

Stakeholder meeting held for preparation of GIS-Based Master Plan for Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A stakeholder meeting for preparation of the GIS-based Master Plan for Kulgam Town under AMRUT 2.0 was held Tuesday at Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam, in presence of MLA Kulgam and Devsar, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Special Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, MD AMRUT 2.0, Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir and Chief Town Planner Kashmir.

The meeting deliberated upon a comprehensive framework for planned, sustainable and future-oriented development of Kulgam town, with the proposed vision and development framework up to 2047 forming a key focus of discussion.

During the meeting, the stakeholders discussed positioning Kulgam as a regional agro-logistics



and district service hub while ensuring sustainable urban growth, improved connectivity, economic development and better quality of life.

Various proposed components of the Master Plan were deliberated upon including strengthening of agro-logistics and mandi infrastructure, development of a multispecialty hospital, educational infrastructure, decentralised parks and recreational spaces, augmentation of the water supply network, improved parking and traffic management, bypass-oriented development and mixed-use development along identified corridors.

Local stakeholders from Kulgam, including market associations, traders, town residents, local communities of town, citizens, ex-PRIs and activists, social society members and other concerned development and service oriented departments put forward their suggestions for the finalisation of Master Plan.

They suggested that the Master Plan should be framed with a long-term perspective and should not create avoidable liabilities, unplanned development or infrastructure-related burdens for future generations. They stressed that development should remain balanced with

environmental protection, adequate infrastructure, traffic management and preservation of the town's natural resources so that the benefits of planned development are sustained for generations to come.

Particular emphasis was laid on river-sensitive development along the Vishaw River, including development of riverfront public spaces and measures for strengthening flood resilience. The need to protect water bodies and environmentally sensitive areas from unsuitable and hazardous activities was also discussed. It was emphasised that dumping and other potentially polluting activities should not be permitted in the vicinity of water bodies.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur stressed the need for ensuring that future construction is safe, planned and compatible with surrounding land use. She emphasised that

the Master Plan should clearly identify the permissible activities and type of construction in the core area and other designated zones, while preventing hazardous or incompatible structures and activities in sensitive locations.

The meeting also discussed formulation of appropriate local development by-laws to regulate construction and land use in accordance with the requirements of the town. The proposed shift towards flexible, demand-driven and mixed-use planning, with compatible uses permitted subject to a defined negative list, was also highlighted as part of the BRAP-compliant planning approach.

A properly conceived Master Plan, it was noted, would help determine in advance what needs to be developed, where development should take place and how infrastructure, mobility, public amenities and environmental assets can be protected as the town expands.

MLA Kulgam reviews JJM implementation

Stresses timely completion of works and reliable water supply

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kulgam, M.Y. Tari-gami Tuesday reviewed the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) during a meeting held at the Conference Hall of Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam.

The meeting held a detailed review of the progress of various JJM works and schemes, including household coverage, status of ongoing works, functionality of water supply schemes and issues affecting the provision of drinking water.

MLA also called for timely redressal of public grievances related to drinking water supply and JJM works and emphasised



that the concerns of people should be addressed on priority and that the benefits of the Mission reach every eligible household.

He further stressed the need to ensure regular and reliable drinking water supply, particularly in areas facing water supply-related issues, and directed the con-

cerned agencies to remain responsive to the requirements of the people.

Senior officers and officials from the Jal Shakti Department, JJM DPMU, Mechanical Division, Quality Control & Procurement Division and other concerned agencies attended the meeting.

Director Sericulture takes stock of Dev needs in Border Villages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, who is also Visiting Officer for Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II), undertook an extensive two days field visit to the border villages of Shahdara and Ghal-lan in Sub-Division Uri, Baramulla, to assess the ground-level implementation of developmental interventions and interact directly with the local community.

During the visit, the Director undertook a detailed assessment of basic infrastructure, public amenities, connectivity, service delivery, livelihood opportunities and other development requirements of the border villages. The field visit provided an opportunity to assess the actual status of interventions on the ground and identify areas requiring greater inter-departmental convergence and administrative attention.

As part of the visit, Bhat visited Government High School, Shahdara, Government Boys Middle School, Jabda and Government Boys High School, Ghal-lan, where he reviewed the existing educational infrastructure, availability of basic amenities and developmental requirements of the institutions. He interacted with the staff and



took note of the issues and requirements relevant to the schools and the surrounding communities.

A major component of the field visit was the interaction with local residents, PRIs, community representatives and other stakeholders. The Director listened to the concerns, suggestions and development priorities raised by the people and sought first-hand feedback regarding the availability of Government services, infrastructure and connectivity, livelihood and employment opportunities and implementation of various interventions under VVP-II.

Bhat assured the local residents that the issues raised during the interaction would be appropriately recorded and taken up with the concerned departments for necessary action. He stressed that the objective of VVP-II is not merely to implement schemes on paper but to ensure visible and tangible improve-

ment in the quality of life of people living in border villages.

The Director subsequently reviewed the progress of various VVP-II interventions with representatives of the concerned line departments. He directed the officers to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination, close field-level monitoring and time-bound execution of approved works and proposed interventions. He also emphasised the need to identify infrastructure and service delivery gaps and address bottlenecks without delay.

Bhat further directed the concerned departments to maintain updated records of field-level progress, ensure proper coverage of eligible beneficiaries under Government schemes and prepare clear, department-wise action points for addressing the issues identified during the field visit and community interactions.

SMC makes home composting mandatory for all its Gazetted Officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards strengthening source-level waste management, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has made home composting mandatory for all its Gazetted Officers, wherever practicable.

The order has been issued by Faz Lul Haseeb, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, directing all Gazetted Officers to ensure that biodegradable and wet waste generated at their residences is segregated and subjected to home composting through appropriate and scientifically suitable methods.

The initiative is aimed at reducing the quantity of wet waste requiring transportation to municipal waste-processing facilities and promoting environmentally responsible waste-management practices among the Corporation's own officers.

Under the order, officers have been directed to submit geotagged photographs of the home-composting activity as evidence of compliance

within 10 days. The concerned Zonal Officers and Sectional Heads will maintain records and submit a consolidated compliance report to the Corporation.

The order also provides for verification of compliance before processing the salary of the concerned officer for the current month, subject to applicable service and financial rules.

The initiative forms part of SMC's broader efforts to promote source segregation, decentralised processing of biodegradable waste, reduction in waste transportation and sustainable waste management across Srinagar.

The move also seeks to encourage senior officers of the civic body to lead by example, demonstrating that responsible waste management must begin at the point where waste is generated.

Faz Lul Haseeb, said the initiative reflects the Corporation's commitment to making source-level waste management an integral part of everyday civic practice and to building a cleaner and more sustainable Srinagar.

DIPR's Cultural Unit holds Drug-Abuse Awareness Programme at Wakoora



GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Tuesday organised an awareness programme on drug abuse at Government Girls High School (GGHS), Wakoora, Ganderbal.

The programme aimed to sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to adopt healthy, productive and responsible lifestyles. Students actively participated in speeches and other awareness activities based on the theme of the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Assistant Exhibing and Cultural Officer (AECO), Cultural Unit Kashmir, Syed Shakeel Shan, emphasised the crucial role of parents in preventing children from falling prey to substance

abuse. He urged parents to maintain regular communication with their children, keep a close and caring vigil over their activities and create a supportive environment where children can openly discuss their concerns.

The Head of the Institution also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of sustained awareness among students regarding the dangers of drug abuse. He appreciated the efforts of DIPR in taking awareness programmes to educational institutions and thanked the Cultural Unit Kashmir for organising the programme.

Noted folk singer Has-eena Akhtar presented thematic songs highlighting the message of a drug-free society. Her performance added an engaging cultural dimension to the awareness campaign and received appreciation from the students and faculty.

ADDC Shopian chairs Meeting to accelerate AgriStack, Farmer IDs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a major push toward advancing digital governance in the agriculture sector, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, Tuesday presided over a high-level review meeting at the Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lone emphasized the critical need for speed, precision, coordination and seamless collaboration among the Agriculture and Horticulture and Revenue Departments alongside CSC VLEs for the successful rollout of AgriStack across Shopian.

The ADDC stressed achieving 100% coverage, absolute entry accuracy and strict adherence to established project



timelines. Field officers and CSC Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) were directed to maintain close coordination to promptly fix technical glitches and guarantee full coverage for all eligible farmers.

The meeting focused on the implementation of AgriStack, the creation of Farmer IDs and the execution of the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) Kharif-2026.

The meeting focused on resolving field-level bottlenecks and streamlining

inter-departmental operations and detailed analysis was conducted on the progress of Farmer ID creation, with instructions to clear unclaimed buckets, resolve land-record fetching issues and rectify technical field discrepancies.

The meeting was attended by District Mentor for Farmer IDs, Najma, IAS, Probationer; ADC Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, Tehsildars, district officers and other concerned.

GHSS Dawar Gurez Students Visit JKAACL for Interaction-cum-Exposure Tour



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), Srinagar, hosted an Interaction-cum-Exposure Tour for students of Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Dawar, Gurez, as part of their internship course.

The programme was presided over by Secretary JKAACL, Harvinder Kour, with Additional Secretary, Lal Chand, and Principal GHSS Dawar, Gurez, Mohammad Asadullah, in the presidium.

Salim Salik, Editor, Urdu, JKAACL, briefed the

students about the Academy's history, mandate and functioning, with particular emphasis on its literary publications, cultural activities and initiatives for the promotion and preservation of regional languages and literature. He also apprised them about the activities of the Urdu Wing and its publications.

The students actively participated in the interaction, sought information about the Academy's literary and cultural initiatives, and also visited the JKAACL Library to familiarise themselves with its resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Harvinder Kour

appreciated the students and faculty of GHSS Dawar for undertaking the exposure tour and stressed the importance of preserving the region's linguistic heritage. She encouraged the students to learn Shina language and contribute to its promotion through writing and creative expression.

Lal Chand welcomed the students and faculty members and highlighted the importance of such interactions in providing students with practical exposure to literary and cultural institutions. He also shared his views and recited his poetry on the occasion.

The programme was attended by Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Lone, Jammal Ansari, Gh. Mohiuddin Dar, Miskeen Shah, Ishfaq Ahmad Shah and other officials and staff members of JKAACL, besides the students and faculty of GHSS Dawar, Gurez.

CM Omar reviews preparations for Kashmir Marathon

Marathon venue should result in wider participation: CM



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday reviewed the preparations for the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon and called for a stronger national and international outreach to attract runners from across India and abroad and establish the event as a major global sporting attraction.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the October 25 marathon, the Chief Minister directed the Tourism Department and other concerned agencies to intensify publicity for the event, including through leading running and fitness influencers.

