operation, false information can be spread regarding troop positions, movements, weapons, or casualties. Old war videos can be passed off as current events. Fake military videos or false statements can be presented as real, in an attempt to influence public morale. Therefore, special caution is required when sharing security-related information.

Information warfare isn't just about events within India. Social media can also be used internationally to influence a country's image and policies. Various organizations or foreign networks can manipulate events to suit their own interests. Influencing international public opinion can be done by continuously spreading specific information on border disputes, terrorism, Kashmir, internal unrest, and other sensitive topics.

Bots and fake accounts are also a significant challenge on social media. While the average person may believe a large number of people share the same opinion on an issue, many accounts may actually be run by the same group. Repeated sharing of the same message may be used to make it appear popular. This makes it difficult to distinguish between genuine public opinion and an artificially created online environment.

Social media has significantly accelerated information warfare. Previously, widespread dissemination of propaganda required newspapers, radio, television, or other media. Today, a video created on a mobile phone can reach thousands or even millions of people in a matter of minutes.

Misinformation can also become a serious problem during natural disasters, epidemics, or other major crises. If misinformation spreads about a flood, earthquake, or other disaster in an area, people may go to the wrong place or miss out on necessary assistance. Similarly, misinformation about health can influence people's behavior. Therefore, reliable information systems are crucial during times of crisis.

India must strengthen both its technological and institutional capacities to address this challenge. The use of modern technology should be increased to identify fake news,

deepfakes, and bot networks. Artificial intelligence can help identify suspicious content, but final verification by experts is essential. Improved coordination between government departments is also essential to ensure accurate information reaches the public quickly during a crisis.

Governments, as well as social media companies, have a responsibility. They must develop effective systems to identify fake accounts, coordinated misinformation, and dangerous fake content. It is also important to strike a balance between combating misinformation while respecting freedom of expression and citizens' rights.

The role of the common citizen is crucial in this entire process. One should not immediately believe any image, video, or message. Especially with content related to religious, political, military, and community topics, one should verify its source before forwarding. If any information is in doubt, the safest course of action is to not share it.

It is also essential to promote digital and media literacy in schools and universities. Children and young people should be taught that not all information available on the internet is accurate. They should be given basic knowledge about source verification, identifying images and videos, and understanding fake news.

Ultimately, information warfare isn't just a problem for the government, the military, or cybersecurity agencies. It's a challenge for the entire society. In modern times, national security isn't determined solely by borders and military power, but also by public trust, social cohesion, and access to accurate information. Technological capabilities, fast and reliable government communications, robust cybersecurity, responsible social media, and informed citizens can together make India more secure from the challenges of information warfare.

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

Harud: A Season Of Harvest And Beauty

MUDASIR KOUL

There is a distinct change in the character of Kashmir as autumn approaches. The mornings become cooler, the light softer and the green of summer gradually gives way to shades of yellow, orange and red. The chinar leaves begin to change colour and, one after another, fall to the ground. Village paths, gardens and roadsides are covered with them. This is Harud, the Kashmiri autumn. For a visitor, Harud may simply be another beautiful season in the Valley. For Kashmiris, however, it carries memories and emotions that are difficult to separate from everyday life. It is associated with the harvest, orchards, changing weather, preparations for winter and the familiar landscapes in which generations have grown up.

Harud generally begins around September and continues through October and November. The warmth of summer slowly recedes, and mornings and evenings become colder. The change is most clearly visible in the trees. The chinar, or bouone, begins to transform, its green leaves gradually turning. There is a quiet beauty in watching the chinar shed its leaves. It is also a reminder of the passage of time. What is green today will change tomorrow. Perhaps this is one reason autumn has found such a strong place in Kashmiri poetry, folklore and everyday thought.

Harud is not only about the beauty of nature. It is also a season of work. For Kashmir's farming and horticultural communities, autumn is the period when the labour of many months begins to bear fruit. Paddy fields mature, apples are harvested, walnuts are collected and saffron cultivation enters an important phase in areas where it is grown. For farmers, therefore, Harud is a period of considerable activity. The success of the harvest can have a direct bearing on the livelihood of families. An old Kashmiri saying, "Sountas na keneras, te Harudas na neeles," reflects the agricultural wisdom of earlier generations. It reminds us that every season has its own task and that work has to be done at the right time. The wisdom contained in such sayings goes beyond



agriculture. Life too has its seasons. There is a time to prepare, a time to work and a time to reap the results of one's efforts. In this sense, Harud carries a lesson about patience, timing and perseverance.

For many Kashmiris, autumn is also a season of memories. Ask someone about Harud, and they may recall the smell of freshly harvested paddy, collecting walnuts with family members, carrying apples from an orchard or sitting indoors on a cold evening as winter approached. Traditional food practices are also closely linked with this period. Vegetables are cut, dried and stored for the winter months. Hókhyin, or dried vegetables, remains an important part of Kashmiri food culture. These practices reflect a time when people organised much of their lives according to the rhythm of nature and prepared well in advance for the harsh winter.

The chinar occupies a special place in all of this. During summer, its broad canopy provides shade. In autumn, it becomes a symbol of the season itself. Its changing leaves have inspired

poets, writers and artists for generations. Kashmiri literature has always maintained a close relationship with nature. Mountains, rivers, trees, flowers and changing seasons often appear not merely as elements of the landscape but as ways of expressing human emotions. Autumn, with its combination of beauty and decline, naturally evokes thoughts of separation, longing, ageing and the passing of time. Kashmiri kahawats also preserve the observations of earlier generations. Many of these sayings emerged from agriculture, weather, family life and the natural environment. They are short expressions but often contain the experience of generations. Keeping them alive is therefore also a way of preserving Kashmir's oral heritage.