He called for inviting prominent runners and fitness influencers to Kashmir ahead of the event to generate greater interest and build wider visibility around the marathon.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to leverage the event's substantial prize purse to attract competitive runners from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir Mara-

thon 2026 carries a total prize purse of ₹3.17 crore, including ₹2.11 crore for the Full Marathon and ₹1.06 crore for the Half Marathon. A dedicated J&K Local Category, with an additional prize component of ₹25 lakh, has also been introduced to encourage and recognise local talent.

To expand participation beyond competitive runners, the Chief Minister called for introducing an untimed 5K Fun Run, providing an opportunity for families, young people and amateur runners to participate in the event.

He also proposed a virtual participation of runners in Kashmir Marathon's next edition to enable runners from different parts of the country and the world to participate remotely and become part of the Kashmir Marathon experience.

Reviewing the race arrangements, Omar Abdullah directed the concerned agencies to ensure international-standard route management and clear distance marking along the Full and Half Marathon courses. He called for kilometre-wise markers throughout the routes and 100-metre

markers during the final kilometre to assist runners and ensure a professionally managed race experience.

The third edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled for October 25, has already attracted more than 1,400 registrations from Jammu and Kashmir, different parts of the country and international destinations. The event is recognised on the international calendar of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS).

A three-day Marathon Expo will precede the race from October 22 to 24 at the Sports Council Ground, Poloview. Besides bib distribution and fitness-related activities, the expo will provide a platform to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's handicrafts, handlooms, horticulture and cultural heritage.

The Chief Minister directed all concerned departments and agencies to work in close coordination to ensure seamless arrangements for traffic management, route safety, medical support, public conveniences, power, water supply and other logistical requirements.

Dy CM lays foundation stone for Café House, Guest House at Rajbagh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday laid the foundation stone for construction of Café House and renovation of existing Guesthouse at Government Silk Weaving Factory Rajbagh, a unit of Jammu and Kashmir Industries Limited.

MLA, Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed Pardesi, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department Vikramjit Singh besides others were present on the occasion.

The project is being executed by the J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (JK SICOP) and aims to enhance the overall ambience of the premises while creating additional facilities for the visitors and



stakeholders. The initiative is also expected to generate additional revenue for Jammu & Kashmir Industries Limited (JKI), thereby contributing towards its financial sustainability and institutional revival.

During the event, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the JKI showroom within the premises of Government Silk Factory, which showcased a wide range of products made

from renowned mulberry silk and local wool which is integral to the region's cultural and textile heritage. While appreciating the quality, design and originality of the products, the Deputy Chief Minister commended JKI for its efforts in preserving traditional skills, especially those related to the world-famous Kashmiri mulberry silk.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Min-

ister said that the project reflects the Government's commitment to modernisation and optimum utilisation of existing industrial assets, strengthening the institutional infrastructure of public sector undertakings and exploring avenues for revenue generation through productive use of available resources. He emphasised the JKI officials to work with dedication and enhance the production and subsequent sales for overall development of the organization. He asked them to continue their efforts in promoting local crafts, which are vital for the region's economic growth and employment generation.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Lal Chowk highlighted the importance of preserving and upgrading the infrastructure of the

Government Silk Weaving Factory, Rajbagh, given its significance in promotion of the region's traditional silk industry and preservation of Jammu and Kashmir's rich textile heritage.

Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce highlighted that the employees of any organization plays a vital role in shaping its future. He stressed upon the JKI employees to work with integrity and sense of responsibility which will directly contribute to the progress of our industries and the prosperity of our society.

Managing Director JKI, Managing Director JKSI-COP, Director Finance, I&C Department, Director Planning, I&C department and other senior officers of the Department were also present on the occasion.

NACM delegation meets Speaker JKLA

Seeks intervention for implementation of FRA-2006



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A delegation of the National Alliance on Community Forest Resources & Minor Forest Produce (NACM), along with members of the Jammu & Kashmir Climate Action Group, Tuesday called on Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, and submitted a memorandum seeking his intervention for effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA-2006) in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The delegation comprising representatives from Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, apprised the Speaker of various issues and concerns pertaining to the implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the UT.

The members of the del-

egation urged the Speaker to intervene in the matter and facilitate necessary measures for the effective implementation of FRA-2006, stating that the legislation has contributed to transforming rural livelihoods in States where it has been implemented.

The delegation also apprised the Speaker of the issues being faced by communities dependent on forest resources and sought his support in taking up the matter with the concerned authorities for appropriate consideration and resolution.

The Speaker assured the members that he would take up the matter with the concerned authorities and seek appropriate intervention for addressing the issues raised by them. He assured the delegation that their concerns would be conveyed to the concerned quarters for due consideration in accordance with the applicable provisions and framework.

Rana e-inaugurates 10 water supply schemes in Lolab Constituency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday e-inaugurated 10 Water Supply Schemes in Lolab Constituency, completed at a total cost of ₹35.64 crore benefiting 5,662 households across various villages.

The schemes, executed by the Jal Shakti PHE Division Kupwara, are aimed at strengthening the drinking water infrastructure and ensuring improved access to safe, reliable and sustainable water supply for people in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Rana said that the Omar Abdullah-led Government is committed to the welfare and well-being of the people, with a focused approach towards strengthening the basic infrastructure and improving delivery of essential public services.

"The Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to improve the quality of life of people by ensuring that the benefits of development reach every household. Our focus is on strengthening the essential infrastructure and delivering reliable public services at the grassroots," the Minister said.

He said that access to safe and reliable drinking water



is fundamental to the well-being and dignity of every household. He added that the government has accorded priority to the expansion, augmentation and timely completion of water supply schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana said the e-inauguration of the 10 schemes in Lolab marks an important step towards strengthening the water supply network in the constituency and providing improved drinking water facilities to thousands of households.

"Our objective is not merely to create infrastructure but to ensure that every completed scheme delivers the intended benefits to the people. We will continue to work with a people-centric approach so that every household gets access to essential services in a reliable and sustainable manner," he added.

The inaugurated schemes included WSS Khabuth Dar Mohalla, costing ₹1.08 crore and covering 93 households in Maindanpora; WSS Dever

Anderbugh, costing ₹3.50 crore and benefiting 1,400 households in Dever and Anderbugh; WSS Gangbugh, costing ₹3.77 crore and covering 450 households in Sogam and WSS Krusen, costing ₹4.67 crore and benefiting 626 households in Krusen.

Similarly, WSS Walkhul, constructed at a cost of ₹4.25 crore, covers 200 households in Tekipora, while WSS Gadwah costing ₹0.92 crore caters to 91 households in Sewer Thendipora. WSS Kawari Harden Sewer, costing ₹3.79 crore, covers 900 households in Sewer Thendipora, while WSS Merg, costing ₹0.90 crore, benefits 250 households in Dever Anderbugh. Likewise, WSS Gundmacher constructed at an estimated cost of ₹2.95 crore, covers 452 households in Rekhi Muchwari and Rakhi Gundmacher. Besides, WSS Surigam Wavoor Bon Maidanpora has been completed at a cost of ₹9.81 crore which covers 1,200 households in Surigam, Wavoor and Maidanpora.

Fatty liver 'epidemic' may trigger rise in transplant demand: GMC expert

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: With fatty liver disease becoming increasingly common, health experts have warned that the growing burden of the condition could translate into a significant rise in advanced liver disease and liver failure cases in the coming years, placing greater demand on liver transplantation services.

Professor Muhammad Salim Khan, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, described the situation as an "epidemic of fatty liver" and stressed the urgent need for preventive measures, particularly among children and younger people.

"Almost every second person is now having fatty liver," Dr Khan said, cautioning that the increasing prevalence of the condition could contribute to a substantial rise in liver-related complications in the future.

He warned that if the current trend contin-

ues, the demand for liver donors and liver transplantation could increase considerably over the next five to ten years, potentially placing a major burden on transplant services.

According to Dr Khan, a significant proportion of fatty liver cases are linked to modifiable lifestyle and dietary factors, making prevention an important component of tackling the emerging burden.

He urged people to reduce their intake of foods rich in sugars and unhealthy fats and avoid excessive consumption of junk and fast food, packaged and processed foods, soft drinks and other sweetened beverages.

"Protect yourself and your families, especially your children, from preventable liver failure by adopting a healthy lifestyle," he said.

According to the doctor, excessive calorie intake combined with inadequate physical activity is an important concern, particularly as sedentary lifestyles become increasingly

common.

He advised people to focus on fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and traditional home-cooked meals while avoiding overeating. At the same time, he called for a substantial increase in physical activity, including brisk walking, jogging, running and sports.

Dr Khan said lifestyle modification should remain a key component of long-term health protection rather than relying primarily on medicines and other support systems after disease has already developed.

"Lifestyle modification is a key to living a better and healthier life ahead than depending on medicines and support systems," he said.

He urged families to make physical activity and healthier eating habits part of their daily routine, saying preventive lifestyle changes could play a crucial role in reducing the future burden of liver disease and protecting the next generation—(KNO)

Drone-dropping module busted in Jammu, 4 arrested

YOGESH

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police have busted a suspected Pakistan-backed drone-dropping module in the Arnia sector and arrested four persons in connection with the recovery of narcotics, a pistol and ammunition, officials said on Tuesday.

Officials, said the breakthrough came after police intercepted two men travelling on a motorcycle during a naka at Tamala Bridge in Arnia on October 3.

Police recovered a silver-coloured Beretta-type pistol, two magazines and four live rounds from Rahul Kumar of Trewa. They also seized 264 grams of a heroin-like substance along with pack-

ing material from his possession, they said.

Another accused, Ajay Kumar alias Rabb of Talhar, Arnia, was found carrying 276 grams of a heroin-like substance, including packing material.

Following the recovery, police registered FIR No. 64/2026 under Sections 8, 21, 22 and 29 of the NDPS Act and Sections 3/25 of the Arms Act at Police Station Arnia and launched an investigation.

During sustained questioning, police arrested another accused, Ajay Kumar alias Sam, and recovered 464 grams of opium resin and 13.3 grams of heroin from his possession.

Further investigation led to the arrest of Jaganpreet

Randhawa alias Jaggi from Punjab, who is suspected to be a forward link in the network. According to officials, the investigation revealed that the accused had received two consignments through drone drops and were in contact with Pakistan-based handlers.

Police said the recovered narcotics, arms and ammunition are being examined as part of the probe, while efforts are underway to trace the source of the consignments and identify others linked to the network.

Further investigation is in progress to establish the full extent of the nexus, including the role of Pakistan-based handlers and other associates, officials added—(KNO)

Fix monthly targets for timber marking to auction: Rana



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment Javed Ahmed Rana Tuesday directed the Forest Development Corporation (FDC) Limited and concerned agencies to put in place clear and time-bound monthly targets for timber marking, extraction, transportation and auction.

He issued these instructions while chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat here held to discuss the issues related to Forest Development Corporation Limited.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda and Managing Director, Forest Development Corporation Limited, Dr K Anandh while Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Sarvesh Rai participated online.

Javed Rana emphasised the need to streamline the entire supply chain and ensure timely availability of quality timber to the common people at reason-

able rates while calling for completion of the current year's extraction before the onset of snowfall.

"We have to find a way to meet our targets and complete the extraction of the available timber for this year before the onset of snowfall. There should be no avoidable delay at any stage, from marking and extraction to transportation and auction," the Minister said.

He stressed the need for fixing monthly measurable targets for all stages of timber operations and directed the officers to closely monitor their achievement. He also called for expediting the tendering process and removing procedural bottlenecks that may affect timely extraction and supply.

"The tendering process has to be streamlined and monthly targets must be fixed and monitored. There should be no slump in timber marking, as any delay at this stage ultimately affects extraction, transportation and availability of timber in the market," Rana said.

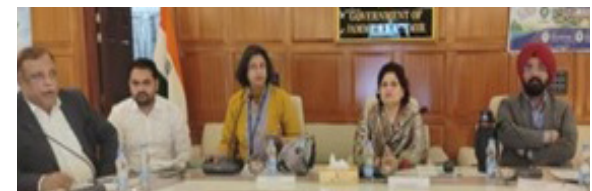
Srinagar hosts workshop on RuTAGe Smart Village Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A workshop on "RuTAGe Smart Village Centre (RSVC)" was held Tuesday in Srinagar, with the objective of exploring technology-enabled, inclusive and sustainable solutions for rural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop was chaired by Babila Rakwal, Administrative Secretary, Science & Technology Department.

Among others who participated included Sapna Poti, Director Strategic Alliance, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, GoI, Dr. P. R. Dhar, CEO JAKEDA and senior officers from the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Education, Tribal Affairs and others besides representatives from SKUAST-Kashmir, NABARD,



J&K SRLM, universities, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), NGOs and other partner institutions.

The workshop focused on the concept of RuTAGe Smart Village Centres as platforms for convergence of technology, local resources, government programmes, institutions and community participation to address the specific needs of rural communities. The discussions highlighted the need for location-specific, need-based and technology-enabled solutions, keeping in view the diverse geographical and socio-economic condi-

tions of Jammu & Kashmir, including remote mountainous, border and tribal areas.

Emphasis was laid on inter-departmental and institutional convergence, particularly in areas such as agriculture and horticulture, post-harvest management, food processing, storage, market linkages, rural livelihoods, women-led enterprises, skill development, renewable energy, digital connectivity, health and education. The RSVC model can provide a platform for identifying, demonstrating and taking appropriate technologies closer to rural communities.

Superannuation age of judges in J&K raised to 62

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the enhancement of the superannuation age of judicial officers from 60 to 62 years, subject to assessment by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

According to an order issued by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, the com-

petent authority, has accorded sanction to the enhancement of the retirement age of judicial officers from 60 to 62 years, subject to the High Court's evaluation of the fitness, eligibility, suitability, performance, and continued utility of the officer concerned. The decision follows the recommendation of the Full Court of the High Court made on August 10, 2026.

The Full Court, in its delibera-

tions, resolved to recommend that the retirement age of judicial officers in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh be raised to 62 years, provided such officers are found fit and eligible for continued service beyond the age of 60.

According to the order, necessary amendments in the relevant rules shall be undertaken in consultation with the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

When Kashmir's Skies Turn Restless

The weather may be changing, but for Kashmir, a change in the sky is never just a change in temperature. It can quickly affect roads, travel, tourism, power supply, agriculture and the daily lives of thousands of people. After several unusually warm days, with temperatures touching around 30 degrees Celsius in many parts of the Valley, rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds are now expected across Jammu and Kashmir. The showers may bring much-needed relief from the heat, but the accompanying lightning and strong winds also call for caution. People travelling to higher reaches, motorists and those living in vulnerable areas need to remain particularly careful. A sudden downpour can make roads treacherous, while thunderstorms and lightning can create risks that are often underestimated. What is more worrying is the growing unpredictability of weather patterns. Kashmir has traditionally been known for its distinct seasons, but the boundaries between them increasingly appear blurred. Warm spells arrive when they are least expected, followed by sudden rain, storms or sharp changes in temperature. This is where preparedness matters. Weather warnings should not remain confined to official bulletins. The administration must ensure that vulnerable roads, drainage systems, power infrastructure and landslide-prone areas are kept under close watch. People, too, must take advisories seriously and avoid unnecessary movement during severe weather. For the ordinary Kashmiri, weather is closely tied to livelihood. A tourist vehicle operator, a farmer, a shopkeeper, a construction worker or a family travelling on a mountain road can all be affected by a sudden change in conditions.

The coming rain may wash away the dust and bring some relief after the recent warmth. But it should also remind us that nature is becoming less predictable—and our preparedness cannot remain the same as it was decades ago. The skies may be beyond our control, but how prepared we are for what comes from them certainly is not.

Do Not Rush The Revenue Record Reform

Rectification Of Land Records Needs Time, Procedure And Institutional Support



MOHD AMIN MIR

Land records are not merely registers maintained in government offices. They are the legal and administrative foundation on which ownership, inheritance, sale, mortgage and agricultural rights depend. When an error enters such a record, correcting it is not a clerical formality. It requires verification, due procedure and, in many cases, changes across interconnected digital systems. A case from Panzath Wanpora village in Qazigund tehsil of Anantnag district illustrates the problem.

Survey No. 180 in the village originally comprised 7 kanals and 4 marlas. Of this, three kanals represented the share of G.H. Hassan, son of Samad Hajam, as vendee, while the remaining four kanals and four marlas belonged to another shareholder, Rehthi.

Subsequently, through Mutation No. 1523, land measuring three kanals was transferred through a sale deed from G.H. Hassan Hajam, vendor, to Khair Mohammad Hajam, vendee. The land was to be reflected under Survey No. 1880/180, while the remaining four kanals and four marlas were to remain under Survey No. 1879/180 in the name of the Rehthi shareholder. But an error crept into the record. The mutation was incorporated under Survey No. 1879/180 instead of 1880/180.

On the face of it, this may appear to be a simple mistake involving a survey-number entry. In reality, correcting such an error in a modernised revenue-record system can involve several stages. Khair Mohammad is not an ordinary citizen unfamiliar with the Revenue Department. He is a retired Girdawar Qanungo who spent his professional life dealing with revenue records. Yet, despite repeated visits to the Tehsil office, he remained uncertain about the procedure required to rectify his own record.

One day, when I asked him why he was visiting the office repeatedly, he opened his bag and placed a file before me. I went through the papers and examined the record. The issue, in my assessment, was not one that could be resolved by simply writing another application. It required the rectification process: examination of the existing record, appropriate correction of the Jamabandi and incorporation of the mutation in the correct survey number, followed by the necessary updating of the digital land-record ecosystem.

If a retired revenue official himself is unable to navigate the procedure easily, one can imagine the difficulties faced by an ordinary landowner living far from a Tehsil headquarters. This raises a larger question: Are our procedures sufficiently clear and citizen-friendly, particularly at a time when



land records are being rapidly digitised?

The problem becomes more complicated when the relevant Jamabandi has already been frozen. A genuine correction may require the unfreezing of the Jamabandi, examination and rectification of the relevant entry, incorporation of the pending mutation and subsequent updating of the digital record. Where the record is also connected with the AgriStack/Farmers Database process, the correction may have implications beyond the traditional paper Jamabandi.

Therefore, an old error cannot always be corrected merely because an officer or Patwari has identified it.

There has to be a lawful and traceable mechanism through which the original record is examined, the error is established, the correction is approved by the competent authority and the corrected information is carried forward into the digital systems. This is precisely why rectification should not be treated as an additional burden that can simply be completed alongside every other assignment within an undefined deadline.

The Patwari is often the first revenue functionary who comes into contact with the ground reality. The Patwari has to examine the old record, compare entries, verify possession and field details where required, trace mutations, reconcile survey numbers and prepare the material necessary for correction. At the same time, Patwaris are now handling several technology-driven assignments, including digitisation-related work and AgriStack exercises. The workload has expanded substantially. Patwaris working from early morning until late evening, often under pressure to meet targets, are naturally concerned that excessive workloads and compressed deadlines may increase the possibility of mistakes. This is not an argument against digitisation. It is an argument for careful digitisation.

A land record is not like an ordinary spreadsheet where an incorrect cell can be changed without consequence. A wrong survey number, area, ownership share or mutation entry can affect a person's ability to sell land, obtain a mortgage, establish inheritance or exercise other lawful rights. The objective, therefore, should not be to

complete the exercise merely quickly. It should be to complete it correctly, transparently and sustainably. A retired Girdawar's experience is a warning. The experience of Khair Mohammad contains an important lesson. If a retired senior revenue official, familiar with the department and its terminology, can spend days visiting a Tehsil office without clearly knowing how his rectification case should proceed, the system needs to examine itself.

An ordinary citizen should not have to make repeated visits simply to discover whether his case requires a mutation, rectification, unfreezing of a Jamabandi or some other administrative intervention. There should be a clear, publicly available rectification protocol.

At the Tehsil level, citizens should be able to know:

- What constitutes a rectification case?
- Which officer is competent to process it?
- When does a frozen Jamabandi need to be unfrozen?
- What documents are required?
- What verification is necessary?
- Who approves the correction?
- How is the corrected entry incorporated into the digital record?
- How is the correction reflected in AgriStack and other linked databases?
- Within what reasonable period should the case ordinarily be disposed of?

A transparent workflow would reduce both public inconvenience and pressure on revenue officials. The Government's objective of modernising land records is undoubtedly important. Digitisation can reduce delays, improve transparency and make records more accessible. But technology cannot eliminate the need for human verification. Indeed, the more interconnected the system becomes, the greater the need for accurate foundational data. A mistake in an old record may remain unnoticed for decades. Once such a record is digitised, however, the error can become part of several interconnected databases. Correcting it may then require intervention at multiple levels. This is why speed cannot be the sole measure of success.