The beauty of Harud is not limited to the well-known tourist destinations. Srinagar's Mughal gardens become particularly attractive as the chinars change colour. Dal Lake takes on a quieter appearance under the cooler autumn sky, while Pahalgam and Gulmarg acquire their own autumn shades. Yet some of the most mean-

ingful scenes of Harud can be found away from tourist centres. They are visible on village roads, in orchards and beside harvested fields. An elderly man sitting in the afternoon sun, children walking beneath falling leaves or farmers gathering the last produce of the season may capture the character of Kashmiri autumn better than any postcard.

However, the Harud experienced today is not entirely the same as the one remembered by previous generations. Kashmir's environmental and climatic conditions are changing. Variations in temperature and rainfall can affect agriculture and horticulture, including the timing of flowering, fruit development and harvesting. Environmental pressures are another concern. Pollution, loss of green spaces, unplanned development and the degradation of natural habitats can gradually alter the landscapes that give Harud its character. Protecting the natural environment is therefore not only an ecological responsibility; it is also a way of protecting Kashmir's cultural landscape. Preserving Harud

means preserving more than the chinar trees and autumn scenery. It means preserving the traditions, agricultural knowledge, food practices, kahawats, poetry and stories associated with the season.

This becomes particularly important as the younger generation grows increasingly distant from some traditional practices. Much of the knowledge that was once passed naturally from grandparents to children can disappear if it is not recorded, practised or spoken about. Modernisation is inevitable, but it need not mean losing the cultural memory of the past. Harud arrives quietly. There is no particular morning when Kashmir suddenly becomes autumn. The change takes place gradually. One morning the air feels colder, a few leaves have changed colour and the fields look different. Before long, the entire landscape has taken on another character. Perhaps this gradual transformation is one of the lessons of Harud. Change does not always announce itself. Sometimes it happens slowly, almost unnoticed, one leaf at a time.

The falling leaves, harvested fields and preparations for winter are all part of the same natural cycle. The chinar sheds its leaves, passes through winter and returns to green again in spring. In that sense, Harud is not simply about an ending. It is also about continuity and renewal. For a visitor, autumn in Kashmir may be a season of beautiful landscapes and photographs. For a Kashmiri, it can carry something more personal, a village road, an orchard, a family gathering, a field after harvest or an evening cup of kehwa.

That is what makes Harud difficult to describe in a few words. It is a season, but it is also a collection of memories. It belongs to the landscape, but it also belongs to the people who have lived through its changing colours year after year. Harud comes every year. The chinars change colour, the leaves fall, the harvest is gathered and winter eventually arrives. Yet every autumn carries something of its own. Perhaps that is the quiet beauty of Harud: the landscape changes, time moves forward, but the memories remain.

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J&K To Draft

during the previous Budget Session 2026 and MLAs across all political parties, highlighted the issue of dissemination of misleading and false information by unregistered and unregulated Digital/ Social Media News Channels and the need to fix their accountability.

She added that as per the Government's commitment to effectively address the issue, the Information Department is soon going to issue New Media Policy, 2026, wherein, besides Print Media, adequate provisions for registration and regulation of the Online News Media Platforms have been incorporated to ensure their accountability.

The Minister also said that as per the instructions given in House Committee on Govt. Assurances meeting recently, headed by Legislator Ali Mohammad Sagar, the Information Department has been asked to come up with a comprehensive guideline/SOP, mandating maintaining of the detailed lists of all unregistered social media news handles in the districts by the respective District Administration and to file cases under the relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Bharat Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 (earlier IPC)

She added that these new Laws contain explicit provisions to penalize and manage the spread of misinformation, fake news, and provocative content on social media platforms.

The Minister also informed that the J&K Home Department has also established the J&K Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (JK4C) as an independent organization under the overall superintendence and control of the Director General of Police, J&K, for coordinating, preventing, detecting and investigating cybercrimes in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

She also informed the House that to keep a check on fake/ misleading News Items appearing in the Print/Electronic/Social Media, the Social Media Cell of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K regularly tracks and examines such news through its dedicated Cell for monitoring of Fake/ Misleading News.

“As soon as any news item which is found fake or misleading, the Rebuttal of the same is issued through the Social Media handles of the Department on real time basis. It is also ensured that the Rebuttal of the Fake/ Misleading News items is issued for publication in the immediate next edition of the Newspapers, besides uploading of the same on the official website of the DIPR to keep the public informed”, she said.

The Minister also informed that the proposed J&K Media Policy, 2026, authorizes the DIPR to monitor content for fake news, plagiarism, and unethical/anti-national activities and to de-empanel the media house or withhold release of any government advertisement to such media entities. Besides, if such entities are registered by the Press Registrar General of India under the Press & Registration of Periodicals Act of 2023, their de-registration is recommended under the said Act, she added.

Legislators Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kuloo), Tanvir Sadiq, Saifuddin Bhat, Nazir Ahamd Khan (Gurezi), Waheed ur Rehman Parra, R.S Pathania, Nizamuddin Bhat, Pawan Gupta and Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi raised supplementaries.

J&K Assembly

expressed satisfaction over the overall conduct of the House and appreciated the active participation of members in raising issues of public importance and constituency-specific concerns.

Rather said that he had made it clear from the very first day on assuming the Chair that he does not represent any particular political party and is committed to discharge his responsibilities impartially and in the larger interest of the House.

He acknowledged the enthusiasm of members to raise issues concerning their constituencies and the people they represent, and complimented them for making maximum use of the time available to them. He, however, appealed to the members to understand the limitations imposed by the duration of the session.

The Speaker said that longer sessions would provide greater opportunity to members to raise constituency-specific issues, seek answers from the government and deliberate upon matters of public importance, besides easing the pressure on the Chair. He said that the members had been elected with great expectations from the people and appreciated their efforts to bring public concerns before the House rather than focusing on personal matters.

Rather reiterated that it was the responsibility of the Chair to provide every member a fair and reasonable opportunity to speak and participate in the proceedings of the House.