The administration must resist the

temptation to put guns on Patwaris and other field functionaries by setting unrealistic targets for every task simultaneously.

A target without adequate time, manpower, infrastructure and procedural clarity can produce the opposite of what reform intends. There is a reasonable middle path between indefinite delay and excessive pressure. The Government should establish realistic time frames for different categories of rectification cases. Simple clerical corrections may require one timeline. Cases involving frozen Jamabandies, disputed ownership, old mutations, survey-number changes or linked digital databases may require another.

The objective should be to classify cases according to complexity and prescribe a corresponding disposal period. At the same time, a central or district-level monitoring mechanism could identify cases pending beyond the prescribed period and determine where the delay lies. Such a system would protect both citizens and officials. The citizen would know that his case is moving within a defined framework, while the field official would have a reasonable period to examine the record without compromising accuracy.

The case of Survey No. 180 in Panzath Wanpora is only one example. Similar rectification cases are understood to be pending in Qazigund and other Tehsils.

The larger issue is therefore not one individual's land record. It is about how Jammu and Kashmir manages the transition from old revenue records to a digitally integrated land-record system. The Government has undertaken an ambitious task. But ambitious reforms require patience as well as determination. Patwaris cannot be expected to simultaneously maintain routine revenue responsibilities, undertake field verification, address legacy errors, assist with digitisation and complete new technology-driven assignments at a pace that leaves little room for verification.

Nor should citizens be forced to make repeated journeys to Tehsil offices because the rectification pathway is unclear. The answer lies in time-bound but realistic targets, a transparent rectification mechanism, adequate manpower, proper technical support and institutional coordination. Land records should be corrected once—and corrected correctly. The ultimate success of the land-record reform will not be measured by how quickly a portal is populated or how many entries are processed in a given month. It will be measured by whether a citizen can finally look at his digital land record and trust that it accurately reflects the ground reality and the lawful history of his property. That requires speed, certainly. But above all, it requires accuracy, patience and due process.

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Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA): The Moral Conscience Of Kashmir

“Ann Posh Teli Yeli Wan Posh” — Food Will Exist Only As Long As Forests Survive.



HAROON RASHID BHAT

Some voices belong to their own time, while others become part of the conscience of generations. Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani (RA), popularly known as Sheikh-Ul-Alam and Nund Rishi, belongs to the latter. His words were born in Kashmir, but their message transcends time, geography and social boundaries. His teachings on humanity, simplicity, compassion, environmental responsibility and spiritual awakening continue to hold profound relevance. To remember Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA) is therefore not merely to remember a saint of the past; it is to revisit an important intellectual and moral foundation of Kashmiriyat.

Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA) emerged from a remarkable spiritual tradition that gave Kashmir a distinctive cultural character. His association with the Rishi tradition and the spiritual resonance often drawn between his teachings and those of Lal Ded reflect the Valley's long history of dialogue between different streams of thought. Both are remembered for taking spirituality beyond rituals and appearances and directing the individual towards inner purification, truth, humility and a deeper understanding of humanity. Their legacy contributed to a cultural



atmosphere in which spiritual wisdom could become a bridge between communities rather than a source of division.

The strength of Sheikh-Ul-Alam's message lies in its simplicity. He spoke in the language of the common people and addressed issues that remain central to human life: greed, pride, injustice, selfishness, exploitation and the consequences of forgetting one's moral responsibilities. His poetry did not merely offer spiritual consolation; it challenged people to examine their conduct. His emphasis on compassion and simplicity remains especially meaningful in an age increasingly dominated by material aspirations and social competition.

His famous observation, “Ann poshi teli yeli wan poshi,” demonstrates the remarkable ecological wisdom embedded in his thought. The statement connects forests directly with food and human survival. At a time when environmental degradation, deforestation and climate change

have become global concerns, this centuries-old wisdom sounds remarkably contemporary. Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA) reminds us that human prosperity cannot be separated from the health of nature. Development that destroys the ecological foundations of life ultimately undermines its own purpose.

His legacy is also inseparable from the idea of Kashmiriyat. Kashmiriyat, in its cultural and historical sense, represents more than a slogan. It encompasses the Valley's shared traditions, language, poetry, hospitality, spiritual heritage and values of coexistence. The Rishi-Sufi tradition contributed significantly to this cultural consciousness. Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA), therefore, can be viewed as one of the most important representatives of a Kashmir that valued spiritual depth, human dignity and social harmony.

This makes the place of his teachings in education particularly important. Education is not only about preparing children for examinations, employment or

technological advancement. It is also about helping them understand who they are, where they come from and what values can guide them. A child may become highly proficient in modern science and technology, yet remain culturally disconnected if education completely neglects the intellectual heritage of his or her own society.

The National Education Policy 2020, with its emphasis on Indian languages, local knowledge systems and cultural heritage, provides an important framework for strengthening this connection. In the context of Kashmir, the works of Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA), Lal Ded and other indigenous thinkers can enrich education by bringing local literature, philosophy, environmental wisdom and cultural memory into meaningful classroom discussion. Modern knowledge and indigenous knowledge should not be presented as competing alternatives. A truly holistic education can accommodate both.

There have been concerns and discussions about the place of Sheikh-Ul-Alam's teachings in curricular revisions, including reports that material relating to him has been removed or reduced in certain contexts. Such claims should naturally be examined against the official curriculum and documented changes. However, the broader principle remains important: curriculum reform should modernise education without disconnecting students from their linguistic, cultural and intellectual roots. The inclusion of local heritage should not be treated as an obstacle to modern education but as a means of making education more meaningful and rooted.

Preserving Sheikh-Ul-Alam's legacy, therefore, requires more than commemorative speeches or occasional references in textbooks. His poetry should be read and explained to younger generations. His environmental wisdom can be connected with contemporary ecological education. His emphasis on compassion can inform value-based learning. Above all, the Kashmiri language in which his profound thoughts were expressed deserves sustained protection and promotion.

The greatest tribute to Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA) would be to transform his teachings from memory into practice. If his message of humility can influence our conduct, if his ecological wisdom can influence our relationship with nature, and if his vision of humanity can influence our relationship with one another, then his legacy will remain alive.

In an age of rapid technological change, social fragmentation and weakening cultural connections, Kashmir does not need to choose between modernity and its roots. It needs an education and social vision that can carry both forward. Sheikh-Ul-Alam (RA) offers precisely such a bridge — connecting spirituality with humanity, tradition with relevance, and the wisdom of the past with the responsibilities of the future. His legacy is not a chapter that belongs only to history; it is a living inheritance. To preserve it is to preserve a part of Kashmir's soul.

“A society that forgets the voices that shaped its conscience may gain knowledge, but it risks losing wisdom.”

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Good Morning

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R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

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Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

■ Light As Knowledge

The Scientific Revolution Reshaping Brain Research



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

What if a pulse of light could make a nerve cell speak? What if scientists could switch selected neurons on and off with light, observe the consequences and thereby understand how the brain creates movement, memory, emotion and behaviour? This once sounded like science fiction. Today, it has become one of the most remarkable frontiers of modern neuroscience. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 has placed this extraordinary scientific journey at the centre of global attention. The work recognized by the Nobel Assembly demonstrates how a biological discovery in microscopic organisms eventually became a revolutionary method for investigating the nervous system. At its heart lies a deceptively simple phenomenon: nerve cells can be engineered to respond to pulses of light.

The achievement associated with Peter Hegemann, Georg Nagel and Karl Deisseroth represents a fundamental transformation in neuroscience. Their discoveries and subsequent development of the technology known as optogenetics have enabled scientists to manipulate precisely selected neurons with light. The brain, once regarded as an almost impenetrable biological mystery, can now be investigated through an entirely new experimental language. For centuries, humanity has tried to understand the brain. Philosophers wondered whether thought resided in the heart, the brain or somewhere beyond the physical body. Modern medicine eventually established that the brain is an extraordinarily complex organ containing billions of neurons. Yet knowing that neurons exist was only the beginning. The real challenge was to understand how these cells communicate and how their collective activity produces consciousness, memory, emotion, sensation and behaviour.

Neurons communicate through electrical and chemical signals. A small disturbance in their activity can influence movement, perception or mood. In neurological disorders, abnormal neural activity may contribute to devastating consequences. But studying this activity has always presented a fundamental problem: the brain contains enormous numbers of interconnected cells, and stimulating one group can unintentionally influence many others.

Optogenetics offered a new answer. The story began with research into microorganisms rather than human beings. Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel studied light-sensitive proteins found in certain microorganisms, including algae. These proteins, called chan-

nelrhodopsins, respond to light by permitting ions to cross a cell membrane. The movement of ions generates an electrical change.

This was a fascinating biological phenomenon, but its larger significance emerged only when scientists realized that such light-sensitive proteins could be used as molecular switches. The breakthrough was to introduce genes encoding these proteins into specific nerve cells. Once the neurons produced the light-sensitive proteins, exposure to the appropriate wavelength of light could influence their electrical activity. In other words, a neuron could be given a new sensory capability. It could respond to light. This was the foundation of optogenetics. Karl Deisseroth was instrumental in developing the technique into a powerful tool for neuroscience. By combining genetic methods with optical stimulation, researchers could identify specific populations of neurons and then activate or inhibit them using light. The technique made it possible to investigate neural circuits with a degree of precision that earlier methods could not provide.

The significance of this development cannot be overstated. Suppose scientists observe that a particular group of neurons becomes active when an animal moves its limb. That observation alone does not prove that the neurons caused the movement. They might simply be responding to another process. Optogenetics changes the experimental question. Researchers can activate those neurons with light and observe whether the movement occurs. They can inhibit them and see whether the movement disappears or changes. The difference is the difference between correlation and causation. This ability to test causality has transformed neuroscience.

Light therefore becomes more than illumination. It becomes an experimental instrument—a molecular switch capable of controlling selected elements of a living neural network. The consequences extend across many areas of brain research. Scientists have used optogenetic approaches to investigate circuits involved in movement, reward, fear, learning, memory and sleep. Researchers can examine how specific neural pathways influence behaviour and how different populations of neurons cooperate or compete. The brain begins to look less like a mysterious black box and more like an immensely complicated network whose components can gradually be identified and understood. Yet the word “gradually” is important. The brain remains extraordinarily complex. Optogenetics has not solved the mystery of consciousness, nor has it provided a universal treatment for neurological disease. What it has done is give scientists a far more precise tool with which to ask the right questions. Its potential medical significance is enormous.