The Speaker also expressed appreciation for the contribution of all those who had worked for the smooth and successful conduct of the Session. He particularly acknowledged the efforts of the Assembly Secretariat staff and said that their

concerns and demands were under consideration.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary in his reflections said that the session was relatively short and that both the Treasury Benches and the Opposition had made efforts to address the issues concerning the people. He said that the Assembly was an important institution and a legacy that all members were collectively responsible for strengthening. He reiterated the government's commitment to work for betterment of the people and fulfilling the commitments made to them.

CPI(M) leader and MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigam said that the challenging circumstances prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir placed greater responsibilities on all elected representatives. He thanked the media for its role in covering the proceedings and stressed the importance of objective and responsible reporting.

MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta said that the short duration of the session had limited the opportunity for members to discuss various issues confronting the people. He called for longer sessions to provide adequate time to all MLAs to raise constituency-specific matters and to enable more questions to be taken up during Question Hour.

MLA Iftikhar Ahmed expressed appreciation for the Assembly Secretariat for its efforts in ensuring the smooth conduct of the proceedings and praised the Speaker for his conduct and wisdom in handling the House. He said that the primary objective of the Assembly was to provide a platform for raising and addressing the issues of the people.

MLA Syed Aga Muntazir Mehdi also appreciated the Speaker for the manner in which he conducted the proceedings and thanked the Assembly Secretariat and its staff for their efforts in facilitating the smooth functioning of the House.

MLA Tanvir Sadiq appreciated the Speaker for his presence of mind and the manner in which he steered the proceedings of the House.

The members, while concluding their remarks, expressed hope that future sessions would provide greater opportunities for detailed deliberations on public issues and strengthen the role of the Legislature in addressing the concerns of the people.

Pashmina Artisans

of production, from refining raw fibre to intricate embroidery. He said that empowering women artisan's safeguards heritage and strengthens the confidence of future generations.

“Women artisans are not merely participants in this tradition but they are its silent creators, its custodians and its heartbeat,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled the success of earlier editions of the awards in 2023 and 2025, describing them as rays of hope for the artisan community. He underlined that this year's awards mark a historic milestone, dedicated especially to women artisans whose artistry has given Kashmir's Pashmina its global prestige.

The Lieutenant Governor assured artisans of the Government of India's commitment in four key areas including fair remuneration and protection of Geographical Indication (GI) tags. Access to global markets through e-commerce, exhibitions, and digital platforms. Skill development and welfare, including healthcare, social security, and modern design training and financial inclusion through schemes like MUDRA, Credit Card Scheme and Karkhandar training initiatives.

He noted that the handloom and handicrafts sector currently provides economic security to 460,000 artisans and their families in the Union Territory, with 18 crafts granted GI tags and a QR-based system developed for authenticity.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the artisan community to embrace modern opportunities while preserving traditional excellence, assuring that the Union Territory Administration and PEMA Foundation will work together to strengthen the sector.

Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Former Chairperson, J&K Khadi Village Industries Board; Shri Masrat-ul- Islam, Director, Handloom & Handicrafts Kashmir; Shri Tariq Dar, President, Pashmeena Entrepreneurs Makers and Artisans (PEMA) Foundation; senior officials, members of PEMA Foundation and artisans in large number attended the felicitation ceremony.

‘Op Drishti’ Reflects

Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra and his team.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that Operation Drishti is a living embodiment of service, compassion, courage, and resolve. He highlighted that 144 surgeries were successfully performed at the Srinagar camp, while the Tangdhar camp in

Kupwara district marked a historic milestone as the first mega eye surgery camp on the border. Despite challenging terrain and the constant threat, doctors and soldiers created an underground operation theatre and restored vision to 220 patients in just two days.

“Those who have seen Tangdhar's geographical conditions understand that reaching there with assistance is itself a challenge. One must cross mountains, traverse difficult terrain and at times advance even amidst the danger. Yet, in this very challenging and uncertain environment, our doctors and brave soldiers, under the leadership of Brigadier Sanjay Mishra, created a centre of hope,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that modern surgical tools were airlifted to Tangdhar, enabling advanced eye care in a region where such facilities were previously unimaginable. Patients from Khawarpora, Tangdhar, Bagbella, and surrounding villages benefitted from the camp.

“This is true courage, dedication to duty and the real meaning of service. This entire effort has proven one thing beyond doubt that where resolve is firm, no difficulty, however great, can block the path of human service by Indian Army,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored that the 364 surgeries performed in Srinagar and Tangdhar represent not just medical statistics but transformed lives. He said under the leadership of Indian Army's doctors, every surgery became a story of restored dignity and revived hope. The Lieutenant Governor also observed that at the national level, more than 1.5 lakh people have undergone eye examinations and more than 3,500 surgeries have been performed across 10 cities under Operation Drishti.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Operation Drishti has strengthened trust between the Army and communities, proving that the Indian Army is not only a force of defence but also a source of compassion and healing. He saluted the courage of support staff, Air Force pilots, and soldiers who transported equipment, prepared underground theatres and ensured complex surgeries in adverse conditions.

“Indian Army is not only a force that defends the country from external threats, but also a source of support, compassion and healing for ordinary citizens of Jammu Kashmir in times of need. By restoring sight, the Army has given patients a new vision of peace, trust, and togetherness,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor affirmed that the 11th camp in Srinagar is not the end but a continuation of the journey. He expressed confidence that Operation Drishti will reach more villages and towns across the country ensuring that quality healthcare is not confined to big cities. He reiterated that the Tangdhar camp serves as an inspiring example for remote areas across India.

“The experience of Operation Drishti gives us confidence that with determination, better planning and compassion, modern medicine can be delivered to every corner of the country. This is the resolve of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas” and under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, it is being ensured that no citizen is left behind,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Doctors and medical staff of Defence forces for their valuable services during the camp. He also handed over post-operative kits to the beneficiaries.

Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Chinar Corps; Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Senior Consultant and HOD Department of Ophthalmology, Army Hospital R&R; Brig B.V. Rao, Commandant, 92 Base Hospital, and senior officials of Defence Forces attended the closing ceremony.

Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr. GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar were also present.

Govt Issues 2,486

regarding discrimination with Kashmir Division in issuance of certificates under the EWS category.

The Minister said that the EWS certificates are issued by the Tehsildars in accordance with the eligibility criteria prescribed by the Social Welfare Department.

Raising a supplementary on the subject, MLA Sajad Lone urged the Government to evolve a uniform and rational definition of the economically weaker sections in Jammu and Kashmir. He suggested that the criteria for determining EWS eligibility could be reviewed by taking into consideration factors such as per capita income, social conditions and other relevant socio-economic indicators. He also maintained that the criteria for determin-

ing the EWS category are not binding on all States and can be reviewed or modified by the present Government in accordance with the socio-economic conditions of the Union Territory.

Responding to the issues raised, Minister for Social Welfare Sakeena Itoo intervened and said that the rules governing determination of the EWS category are prescribed by the Union Government and that States and Union Territories are required to adopt the prescribed criteria.

CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also intervened, stating that the criteria prescribed for determining the EWS category are not necessarily applied uniformly across all States. He pointed out that some States have evolved their own criteria and suggested that Jammu and Kashmir could also examine the practices followed elsewhere while framing an appropriate mechanism.

Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather observed that the matter merits examination and the government should study the EWS criteria adopted by different states.

Notify New Car

complete the requisite formalities for finalisation of the policy. It is pertinent to mention that the Speaker had earlier taken note of the prolonged delay in formulation of the new Car Policy and directed the concerned Minister to submit a status report on the matter in the ongoing session

“The new Car Policy should be finalised and notified within 15 days. This matter should not be allowed to remain pending any further. The complaints regarding misuse of public resources are a matter of serious concern and underscore the need for clear and updated rules governing the entitlement and use of Government vehicles,” Speaker said.

The Speaker remarked that he would not hesitate to term the use of multiple Government vehicles beyond the prescribed entitlement as misuse of public resources. He, however, clarified that the issue was not against Government officers, who should be provided the vehicles and facilities to which they are legitimately entitled under the prescribed rules.

In his observations, Speaker said that the matter had been moving from one department to another for nearly five years despite the importance of the issue. He stressed the need for expeditious finalisation of the policy, particularly in view of concerns regarding the proper and judicious use of public resources.

The Speaker observed that the Government had already accepted in principle the need for introducing a new Car Policy and questioned the repeated movement of the proposal between departments, including the need for sending the matter back to the Finance Department.

He emphasised that the entitlement of Government functionaries should be clearly defined under a comprehensive policy and that there should be no further delay in finalising the matter.



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CS reviews quality, timeliness of public grievance redressal across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo took a comprehensive review of the public grievance redressal mechanism across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on assessing the quality of grievance disposal, the average time taken by departments and districts to resolve public complaints and the level of satisfaction among complainants.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, DoPG was attended by Administrative Heads of other Departments; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/ Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; SIO, NIC; HoDs of Departments and a team from BISAG-N too.

The review focused on evaluating the responsiveness of different departments and district administrations, identifying areas requiring improvement and exploring technological interventions to make the existing grievance redressal mechanism more efficient, transparent and citizen-centric.

While speaking the Chief Secretary remarked that the success of the grievance redressal mechanism should be measured by the quality of grievance resolution and the satisfaction of the complainants. He enjoined that it is paramount for every department and district administration to resolve public grievances promptly, effectively and to the satisfaction of the citizens.



tion of the citizens.

On departmental accountability and citizen feedback he maintained that the citizen feedback should serve as an important benchmark for assessing the performance of departments and districts. He stressed on the need to identify the causes of delays, address recurring grievances stating that our ultimate objective is to strengthen public trust in the responsiveness of the administration.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, Public Grievances, Saurobh Bhagat presented a detailed assessment of the functioning of JK Samadhan and the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), covering cumulative grievance disposal, department-wise and district-wise performance, urgent complaints, citizen feedback and household registrations on the portal.

The presentation revealed that a cumulative 1,60,685 grievances had been received through the two platforms as of September 25, 2026. Of these, 1,36,977 grievances had been redressed or closed, reflecting an overall disposal rate of 85 percent, while 23,708 were under process.

JK Samadhan alone accounted for 1,40,101 grievances, of which 1,24,534 had been disposed of, achieving a disposal rate of 89 percent. The remaining 15,567 grievances were under process. CPGRAMS recorded 20,584 grievances, with 12,443 disposed of and 8,141 awaiting resolution.

A significant part of the review centred on citizen feedback and the effectiveness of the grievance redressal process. The Department presented an analysis of 5,239 responses, with further scope for enhancing the quality and timeliness of grievance resolution.

Regarding the expansion of the platform's reach, it was informed that 15,75,457 households had been registered on JK Samadhan against a target of 22,49,631 households across J&K, achieving an overall coverage of 70 percent as of September 24, 2026.

The Department also presented its roadmap for upgrading JK Samadhan through technological interventions aimed at enhancing the quality, accessibility and efficiency of grievance redressal.

It was informed that the Department had initiated the process for an MoU to replicate relevant features of Rajasthan's grievance redressal model in Jammu and Kashmir to enhance the functionality and productivity of the portal.

Besides, the Department is working with BISAG-N to introduce artificial intelligence-based features and predictive analytics to strengthen grievance management and enhance citizen satisfaction. Technical issues faced by departments and users are also being regularly taken up with BISAG-N for resolution.

Another major initiative outlined during the presentation was the proposed integration of JK Samadhan 2.0 with WhatsApp, enabling citizens to access grievance redressal services through a familiar and widely used messaging platform.

The review placed particular emphasis on improving the effectiveness of the existing grievance redressal mechanism by addressing delays, strengthening departmental responsiveness and ensuring that the disposal of complaints results in meaningful resolution of citizens' concerns.

1.5 Km AMRUT 2.0 Water Supply Pipeline laid in Budgam: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Rana, today informed the House that execution of the water supply pipeline project sanctioned under AMRUT 2.0 for 13 wards of Municipal Committee Budgam has been progressing at a slower pace than envisaged, with only about 1.5 km of the proposed 14-km pipeline laid, so far.

The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi regarding the inordinate delay in execution of the project and the consequent difficulties being faced by the residents of the area.

The Minister stated that the project is being

executed through the Jal Shakti Department and, as per the report of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir, the tendering process was delayed at the initial stage due to non-response and inadequate participation, resulting in delayed commencement of the work.

He informed the House that even after commencement, the pace of execution remained below the desired level. The contractor has been mobilizing manpower, machinery and construction material in a staggered manner, instead of deploying adequate resources for continuous execution of the project, he added.

"The proposed pipeline alignment includes stretches along road berms and the 150-foot carriageway, besides multiple road cross-

ings and cross-cuts, which have also posed certain execution-related constraints. The matter concerning the required crossings has been taken up with the concerned PMGSY authorities, and its resolution is expected shortly", the Minister informed.

He said that concerted efforts are being made by the Mission Directorate, J&K, AMRUT 2.0, Jal Shakti Department and District Administration to expedite the execution and ensure timely completion of the project.

The Minister informed that the Department has repeatedly issued directions and notices to the contractor to enhance the pace of execution and mobilize adequate manpower, machinery and construction material. The contractor has now been given a final opportunity to

substantially augment the resources and accelerate the work within the stipulated period, he added.

He made it clear that in the event of failure to achieve the required progress, the Department shall take action under the terms and conditions of the contract, including foreclosure of the contract and execution of the balance work at the contractor's risk and cost, as warranted.

The Minister further informed that, subject to the requisite tendering and allied formalities, the balance work is expected to be completed by April 2027. He assured the House that the Department is continuously monitoring the execution of the project and will take all necessary measures to ensure its expeditious completion.

DDC Pulwama chairs DSC Meeting on Green India Mission



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Steering Committee for the Green India Mission (GIM) at the Meeting Hall of the Administrative Complex, Pulwama.

The meeting was convened to deliberate upon the District Perspective Plan under the Green India Mission for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31. A detailed presentation was made before the Chair, outlining the proposed interventions, objectives, restoration and plantation activities, implementation mechanism and financial requirements under the Perspective Plan.

During the meeting, the Committee held detailed deliberations on the proposed plan, including measures for increasing and improving forest and tree cover, restoration of degraded forest areas, strengthening biodiversity and ecosystem conditions, and enhancing ecosystem services.

The proposed Perspective Plan envisages restoration and plantation works over 15 hectares, with a proposed financial outlay of Rs 25.806 lakh.

The Committee also discussed the proposed implementation mechanism, including the involvement of Village Forest Committees (VFCs) under the technical supervision of the Forest Department, with emphasis on ensuring effective community participation and sustainable management of restored areas.

The DDC directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination for effective implementation of the Perspective Plan and ensure that the proposed interventions are technically sound and are aligned with the objectives of the Green India Mission.

Dr. Qayoom stressed upon the officers to identify suitable areas for plantation and restoration, ensure proper site-specific planning and maintain prescribed technical standards during execution.

Govt prioritises restoration of flood-hit water supply in Basohli: Javed Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The government Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that flood-damaged water supply schemes in Dhar-Mahanpur Block of Basohli constituency have been temporarily restored while permanent restoration is being undertaken under various schemes.

Replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by MLA Darshan Kumar, Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Rana said that ₹48.34 lakh received under SDRF for temporary restoration of affected water supply schemes have been fully utilised. Accordingly, schemes catering to Panchayats Sandhar, Ghagore, Plakh, Chunnera, Mahanpur, Athoon and other areas of Dhar-Mahanpur Block have been temporarily restored.

The Minister informed that flood protection works amounting to ₹565.42 lakh have been approved under different funding heads for restoration of damaged protection infrastructure in the Basohli Constituency. The tendering process for these works is underway. These included ₹200 lakh for flood protection works at various locations along Beani Khad, Sewa River and local nallahs under NABARD XXXII; ₹290.42 lakh for flood protection work on the right bank at Village/Panchayat Dhanu

under UT Capex 2026-27 and ₹75 lakh for flood protection works at various spots along Behani, Bhoond and Groudy nallahs under FCSD Basohli through UT Capex 2026-27.

Rana informed the House that permanent restoration of the flood-damaged water supply schemes has been proposed under Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The Department has formulated two DPRs covering the affected Panchayats and other areas of the Block, with execution of the works to commence after release of the requisite funds, he added.

Regarding irrigation infrastructure, the Minister said restoration of damaged Khuls at Kua, Nowshera, Neali, Saibra, Groudy and Draman has been proposed under the Permanent Restoration of Damaged Irrigation Network in Irrigation Division Kathua under the Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (R&R).

"The proposed works have a total estimated cost of ₹200 lakh, of which, ₹107.71 lakh pertains to Basohli Constituency. The DPR for these works is under process. The proposed works included Nowshera Khul (₹20.05 lakh), Neali Peer Khan Khul (₹19.41 lakh), Kova Khul (₹20.22 lakh), Saibra Khul (₹15.02 lakh), Groudy Khul (₹18.00 lakh) and Draman Khul (₹15.01 lakh)", informed the Minister.

Transport Commissioner reviews MVD services, road safety in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan Wednesday visited District Kulgam and chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning and delivery of Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) services in the southern districts of Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian.

The meeting focused on strengthening enforcement, improving citizen service delivery, enhancing road safety and ensuring greater coordination among the field formations of the Transport Department and Traffic Police.

During the meeting, Transport Commissioner held detailed deliberations with SSP, Traffic, Rural Kashmir, Liaqat Ali and stressed the need for intensified and coordinated enforcement drives by the Traffic Police and Transport Department.

He directed the concerned officers, ARTOs to undertake effective joint enforcement against traffic violations, regulate traffic movement on critical

routes and take proactive measures to reduce road accidents.