Many neurological and psychiatric disorders are associated with abnormal activity in neural circuits. Parkinson's disease, epi-



Nobel Prize Winners in Physiology or Medicine 2026 Announced

lepsy, depression and other disorders involve complicated changes in the functioning of the nervous system. Existing treatments often affect broad areas of the brain or entire systems of neurotransmitters. This can produce therapeutic benefits, but it may also create unwanted effects. A technology capable of targeting particular neural populations raises the possibility of much greater specificity. Researchers are investigating whether optogenetic principles might eventually contribute to treatments in which dysfunctional circuits can be corrected with extraordinary precision. Such possibilities remain the subject of active research, and translating experimental neuroscience into routine clinical medicine requires substantial further work.

One of the most intriguing areas is vision. In certain forms of severe retinal degeneration, the cells normally responsible for detecting light may be damaged or lost. Scientists have explored whether surviving cells in the visual system can be made light-sensitive through genetic techniques. If successful and sufficiently refined, such approaches could potentially restore some degree of visual function. The principle is remarkable: when the natural biological machinery for detecting light is damaged, scientists attempt to create a new molecular pathway through which light can once again influence neural activity. This is where the Nobel-winning science becomes profoundly human. Behind every laboratory experiment is the hope of understanding diseases that can destroy memory, movement, independence or the ability to see. Neuroscience is no longer simply an intellectual quest. It has become a medical imperative as populations age and neurological disorders impose an increasing burden on individuals, families and healthcare systems.

There is also a larger lesson in the history of this discovery. Scientific revolutions frequently arise from unexpected connections. Who could have imagined that studying the behaviour of a microscopic alga would contribute to a technology for investigating the human brain? Yet fundamental research often works precisely in this unpredictable way. A scientist studies something because it is scientifically interesting. Years or decades

later, another scientist recognizes an entirely different application. The channelrhodopsins discovered in microorganisms are a striking example of this principle. The Nobel Prize also reminds us that modern scientific progress rarely belongs to one discipline alone. Optogenetics emerged from the convergence of molecular biology, genetics, microbiology, neuroscience, optics and engineering. The technique requires researchers to understand genes, proteins, neural circuits and light-delivery systems simultaneously.

The future may take this convergence even further. Optogenetics could increasingly interact with advanced brain imaging, artificial intelligence, machine learning, gene-editing technologies and neural interfaces. Artificial intelligence may help scientists interpret enormous quantities of neural data, while sophisticated optical and genetic techniques may allow increasingly precise manipulation of neural circuits. This raises profound ethical questions as well. If scientists can influence neural activity, where should the boundaries lie? The ability to investigate memory, emotion and behaviour also raises questions about privacy, autonomy and the responsible use of neurotechnology. Medical applications must be governed by rigorous standards of safety and ethics. The power to manipulate a neural circuit is not automatically the power to understand the human mind.

Indeed, understanding the brain may prove to be one of the greatest scientific challenges of the twenty-first century. The brain is not simply a collection of neurons. It is a dynamic system in which billions of cells communicate through extraordinarily complex networks. Memories are distributed, emotions are layered, perception is constructed and consciousness remains one of science's deepest unresolved questions. Optogenetics does not provide the final answer. It provides a new method for approaching the question. And that method is beautifully simple in its basic conception: use light to control selected nerve cells and observe what follows. The symbolism is almost irresistible. Humanity has always associated light with knowledge. “To

shed light” on a problem means to understand it. Now neuroscience has transformed that metaphor into a literal scientific principle.

A pulse of light can enter the microscopic world of a neuron and change its electrical behaviour. Thousands or millions of such carefully controlled events can help researchers map the circuitry of the brain. The implications reach beyond laboratories. They challenge our understanding of what the brain is and how it works. They suggest that some of the most complex aspects of behaviour may eventually be connected to identifiable patterns of activity within specific neural circuits. But there is a danger in oversimplification. The human mind cannot be reduced overnight to a set of optical switches. Memory is not merely a light signal; love is not merely neuronal firing; consciousness is not simply a circuit diagram. The biological basis of these phenomena is extraordinarily intricate. The proper significance of the Nobel-winning research is therefore not that it has “solved” the brain. Rather, it has given scientists a remarkably precise instrument with which to explore the brain.

That distinction matters. Science advances not only when it discovers answers but also when it develops better questions and better tools for testing them. The journey from algae to neurons illustrates this perfectly. A light-sensitive protein evolved in a tiny organism became a molecular key for opening the doors of neuroscience. What began as an investigation of how a microorganism senses its environment ultimately helped scientists develop a method for probing the neural circuits underlying behaviour. This is the beauty of fundamental science: its ultimate destination is often invisible at the beginning of the journey.

The Nobel Prize in Medicine 2026 therefore marks more than an important chapter in neuroscience. It marks a new way of thinking about the relationship between light, cells and the brain. The nerve cell, once accessible only through electrical or chemical investigation, can now be approached through the language of light.

Perhaps the most memorable way to describe the revolution is this: the neuron has learned to listen to light. And once the nerve cell begins responding to a precisely timed pulse of light, scientists gain an extraordinary opportunity, to trace the pathways of the brain, distinguish cause from correlation, understand disease and perhaps one day design treatments that are as precise as the neural circuits they seek to repair. The darkness surrounding the brain has not disappeared. But a new light has been switched on.

That light may illuminate one of humanity's greatest remaining mysteries: how billions of living cells become a mind capable of remembering, feeling, imagining and dreaming.

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MAJID BASHIR

*For there is no friend like a sister
In calm or stormy weather;
To cheer one on the tedious way,
To fetch one if one goes astray,*

— Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market”

Family is a beautiful institution that nourishes and nurtures us. It lays the foundations of our personality and plays a central role in shaping who we are. It gives us love, care, strength, companionship, and a sense of belonging. Even as the world changes, family remains the heart of this heartless world, a sanctuary where we return for peace after the struggles of each day. Having a flourishing family is truly a blessing, and living in one is a privilege, for it is the family that gives us our identity, values, and guidance to distinguish right from wrong. And within that family, it is often a sister who holds all these gifts together quietly, tenderly, and without asking for anything in return.

In our family, my sister was one of the brightest lights. The memories we shared with her are countless and unforgettable. She filled our lives with happiness, affection, and laughter. Our wedding celebrations sparked with her songs, and she always stood out with her energy and skills in household work. She was active in every aspect of our lives, whether it was helping in our apple orchards, managing household chores, or keeping everyone entertained. Wherever she was, the house felt alive.

A Home Alive with Her Presence

I still remember her love for television and music how she kept the TV volume high so she could listen even while working in the kitchen. She made everyone laugh, entertained the family, and gave our home its charm. Our cousins frequently visited us, drawn to her warmth and lively spirit. Her laughter filled every corner of the house, and whoever entered was warmed by it. In autumn, during apple harvests, she worked alongside us in the orchards, pruning trees, gathering apples, and sharing moments of both toil and joy. Those were times when relationships had deep meaning, and our family bonds grew stronger through shared labor and shared memories.

We were a family of six, living a modest lower middle-class life. When my eldest sister and brother married, we did not feel much separation because this sister—closest to me—still kept our home alive with her presence. Our cousins often gathered at our home because of her company,

and she would shower them with gifts and kindness. Eventually, when she too married, we began to feel the void. The house grew quieter, as if a song had paused in the middle. Yet, we were fortunate, for her marital home was in our neighborhood. She often visited, bringing joy with her presence, stories, and affection.

Autumn, with its harvest and its falling leaves, will always remind us of her. Rabindranath Tagore wrote:

*Let life be beautiful like summer flowers
and death like autumn leaves.*

— Rabindranath Tagore, *Stray Birds*

The Day Everything Changed

But then came the day that forever altered our lives. Just a year after her marriage, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The diagnosis shook our family to its core. Life lost its meaning, and though we tried to stay outwardly strong for her, inside we were broken. For a while, she lived a normal life after her first surgery, but gradually her condition worsened. The medicines changed her body, hospital visits consumed our days, and when she eventually lost her eyesight, the pain crushed us. Despite everything, she endured bravely, though she grew tired of her suffering. Yet even then, her tenderness toward us never faded. She finally left us in June 2021. The world changed in a heartbeat. Nothing prepares a family for such a silence.

Her Room, Her Lasting Presence

Her absence left our family incomplete, shattered in ways we could never repair. No celebration feels whole anymore every gathering feels as though something vital is missing. My parents still call her name by mistake. We see her reflection in every corner of our house, especially in the room she lived in, which we rarely enter because it still carries her scent and presence. It is as though time has paused inside those walls, waiting for her to return.

Henry Scott Holland's words feel as if they were written for that room:

*I have only slipped away into the next room ...
Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.*

— Henry Scott Holland, “Death Is Nothing at All”

Our parents' mistaken calls say the same thing

A Brother's Tribute

In Loving Memory Of My Sister

A Light That Shines On Our Family



in a plainer way: a family never stops counting the one it has lost. Wordsworth captured this in his poem about a little girl who would not be argued out of counting her brothers and sister:

*“Twas throwing words away; for still
The little Maid would have her will,
And said, “Nay, we are seven!”*

— William Wordsworth, “We Are Seven”

For my siblings and me, the grief has slowly softened with time, though the ache never fully leaves. But for my mother, the pain has remained unbearable. She struggled with complicated grief, unable to accept what happened. She often cried uncontrollably, replaying memories, unable to integrate the loss. Even today, she avoids our orchards, because passing my sister's marital orchard reminds her too much of her daughter. A mother's love does not retire with her child's death; it only turns into longing. We pray that time will be gentle with her.

Kahlil Gibran, in The Prophet, speaks to exactly this kind of sorrow:

*When you are sorrowful look again
in your heart, and you shall see
that in truth you are weeping for
that which has been your delight.*

— Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

Benni: The Meaning of a Sister

The word sister—benni in Kashmiri—is powerful. It carries love, serenity, and memories of endless affection. A sister is someone who knows

your secrets without being told, who fights with you yet loves you more fiercely than anyone else. I remember when my elder sister married, I cried silently, unable to hold back my emotions as she departed to her new home. A brother never realizes the full depth of his love for a sister until she leaves.

Emily Dickinson distilled what such bonds teach us:

*That Love is all there is,
Is all we know of Love;*

— Emily Dickinson

My sister's role in my life was immense. She was only a little older than me, which made her my closest companion and guide. She often helped me with my schoolwork, her beautiful handwriting etched in my memories. In lower middle-class families like ours, where cultural and educational capital is limited, siblings often become each other's strongest support system and she was mine. She took me to orchards, encouraged my studies, and gave me pocket money whenever I needed it. Even in her illness, she never stopped giving. I recall a painful yet unforgettable moment when, pregnant and hospitalized, she gave me 500 rupees as a gift, despite fighting for her life. Such gestures revealed her love and selflessness. It was never the money that mattered, but the heart behind it a heart that, even in pain, thought first of others.

Courage, Compassion, and a Living Legacy

Her illness was slow and cruel, but she bore it with courage. Though her body weakened, her

character and spirit never died. Hospitals now frighten me because they remind me of her pain, but I carry deep gratitude for my brother-in-law, who cared for her with extraordinary patience, compassion, and love throughout her illness. He lost himself in those three years, yet his devotion to her never faltered. Even today, he honors her memory by caring for the gift she left behind—their daughter. His quiet, steadfast love showed us what compassion truly means. Her daughter is a living continuation of her love. Though my sister never had the chance to see her grow, this child carries her presence in countless ways her features, her laughter, her singing, even the way she cares for others. In her, we see our sister again. Watching her grow feels like holding onto a piece of my sister that still lives among us.

The pain of losing a sister is a void that can never fully be filled. Yet, in her daughter, we find both comfort and strength. She is a ray of hope, a reminder that love transcends death. Every time we see her achieve a milestone or smile, we whisper a prayer for my sister. Her daughter is the living testament of her legacy a gentle reminder that my sister's light still shines, guiding us with love, strength, and memory.

Shakespeare's Sonnet 30 ends with a thought every grieving heart understands:

*But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,
All losses are restored and sorrows end.*

— William Shakespeare, *Sonnet 30 What Remains*

Though she is no longer with us, her spirit endures in her daughter, in our memories, and in the bonds she nurtured. She was a woman full of humor, love, and generosity, who felt others' pain more than her own. She remains with us in every laugh, every orchard, every room, and most of all, in the life of her child. Her love continues to shape us, reminding us that while death takes away presence, it can never take away memory, nor the eternal bond of family.

And so, with Tennyson, we choose to say:

*'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.*

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam A.H.H.*

Benni, you are missed every day, and loved always.

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J&K Approves

challenging locations, thereby helping bridge the digital divide across Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiative reflects the Government’s focus on extending the benefits of digital connectivity to communities in far-flung areas and strengthening communication infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

Decisive Leadership

further highlighted measures to strengthen India’s defence production and national security capabilities, linking them to the government’s response to security challenges.

In the context of J&K, the Centre has maintained that improved security and development are closely interconnected, pointing to a decline in violence in several areas and greater emphasis on infrastructure creation and economic activity—(KNO)

Rain Lashes

unsettled on October 10, with light rain or snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds expected at many places, particularly during the morning and forenoon hours.

Generally dry weather is forecast from October 11 to the evening of October 13.

Another spell of generally cloudy weather, accompanied by light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds, is likely at many places on October 14 and 15, the Met Centre said.

The weather department has advised farmers to ensure safe storage of harvested apples and paddy during October 6-10 in view of the possibility of rain and gusty winds.

People have also been advised to stay away from loose structures, electric wires and old trees during periods of strong winds.

The Meteorological Centre, Srinagar, issued the advisory while urging people to take necessary precautions during the forecast wet spells—(KNO)

No Policy To Shut

Choudhary also highlighted the products displayed at the Jammu and Kashmir Industries (JKI) showroom at the Government Silk Weaving Factory in Rajbagh, saying the quality of local products could compete with major brands if they were properly marketed.

“These are the things that are our heritage, they should buy,” he said, while emphasising the need to explore avenues to promote such products.

On the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report concerning PSUs, the Deputy Chief Minister said the findings would be examined before arriving at a conclusion. “The report has come, CAG’s report has come. We will see what is there and what is not. There will be a discussion on it, there will be a debate. After that, we will come to a conclusion,” he said.

On concerns raised by industrialists over the implementation of the rupees 28,400-crore New Industrial Policy announced in 2021, Choudhary said the government was examining the utilisation of the package and the concerns raised by industrial associations.

He said the new industrial policy of the J&K Government was at the final stage and would seek to address shortcomings in the previous policy.

“Whatever was the discrimination in that industry policy, or there was a pick and choose, now our effort is that those bottlenecks where there were some lapses, they should be plugged somewhere and people should get the benefit of the industry policy in the right way,” he said.

Choudhary said the Industries Department had worked extensively on the new policy and that the concerns raised by industrialists were also being taken into consideration.

“If people were not happy with the previous industry policy, that is why we are bringing a new industry policy,” he said, adding that the government’s effort was to ensure that the shortcomings of the past were not repeated.

Asked about the protest against the Election Commission of India (ECI), Choudhary said the matter was already before the Supreme Court and that the developments surrounding voter lists had become a major issue of discussion.

He said the allegations and issues raised by the two Election Commissioners had also become a matter of national debate. “If the voter lists have been tampered with, then? Because now the Supreme Court has taken notice of this. The result will come out,” he said.

Choudhary said democracy and constitutional rights had been achieved after sacrifices by people across communities and asserted that no attempt to divide the country on religious lines could succeed. “This country is not going to fight. Because under the foundation of this country, every nation has made sacrifices,” he said.

On criticism from the opposition over the performance of the Omar Abdullah government, Choudhary hit out at the BJP and PDP,

questioning their participation and conduct in the Legislative Assembly. “When we talk there, the resolution that they give outside, they have started giving the same resolution inside,” he said.

He also questioned the opposition parties over their performance and asked them to account for their own role in the Assembly.

Earlier, Choudhary laid the foundation stone for construction of a Café House and renovation of the existing Guest House at the Government Silk Weaving Factory, Rajbagh, a unit of Jammu and Kashmir Industries Limited (JKI).

The project is being executed by the J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (JK SICOP) and is aimed at improving the premises, creating additional facilities for visitors and stakeholders and generating additional revenue for JKI.

MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed Pardesi, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh and senior officers were present on the occasion.

During his visit, Choudhary inspected the JKI showroom, which displayed products made from mulberry silk and local wool. He appreciated the quality and design of the products and stressed the importance of preserving traditional skills, particularly those associated with Kashmiri mulberry silk.

He directed JKI officials to work with dedication, improve production and enhance sales, while promoting local crafts for economic growth and employment generation.

MLA Pardesi stressed the importance of preserving and upgrading the infrastructure of the Government Silk Weaving Factory, while Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh said employees play a vital role in shaping the future of any organisation and urged JKI employees to work with integrity and responsibility.

Managing Director JKI, Managing Director JKSIKOP, Director Finance and Director Planning of the Industries and Commerce Department, besides other senior officers, were also present—(KNO)

Snow-Bound

participation and awareness campaigns.

“This is India’s first paperless Census, with self-enumeration introduced for the first time,” he said.

He said independent observers visited J&K and Ladakh to assess field operations, infrastructure and preparedness, while top Census officials, including Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan and Additional Registrar General Sunil Kumar, reviewed the exercise in remote areas.

On special charges, Sharma said enumeration had been completed in 125 CAPF charges in J&K and 47 in Ladakh. Paper-based enumeration was used in these locations for security reasons and will be digitised later.

He said around Rs 49.2 crore had been released for infrastructure, training, honorariums and operational expenses, while the first phase of payments to enumerators and supervisors had been transferred directly to their accounts.

Sharma said work on the District Census Handbook is underway from October 1 to 30 across J&K and Ladakh. The handbook will provide updated information on infrastructure and institutions and serve as a planning document for development programmes.

Clarifying reports about the release of population figures, Sharma said no final numbers would be issued this week. Population enumeration in J&K’s plain areas will be conducted in February, after which the process for notification of final population data will begin.

He said Census 2027 data would form the basis for future development planning and welfare programmes—(KNO)

CS Assesses Revised

emphasised that a climate action plan should translate into clear, actionable and time-bound interventions. He directed the department to incorporate the actions to be undertaken by each concerned department, along with their expected outcomes and milestones, over the period up to 2030.

He observed that every plan should have clearly defined goals and a well-laid-out strategy to achieve them within a specific time-frame. He called for prioritising interventions keeping in view the strengths, constraints, vulnerabilities and available capacities of the UT so that the proposed measures can be implemented effectively on the ground.

The Chief Secretary also stressed greater inter-departmental convergence and dovetailing of climate interventions with ongoing schemes and programmes to optimise resources and avoid duplication of efforts. He called for assigning clear responsibilities and measurable indicators to departments for effective monitoring of progress.

In her presentation, the Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda highlighted climate projections based on IPCC pathways, including SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5. She revealed that under the moderate-emission scenario, temperatures are projected to rise by around

1.5°C during 2021–2050, with implications for water resources, agriculture, health and ecosystems.

It was also projected that the annual precipitation is projected to increase by around 5 per cent under the moderate-emission scenario and up to 15 per cent under the high-emission scenario, with the assessment pointing towards shorter cold seasons and greater variability and intensity of rainfall events.

The Commissioner Secretary further detailed out that the climate vulnerability assessment has evaluated 42 indicators across agriculture, water, health and forest sectors, identifying district-specific vulnerabilities and risks to facilitate targeted interventions.

The revised plan proposes 55 emission mitigation strategies, with an estimated mitigation potential of 2.6 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030. These include promotion of solar energy, including floating solar plants, greater utilisation of small hydropower and wind energy, strengthening of grid infrastructure, reduction of transmission and distribution losses, promotion of electric mobility and deployment of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems.

Besides, 100 adaptation actions have been proposed across five key sectors along with Disaster Risk Reduction measures. These include expansion of micro-irrigation, achieving universal household tap-water coverage, rainwater harvesting, strengthening health facilities in underserved areas, restoration of degraded catchment forests with native species and construction of retaining walls and other slope-protection measures at vulnerable locations.

The meeting was also informed about the proposed institutional mechanism under SAPCC 2.0, envisaging a Governing Council headed by the Chief Minister to meet annually and an Executive Council chaired by the Chief Secretary to meet twice a year for overseeing implementation and inter-departmental coordination.

Implementation of the action plan is proposed to be monitored quarterly through a digital dashboard, with departmental nodal officers updating defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track progress against targets.

The Chief Secretary directed that the revised framework should clearly establish who will do what, by when and with what measurable outcome, while ensuring that the interventions are aligned with J&K’s specific ecological, geographical and socio-economic realities.

The revised SAPCC 2.0 is proposed to be placed before the State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) for formal approval before its submission to the National Level Steering Committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for its early implementation on ground.

J&K Adds 2.25 Lakh

316 AAY, 14,893 PHH and 5,515 NPHH beneficiaries. The district also recorded deletion of 109 AAY, 126 PHH and 107 NPHH beneficiaries.