Transport Commissioner also reviewed the performance of various online and faceless transport services.

Interacting with media persons, he highlighted that auto-approval mechanisms have now been integrated into several transport services, enabling citizens to avail themselves of important departmental services without visiting transport offices physically.

He said that the Department is continuously working towards making transport services more accessible, transparent, efficient and citizen-centric, with technology being leveraged to reduce the need for physical visits to government offices.

In view of the approaching winter and the possibility of sub-zero temperatures and slippery road conditions, the Transport Commissioner made an earnest appeal to motorists to exercise extra caution while driving during winter.

Dir SKIMS calls for community-wide CPR training

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: On World Heart Day, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) launched 'CPR 360', a structured academic and community outreach initiative to strengthen preparedness for cardiac emergencies and equip people with lifesaving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills.

A key component of the launch was a hands-on community CPR workshop. Participants came from diverse sections of society, including the Traffic Police, trekking community, schools and gymnasiums. They received practical demonstrations and training in basic CPR and other essential first-response skills for cardiac arrest and life-threatening emergencies, and were presented with certificates of participation on completing the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Director SKIMS & EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, stressed that lifesaving skills such as CPR should not remain confined to hospitals and healthcare professionals, but must reach the wider community.

"There is an urgent need to sensitise and train communities at a much larger scale. Timely CPR and an appropriate first response can make a critical difference in saving a life. SKIMS has the expertise, infrastructure and human resources to lead this effort, and CPR 360 should evolve into a sustained, community-oriented programme," he said.

Prof. Ganie also highlighted the potential of the proposed SKIMS Research Winter/Summer Fellowship Programme to involve students in structured academic learning, research and community outreach, creating a wider network of young health ambassadors who can spread health awareness and lifesaving skills.

On the occasion, Prof. Ganie released the Academic Curriculum and Training Module for the three-year Post-Doctoral Training Programme in Cardiology, developed by the Department of Cardiology. The curriculum provides a structured framework for advanced academic, clinical and procedural training, and reflects SKIMS' commitment to developing specialised expertise in the management and prevention of cardiovascular emergencies.

Speaking at the launch, Prof. (Dr.) Imran Hafeez, Head of the Department of Cardiology, SKIMS, said, "Every citizen who learns CPR becomes a first responder. With CPR 360, our goal is to make bystander CPR a community reflex, so that no one in Kashmir loses a life for want of a few minutes of timely help."

DISTRICT POLICE QUARTERS DODA

Email: dpododa@jkpolice.gov.in | FAX No. 01996233501 | Phone No.01996233396

No. CRB/L.O.N/2026/50760-71

Dated:29-09-2026

LOOK OUT NOTICE

As intimated by In-charge Police Post Mohalla vide signal No. 67/PPM dated 29.09.2026 that, one Om Parkash S/O Dussa Ram R/O Shiva Jatheli, Tehsil Mohalla District Doda lodged a written report at PP Mohalla mentioning there in that his daughter namely, Veerta Devi age 22 years had gone to attend a meeting of Ekal Vidyalaya Samitti at Mohalla on 26.09.2026 and did not returned home till date. Accordingly, search was made but she remained un-traced. Subsequently, missing report vide DDR No. 08 dated 29.09.2026 has been entered in the daily diary of PP Mohalla and search started.

Name	Veerta Devi
D/O	Om Parkash
Residential address	Shiva Jatheli, Tehsil Mohalla District Doda
Age	22 years.
Color	Whitish
Height	4 feet 11 inch.
Wearing dress	Green color kameez & green flowered Shalwar.



It is therefore requested that, sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of the said missing lady is received, please inform on the below mentioned telephone numbers:

1. PCR Doda 01996-233530
2. IC PP Mohalla 9906337828

DIPK-6258-26
DT: 30-09-2026

Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Doda

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION (NORTH) SOPORE

EXTENSION CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Extension of e-tender.
Ref: This office E-NIT No. 26 of 2026-27, S. No. 01, 02 and 04.
Due to poor response the above referred e-NITs are hereby extended as hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1	Last date for online submission of bids	05-10-2026 (06:55 pm)
2	Date of online opening of bids	06-10-2026 (12:30 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.
No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/4347-50
Dated: 29-09-2026
DIPK-6277-26
DT: 30-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER, TRAL

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), sealed tenders are hereby invited from registered/licensed Commercial Gas Dealers for the supply of Commercial LPG Gas to the Medical Block, Tral, as and when required.

The sealed tenders, complete in all respects and accompanied by a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of ₹10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only), duly pledged in favour of the Block Medical Officer, Tral, shall reach the Office of the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. The bidders shall submit their bids along with the following documents:

1. Self-attested photocopy of valid Registration/Dealership Certificate.
2. Proof of filing of the latest Income Tax Return.
3. Self-attested photocopy of valid GST Registration Certificate.

Incomplete bids or bids received after the stipulated date shall not be entertained. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

No.: BMO/Tral/HDF/2030-31
Dated: 30/09/2026

DIPK-6282-26
DT: 30-09-2026

Block Medical Officer
Tral

2nd ODI: Gill's unbeaten 223, Rohit's century set up India's record chase in run-fest

GUWAHATI: Skippers usually ask for the heavy roller after enduring 50 overs of absolute leather-hunting in humid conditions as a matter of routine, but Shubman Gill asked for it and clearly knew what was coming. What followed over the next three-and-a-half hours at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati was an absolute, unmitigated carnage of historical proportions.

Driven by a record-shattering unbeaten 223 off 133 balls by skipper Gill and a vintage 75-ball 101 from his opening partner Rohit Sharma, India pulled off their highest successful men's ODI run-chase by hunting down a monumental 406-run target set by the West Indies to seal an eight-wicket win with 39 balls to spare.

It also marked the second-highest successful run-chase of all time in 50-over cricket, after South Africa hunted down 438 against Australia in 2006, as India made a daunting multi-hundred target look like effortless work.