In the Kashmir Division, 88,421 beneficiaries were added to ration cards, including 8,628 AAY, 59,441 PHH and 20,352 NPHH beneficiaries. The division recorded 21,714 deletions—2,873 AAY, 8,893 PHH and 9,948 NPHH.

Anantnag recorded the highest additions in the division, with 1,089 AAY, 13,111 PHH and 3,247 NPHH beneficiaries added. The district also reported deletion of 403 AAY, 4,895 PHH and 1,961 NPHH beneficiaries.

Budgam added 534 AAY, 7,239 PHH and 1,965 NPHH beneficiaries, while 127 AAY, 360 PHH and 29 NPHH beneficiaries were deleted.

Bandipora recorded 457 AAY, 2,444 PHH and 473 NPHH additions, against deletion of 88 AAY, 315 PHH and 209 NPHH beneficiaries.

Baramulla added 1,052 AAY, 10,412 PHH and 1,065 NPHH beneficiaries. It also recorded deletion of 1,583 AAY, 595 PHH and 2,389 NPHH beneficiaries.

In Ganderbal, 471 AAY, 2,616 PHH and 156 NPHH beneficiaries were added, while 48 AAY, 73 PHH and 23 NPHH beneficiaries were deleted.

Kulgam recorded additions of 1,397 AAY, 10,896 PHH and 2,908 NPHH beneficiaries. The district deleted 87 AAY, 56 PHH and 4,616 NPHH beneficiaries.

Kupwara added 2,245 AAY, 6,078 PHH and 1,902 NPHH beneficiaries, while 19 AAY, 16 PHH and 23 NPHH beneficiaries were deleted.

Pulwama recorded 757 AAY, 3,372 PHH and 185 NPHH additions, against deletion of 24 AAY, 85 PHH and 70 NPHH beneficiaries.

Shopian added 356 AAY, 1,464 PHH and 594 NPHH beneficiaries, while 77 AAY, 295 PHH and 410 NPHH beneficiaries were deleted.

In Srinagar North, 158 AAY, 885 PHH and 3,982 NPHH beneficiaries were added. The area recorded deletion of 252 AAY, 1,681 PHH and 218 NPHH beneficiaries.

Srinagar South recorded 112 AAY, 924 PHH and 3,875 NPHH additions, while 165 AAY and 522 PHH beneficiaries were deleted.

The department said Aadhaar seeding of ration cards has been completed across J&K. It said the verification process is followed by corrections at the individual beneficiary level wherever required, with the category or status of ration cards modified in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Regarding “Silent Ration Cards”, the department clarified that such cards are not

immediately cancelled during verification. Instead, they remain under suspension for the prescribed period, after which the entitlement may be restored if the beneficiary or family approaches the department and the case is found eligible on examination.

The department also clarified that an entire ration card is not ordinarily cancelled merely because one member is found ineligible. In such cases, corrections are made at the beneficiary level and the category or status of the ration card is revised as per the applicable rules.

On issuance of new ration cards, the department said beneficiaries are identified in accordance with the eligibility criteria laid down under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) Rules, 2021, notified through S.O. 389 dated November 16, 2021.

It said the overall beneficiary ceiling for ration-card coverage is determined and allocated by the Government of India on the basis of data from the 2011 Census.

The department further stated that fresh ration cards under the relevant categories would be issued whenever revised targets are conveyed by the Government of India, enabling the inclusion of newly identified eligible families—(KNO)

J&K, Ladakh Braces For

reported, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require nearly an additional 450 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours in the coming three years.

The official documents in this regard had said that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir may have a peak demand of 3813 MWs.

It also said that in the coming fiscal 2027-28, the region is likely to require additional 151 MWs of power during the peak time with a total demand projection of 3964 MWs.

Furthermore, the projections said that in the year 2028-29, Jammu and Kashmir may require additional 300 MWs of power during the peak hours in comparison to the projected demand of the ongoing fiscal.

The official figures also said that in the year 2029-30, Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a peak demand of 4262 MWs that amounts to 449 MWs of additional energy demand to the projection made for the year 2026-27.

Pertinently, this news agency earlier reported that in the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 per cent.

The Government of India (GoI) had said that from the fiscal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU—(KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the name & style "M/s Spike Edge Holidays" Situated at Panzinara Srinagar.

Whereas, I MS. Rukhsana Bano W/o Mr. Saleem Ahmad Kawa R/o Sarai Dangerpora Sonawari, Kashmir intends to apply to the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Spike Edge Holidays" situated at Panzinara Srinagar, Kashmir under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/ Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/ Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor), and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency / Adventure Tour Operator. Now as per the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for the information of the general Public, Financial Institutions, Banks, Organizations, etc., for objections, if any. Any objection should reach the Deputy Director, Tourism Registration at the e-mail Id: ddtreq123@gmail.com within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/ newspapers of the valley. **No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.**

ADDRESS:- SADAT MARKET, NEAR PNB, SHADIPORA SUMBAL

+91- 9906230114- 6006600834

DAR MATTING SHOP

DEALS IN:- BLANKETS, BED SHEETS, BED COVERS, PILLOW COVERS, DOOR MATS, ROOM SHEETS, GRAPHICS, LINING, ROTTERY & MUCH MORE

Lt. Gen. Balbir Singh Visits Army Public School Srinagar, Interacts with Students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, the Chinar Corps Commander, visited Army Public School, Srinagar, and interacted with students during the visit, appreciating the school's efforts towards holistic development and academic excellence.

During the interaction, students presented books authored by them to the Chinar Corps Commander. The presentation highlighted the students' involvement in creative and academic pursuits and provided an opportunity for the Corps Commander to interact with the young authors.

The Chinar Corps Commander also felicitated students who had achieved outstanding accomplishments, recognising their performance and achievements.

During the visit, the Corps Commander toured the school's modern learning facilities and witnessed the emphasis placed by the institution on experiential learning, innovation and skill development.

The visit provided an opportunity to review the educational environment



APS SRINAGAR

@apssrinagar

Chinar Corps Commander visited Army Public School, #Srinagar, interacted with students and appreciated the school's efforts towards holistic development and academic excellence. During the visit, students presented their authored books to the Chinar Corps Commander. He also felicitated achievers for their outstanding accomplishments and visited modern learning facilities, witnessing the school's emphasis on experiential learning, innovation and skill development.

and the initiatives being undertaken by Army Public School, Srinagar, to support students beyond conventional classroom learning.

The interaction with students and the visit to the school's learning facilities highlighted the institution's focus on combining academic excellence with broader developmental

opportunities.

The Chinar Corps Commander appreciated the school's efforts towards holistic development and academic excellence, as well as its emphasis on experiential learning, innovation and skill development.

Among the students was Aadya Das, a vibrant dreamer with boundless

imagination. Aadya has captivated readers with enchanting stories that blend whimsy, suspense, and action, showcasing her youthful creativity and unique perspective.

Aadya's storytelling is distinctive, weaving narratives that ignite creativity and challenge conventional perceptions. Each tale is crafted with intricate detail, filled with unexpected twists and turns that keep readers eagerly turning the pages.

Aadya, at the age of 12, made a remarkable debut in the world of literature with her book 'Starlight Dreams and Twilight Tales.' Reflecting her passion for literature and storytelling, Aadya dreams of becoming an accomplished author.

Ladakh Police performs duty in most challenging conditions: LG Saxena

Attends Passing-Out Parade; 114 SPOs inducted for new districts, 99 personnel promoted

RAJA SYED

LEH: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said that policing in Ladakh involves unique challenges arising from its vast geographical spread, high-altitude locations, difficult terrain, extreme weather conditions and dispersed settlements.

"Ladakh Police performs its duty in some of the most challenging conditions in the country, and the courage, discipline and dedication of its personnel deserve our highest appreciation," the Lieutenant Governor said at the valedictory function and passing-out parade of Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, Followers and Special Police Officers (SPOs) at the Police Training School, Stongsar.

Today's induction of 114 newly recruited SPOs, along with the promotion and professional advancement of 99 serving personnel, will further strengthen the Police force across Ladakh, the LG added.

The newly recruited SPOs will be deployed in the newly created districts of Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Drass and Zaskar, augmenting police manpower and strengthening presence closer to commu-



nities in remote and difficult-to-access areas.

The passing-out parade also marked the successful completion of pre-promotional courses by 99 police personnel—8 Sub-Inspectors undergoing courses for promotion to Inspectors, 9 Assistant Sub-Inspectors for promotion to Sub-Inspectors, 77 Head Constables for promotion to Assistant Sub-Inspectors, and 5 Police Followers for induction as Constables.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated 24 two-BHK police family quarters to improve accommodation and welfare of personnel. Constructed at a cost of ₹11.04 crore, the quarters have been designed keeping Ladakh's harsh climatic conditions in view.

He also launched the

official Emblem, Flag, Logo and badges of the Ladakh Fire & Rescue Service to strengthen its identity and professionalism, and e-inaugurated its official website as a single digital platform for citizens. The website will provide access to Fire NOC services, fire safety guidelines, advisories, forms, rules and regulations, emergency contact details and public awareness material.

A Comprehensive Fire Safety Handbook for Ladakh was also released, covering fire prevention, safety measures, emergency response, evacuation procedures and rescue operations.

LG Saxena inspected the parade and took the salute of the marching contingents. He presented awards to the Overall Best, Indoor

Best, Outdoor Best and Best Marchman among the personnel, and felicitated the Chief Drill Inspector.

Congratulating the passing-out personnel, Saxena said, "Our initiatives for police housing and the strengthening of Fire & Rescue Services are aimed at ensuring that our personnel are supported with better facilities, modern systems and the resources they need to serve the people effectively," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that professional advancement in the police is not merely about assuming a higher rank but also about accepting greater responsibility, leadership and accountability. He highlighted the importance of legal knowledge, investigation skills, technology, discipline, integrity and professional conduct in modern policing.

Saxena expressed confidence that the induction of new personnel, professional advancement of serving personnel and the initiatives launched for police welfare and Fire & Rescue Services would make Ladakh's security and emergency response systems more modern, responsive, professional and people-centric—(KNO)

Every Effort Being Made MLA Irfan Hafiz Welcomes Infrastructure Upgrade in Wagoora-Kreeri Schools

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In a significant push to upgrade educational infrastructure in North Kashmir, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Baramulla has initiated the installation of RO water purifiers and CCTV cameras across various government schools in the Wagoora-Kreeri constituency, following persistent public demand and recommendations by Congress legislator Irfan Hafiz Lone.