Earlier, the West Indies had posted a mammoth 405/7 after being sent in to bat, riding on sensational centuries from Amir Jangoo (114), captain Shai Hope (104) and John Campbell (101). On any other day, a 400-plus total would have comfortably guaranteed victory. But on a humid night in Guwahati, Gill ensured the match would belong entirely to India.



Coming into the chase requiring a steep 8.12 runs per over, the dynamic Indian duo extinguished the threat within the first powerplay itself. Rohit and Gill launched a furious, synchronised assault of boundaries that left Shamar Joseph, Jayden Seales, and Alzarri Joseph utterly bewildered.

India motored to its fifty in seven overs before sprinting to 100 inside 12 overs. Rohit got to his half-century off 32 balls, while Gill was even more ruthless – after getting his fifty in 39 balls, he registered his hundred off just 62 deliveries.

By the time India reached 200 in 21.1 overs, their fastest team double-hundred in 50-over cricket, the West Indies attack was visually demoralised. Keacy Carty dropping Rohit on 84 off wrist-spinner Vitel Lawes only compounded their misery.

The masterclass opening stand finally came to an end at 255 runs, the

a staggering 89 balls before bringing up his double century off just 117 deliveries with a single off Lawes in the 39th over. In doing so, he broke Ishan Kishan's record (126 balls) for the fastest ODI double-century in world cricket.

It was also Gill's second career ODI double century, making him the only captain in cricket history to score double tons in both Tests and ODIs while leading the side. His unbeaten 223 also surpassed Glenn Maxwell's 201 not out against Afghanistan in 2023 to become the highest individual score in an ODI run-chase.

Fittingly, Ruturaj Gaikwad provided calm support at the end with an unbeaten 31 off 37 balls and got the winning single to complete a legendary victory and spark wild celebrations in the Indian dressing room and across the stands.

Previously, a pin-drop silence settled over a packed Guwahati crowd as West Indies stunned the hosts into morgue-like quiet, powering to their first-ever 400-plus ODI total. In just the sixth instance in ODI history of three centuries in a single innings, Campbell blitzed the fifth-fastest hundred for West Indies off 65 balls, while Hope surpassed Brian Lara with his 20th ODI century, and Jangoo matched the tempo with a blazing 114 off 77 balls.

Filling in for the injured Justin Greaves, Campbell set the early tempo with a 29-ball fifty, and reached

Irani Cup: Srinagar ready to host historic clash as big-ticket cricket returns to Sher-i-Kashmir

SRINAGAR: It's hard to ignore the sheer buzz around the picturesque Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium. Located in Srinagar's Sonwar Bagh area, the ground is nestled in an environmentally rich area – by the side of the Jhelum River, tall chinar trees, serene hills and the Shankaracharya temple atop make for a picture-perfect view. Add to it the cool breeze that comes in brings a setting that makes cricket feel at home.

But when you look closer, barbed wire rings around the ground catch your eye, while sniffer dogs are doing a final check. Outside, fans jostle in line for passes, holding up a copy of their Aadhaar card, and nobody seems to mind. When the Irani Cup begins here, with Rishabh Pant's Rest of India facing Ranji Trophy champions Jammu and Kashmir, it will mark the start of a time Srinagar has waited for a very long period.

The last big-ticket fixture in the city was an ODI between India and Australia in 1986. The one before it, in 1983 against the West Indies, came just months after Kapil Dev's team epically won the ODI World Cup. Raju Raina, then a college student, was in the stands for the clash on October 13, 1983 and still remembers it clearly.

"Excitement was there as it was the first ODI between India and the West Indies after India were



crowned the World Cup winners at the mecca of cricket – Lord's in London. Upon reaching the stadium, the teams were doing their warm-up. Soon the match started, and India were put in to bat first.

"It was a full house & the atmosphere was good initially. It was the first time I had the opportunity to see our World Cup-winning cricket stars so up close. One of the friends of my elder brother-in-law got us tickets for 10 rupees, which translates to 1000 rupees for seeing modern-day international games in India."

"The conditions were comparable to the ones obtainable in England. The ball swung well, as October in Srinagar is pretty cold & fresh. Quite a picturesque cricket stadium, with the Jhelum River on one end & the Shankaracharya hill on the other. A slight breeze was running across the ground," he said in a free-wheeling chat with IANS.

After India were bowled out for 176 in 41.2 overs, twelve men came in to dig in the pitch at lunch break, but matters got settled before

the West Indies reply started. At 108/0 in 22.4 overs, a dust storm came and forced the game to be abandoned, with the West Indies declared winners. Raju, who also saw a three-day match between North Zone and the visiting Australian team, which had the likes of Ashok Malhotra and Raman Lamba, still remembers it well.

"The match progressed well until India completed their innings. During lunch-time, suddenly a few people emerged from nowhere and dug up the pitch. But the management got the pitch rolled, and the West Indies innings started. Soon there was a dust storm due to which the match had to be abandoned and the West Indies won. A section of the crowd was restive, engaging in sloganeering etc."

Though 12 men were arrested, they were acquitted in 2011. Ravinder Pandita, a former All India Radio and Doordarshan Kashmir commentator who now chairs the Save Sharda Temple Committee - Kashmir, clearly remembers the mood around the 1983 ODI in Srinagar

Asian Games: Mu Xinyue becomes first female Asian Games esports gold medallist

NAGOYA (JAPAN): China's Mu Xinyue became the first female athlete to win an Asian Games esports gold medal after China defeated Japan in the Identity V Asian Games Version final at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Wednesday.

Asian Games esports events are open to both male and female athletes, but men continue to make up the overwhelming majority of registered athletes. According to registration data for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, more than 500 athletes were registered for esports, with only 14 of them women.

"When I first started competing, I never imagined that I would be able to win a gold medal on the Asian Games stage," Mu said. "When the national anthem was played, and the gold medal was around my neck, I was so excited and happy. I think this may be the happiest moment of my life."

Identity V is an asymmetrical competitive game in which each round consists of two halves, with the two teams taking turns playing as survivors and hunters. Four players compete on the survivor side while one plays as the hunter, with points award-



ed based on the number of survivors who escape and the hunter's eliminations, reports Xinhua.

China's Identity V squad consists of hunters Shi Xiangwei and Sun Le, and survivors Lu Shujia, Chen Mingming, Lu Yahui, Fan Siqi and Mu. Mu, whose in-game ID is "Tao Wan'an," is the only female member of China's esports delegation at the Games.

The final was tightly contested. The two sides tied the opening two rounds 4-4 and 5-5 before China took the third round 7-2 to gain the upper hand. The fourth round ended in another 4-4 tie, sending the match into a decisive fifth round. China took a 3-1 lead in the first half of the fifth round, which was

play suspended for nearly 30 minutes before competition resumed. The interruption was caused by an on-site network cable issue.

Mu said she remained calm during the unexpected stoppage. "I didn't really have any emotional fluctuations at that time," the 20-year-old said. "We just waited to see what the referees and the organisers would decide. All we needed to do was wait patiently."

Esports made its Asian Games debut as a demonstration sport at Jakarta 2018 before becoming an official medal sport at Hangzhou in 2023. The number of medal events has increased from seven in Hangzhou to 11 at Aichi-Nagoya, with Identity V Asian Games Version making its Asian Games debut.

China entered four of the 11 esports events at Aichi-Nagoya -- Naraka: Bladepoint, Honour of Kings, Game for Peace Asian Games Version and Identity V Asian Games Version. China won gold in Naraka: Bladepoint and Honour of Kings and silver in Game for Peace Asian Games Version before adding the Identity V gold on Wednesday, concluding its esports campaign with three gold medals and one silver.

Nigar Sultana to lead Bangladesh women in historic Australia ODI series

DHAKA: Bangladesh have announced a 16-member squad for their upcoming three-match women's ODI series against Australia, with regular captain Nigar Sultana Joty set to lead the side in what will be a historic tour for the team.

Spinner Nahida Akter has been named vice-captain, while the squad retains much of the core group that represented Bangladesh at the Women's Asia Cup and the Asian Games in Japan earlier this month.

The pace attack will be led by Marufa Akter, who has established herself as one of Bangladesh's key bowling options. Seven-



teen-year-old Habiba Islam Pinky has also been included among the pace bowlers.

The squad features a blend of experience and emerging talent, with experienced batter Farzana Haque returning to the ODI setup. Murshida Khatun has also earned a recall after last representing Bangladesh in January

2025.

Young all-rounder Disha Biswas, who has recently featured for the Bangladesh Emerging side, has been rewarded with a place in the senior squad.

There are a few notable omissions from the group that travelled to the Asian Games. Top-order batter Juairiya Ferdous, experienced spinner Fahima Khatun and all-rounder Shorna Akter are among those not included in the squad for the Australia tour.

The three-match series will be played at Allan Border Field in Brisbane, beginning on October 9, with the second ODI scheduled for October 11 and the final match on October 14.

The series will also carry significance in the ICC Women's Championship, with Bangladesh currently occupying eighth place in the standings. The tour will also provide Bangladesh with an opportunity to test their skills in unfamiliar conditions against one of the leading teams in women's cricket.

China Open: Djokovic makes winning return, second seed Auger-Aliassime knocked out

BEIJING: Returning to the China Open after 11 years, 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic beat Portugal's Nuno Borges 6-3, 7-6 (2), while the second seed Felix Auger-Aliassime was upset by Karen Khachanov of Russia 6-3, 6-3 in the men's singles first round on Wednesday.

Serbian veteran Djokovic, 39, last competed at the China Open in 2015, when he defeated Rafael Nadal in the final to claim his sixth title. He remains the tournament's most successful men's singles player, having won in 2009, 2010, and from 2012 to 2015.

"Again, great feeling for

most of the first set, but a kind of struggle physically a bit there. Then, it was a different match in a sense. I was serving well. In my service games, I was going through quite comfortably in the second set, particularly. In the tie-break, I played great and was really happy to close it out in two sets," Djokovic said, as quoted by Xinhua.

The veteran also expressed gratitude to fans, saying, "I honestly didn't expect the stadium to be full for the first match. Chinese people are unbelievably passionate about tennis. They deserve every bit of action



and energy coming from us on the court. We are trying our best to return the love and passion."

Djokovic will next face China's Buyunchaokete, who just won over Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

Canadian favourite Auger-Aliassime was shocked by

Khachanov in straight sets on Diamond Court. At the US Open this month, Auger-Aliassime was also eliminated by Khachanov in the second round.

In other matches, China's Zhang Zhizhen lost to French qualifier Arthur Gea 6-4, 6-3 in the men's singles first round. On the women's side, China's Yuan Yue saw off Oleksandra Oliynykova of Ukraine 6-2, 6-3, while another Chinese player, Bai Zhuoxuan, was defeated by Linda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3.

INOX

LIVE the MOVIE

SRINAGAR

MOVIES

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY,

1ST OCTOBER

2 0 2 6

THE VVAAN

(HINDI) (UA 16+)

SHOW TIMES

11:00 AM

05:40 PM

MIRZAPUR : THE MOVIE

(A)

HINDI

SHOW TIMES

01:50 PM

05:40 PM

AVENGERS : ENDGAME ENCORE

(3D ENGLISH MS - INFINITY VISION WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (UA 16+)

SHOW TIMES

11:00 AM

02:40 PM

06:20 PM

HEART OF THE BEAST

(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (UA 16+)

SHOW TIMES

12:05 PM

03:25 PM

08:30 PM

TASRUFDAAR

(DJINNS OF KASHMIR)

(KASHMIRI, URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (UA 13+)

SHOW TIMES

02:20 PM

CALL : 95416 13868

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CMYK

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