According to an official communication from the CEO's office, the work is being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and the Constituency Development Scheme (CDS). The tendering process for both projects has been completed through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.

For the installation of RO water purifiers, an esti-

mated 29 schools have been finalized. The contract, valued at Rs 18.71 lakh, has been allotted to M/S Sabs Enterprises. The final list was curated after cross-verifying a previous rec-



ommendation of 31 schools made by the MLA in September. Officials noted that RO systems were already installed in three schools—HSS Hygam, HS Tapper Waripora Bala, and BHS Radaygam—during 2025-26, and were thus dropped from the current list.

The CEO's office stated that the specifications for

the purifiers and cameras have been shared with the MLA. Furthermore, once the vendors complete the installation, the legislator will be invited for the formal inauguration and commis-

sioned to M/S PC World for Rs 17.49 lakh. The schools were selected based on the criteria of highest student enrollment in the constituency. The lists for both initiatives have been shared with the respective vendors to begin installation.

Speaking on the development, MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone welcomed the progress, stating that the facilities recommended in light of public demand are now being installed. "Hopefully, every effort will be made to redress the demand of other schools in this regard," MLA Lone said.

The Congress legislator also highlighted other developmental works undertaken in the region, stating that smart boards have been installed and benches have been provided for classrooms. "I hope every possible effort will be made to redress other genuine demands of the people," he added.

सरकार जम्मू

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION KASHMIR

SAMANDARBAGH - S.P. COLIEGE ROAD SRINAGAR -190001

Email: dsekjk@gmail.com/ dsek-jk@gov.in (Teaching Section)

Subject: Final Notice.

Whereas, pursuant to the approval conveyed by Administrative Department vide communication No. EDU-GEN/219/2021-04-(58691) Dated: 16.06.2026, this Directorate vide Notification No.: 02-DSEK of 2026 Dated: 20.06.2026 directed 57 selected candidates to submit their Testimonials/Certificates alongwith Descriptive Rolls for Verification of Character & Antecedents within 21 days from the date of issuance of the Notice; and

Whereas, this Directorate vide Order No. Order No. 264 DSEK of 2026 Dated: 20.07.2026, Order No. 313 DSEK of 2026 Dated: 18.08.2026 and Order No. 317 DSEK of 2026 dated: 21.08.2026 issued appointment/adjustment orders in favour 34 candidates (19+10+05) as Teachers in whose favour satisfactory Character & Antecedents Report was received from the J&K CID; and

Whereas, this Directorate vide letter No. DSEK/Estt-III/B-TS/117/2024/2914-23 Dated: 02.09.2026 sought joining/non-joining report in respect of these appointees from all the Chief Education Officers of Kashmir Division; and Whereas, Chief Education Officer(s) concerned submitted their report, perusal of which reveals that following 04 candidates haven't joined their respective place of postings within the stipulated time period:

District	Name	Parentage/Spouse Name	Address	Appointed vide No.
Baramulla	Murtaza Hamid Shah	Ab Hamid Shah	7, DEWAN BAGH PATTAN, SHAH MANZIL, ANDERGAM, NEAR MASJIDOMAR, 193121, BARAMULLA.	313 DSEK of 2026 Dated: 18.08.2026
Bandipora	Mushtaq Ahmad Dar	Abdul Aziz Dar	HAJIN SONAWARI Bandipora	317 DSEK of 2026 Dated: 21.08.2026
Baramulla	Junaid Ahmad Magrey	Khazir Mohammad Magray	SHRAI, TANGMARG, 193402, BARAMULLA.	317 DSEK of 2026 dated: 21.08.2026
Srinagar	Parveen Devi	Narinder Dogra	QTR K-2 ROOM NO.-I, MUBARAKH MANDI, POONCH HOUSE, PANJTIRTHI, 180001, JAMMU	313 DSEK of 2026 Dated: 18.08.2026

Now, therefore, in view of the above, these 04 non-joiners are hereby given a final opportunity to join/report the Chief Education Officer concerned within 07 days from the date of issuance of this Notice, failing which their appointment as Teacher shall be cancelled without any further notice.

No.: DSEK/Estt-III/ TS/117/2024/3374-79
Dated: 06/10/2026

By Order

DIPK-6479-26
DT: 06/10/2026

Dr. Iqbal Hussain Mir (JKAS)
Personnel Officer

Three medical shops closed down at Qaimoh for violation of licence conditions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: An intensive drive was conducted Tuesday at Qaimoh area of District Kulgam by the Drug Control Authorities, Kulgam in coordination with Police Department.

During the inspection, three medical shops were found violating the conditions of licences and discrepancies were observed in the maintenance of records of Schedule drugs, especially Schedule H, HI drugs.

The shops have been closed down on spot under Section

22(d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and operation of their licences has been disallowed till compliances.

The inspection is part of continuous efforts of the department to bring transparency in the sale of schedule drugs and to curb the misuse of prescription drugs.

All chemists of the area have been strictly advised to adhere to responsible sale and purchase of schedule drugs, maintain sale/purchase bills, prescription CBS registers as mandated under Rules, and issue bills/cash memo for every sale.

CBI arrests Udhampur fireman for accepting 15,000 bribe

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday arrested a Fireman posted under the Assistant Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Udhampur, after catching him red-handed while demanding and accepting a rupees 15,000 bribe for processing and issuance of a Fire & Emergency Services NOC for a hotel in Katra.

In a statement issued, the CBI said it registered a case against the accused

on October 6 based on a complaint alleging that he had demanded a rupees 40,000 bribe from the complainant for processing and issuance of the NOC.

The CBI said that after negotiation, the accused agreed to accept rupees 15,000 from the complainant.

It said a trap was laid on October 6, following which the accused was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the rupees 15,000 bribe from the complainant. Investigation in the case is continuing.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION

BEMINA SRINAGAR.

Subject:-

Upgradation of 04 Storeyed office Building of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement wing KPDCI Bemina Srinagar (Additional Works)

Reference:-

This Office NIT No. 64/EE/R&B/BM/CS/of 2026-27 DATED: 30.09.2026 issued under endorsement No. 6610-19 dated:30.09.2026.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read the item description of Serial No. 09 in BOQ as:
"Providing and fixing of horizontal type rolling blinds for windows with as per shape colour. Including cost of necessary adhesive (nuts screws etc) specification and design approved by Engineer in charge /consultants/client complete"

instead of
"Providing and fixing of horizontal type rolling blinds for windows with as per shape colour with remote control type. Including cost of necessary adhesive (nuts screws etc) specification and design approved by Engineer in charge /consultants/client complete erroneously mentioned in the BOQ of above-mentioned NITs. The other terms and conditions of the said NIT and BOQ shall remain unaltered.

No: EE/R&B/Divn/BM/6809-15
Dated: 06.10.2026
DIPK-6455-26
DT: 06/10/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

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

GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in | Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 2ND

of Re-Tender Notice/ Corrigendum 2nd.

Subject:

AMC for the Departmental Vehicles namely Scorpio JK01-W9211, Bolero JK01W-5914, Tata Yodha JK01BA-0835 and Bolero Camper JK01BC-1179.

Reference:

1. This office Re-tender Corrigendum Notice 2nd (Sl.No. 01) issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/10995-11004, dated: 16-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_310884_4.
2. This office Extension Notice 1st (Sl.No. 01) issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/ GWDS 26-27/Camp/4590-600, dated: 14-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No.2026_PHE_310884_3.
3. This office Re-tender Corrigendum Notice 1st (Sl.No. 01) issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/3452-62, dated: 08-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_310884_3.
4. This office e-NIT No. 17/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/1875-85, Dated: 25-05-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_310884_1.

Due to "POOR Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. & Re-Tendered Corrigendum under Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 06-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM.

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	19-10-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	20-10-2026 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.
No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./13701-11.
Dated: 06-10-2026.
DIPK-6458-26
DT: 06/10/2026

Sd/=

Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar.

●●●●●

CMYK

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Dreams do come true: Iyer after scoring maiden T20I ton

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW: Shreyas Iyer overcame fatigue and jet lag to score his maiden T20I hundred and said he did not want to use the travel exertions as an excuse, terming his match-winning knock that gave India a dominant eight-wicket win over West Indies a dream come true.

Iyer and his teammates had returned from Japan following their Asian Games gold-medal triumph ahead of the five-match T20I series against West Indies, but the long travel did little to affect their performance in the opening game.

"After the exhausting travel, didn't realise where I was. Everyday I needed to wake up like this! Bowling first helped us a lot. We just didn't look at jetlag as an excuse.

"We saw the excitement of India vs West Indies in the ODIs and how amazing that was. It was important to stick to the process. Exultant! Was thinking about my first century and dreams do come true."

Sent in to bat, West Indies were all out for 171, a total easily overhauled



by India in 14.4 overs, riding on skipper Iyer's unbeaten 102, to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

"Winning tastes different. If it is your day, win the match for the team. Overall it was a comprehensive performance. If we continue with the same mindset we will be one of the most destructive teams in T20."

It was also a dream debut for Naman Dhir who snapped three wickets and Iyer heaped praise on the off-spin all-rounder.

"Dhir wanted to bowl

in crucial moments. Capitalised on the turn, I love his attitude."

West Indies captain Shai Hope rued his team's chaotic batting and lack of runs in the back end.

Hope (52) and Sherfane Rutherford (56) had added 63 off 35 but lost four quick wickets to be bowled out for 171.

"We didn't get enough runs in the back end. We were too chaotic in batting. You've got to put runs on the board and defend with width in the outfield. We didn't have enough against India,"

"I just love batting here. Whenever I get to come here, I love it," he said.

Ishan Kishan, who had the best view as he watched his captain go hammer and tongs against the opposition, said it made his job easier as he only had to give Iyer the strike.

"He was in very good touch and to be very honest, looking from the other end, I felt it's better to keep him on strike and not let the momentum stop. So my job was pretty easy in the middle, to just get off strike and let him play as many balls as he can," he said.

Asked when he realised to be the back-seat driver, Kishan said: "I think you get to know in the middle. How the other batter is timing the ball, if I'm doing it better or he is doing it. And he looked in very good touch today.

"And I was not looking in such great touch, to be very honest.

"So I just felt it's better to keep him on strike rather than just be on strike, try those shots, but at the same time, I wanted him to keep the momentum going."

Boy's Table Tennis events commence at Indoor Stadium Shopian



GMK SPORTS DESK

SHOPIAN: The Boy's Table Tennis events across all age groups commenced Tuesday at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Shopian, as part of the ongoing Inter-Division UT-Level Table Tennis Tournament.

The events were formally inaugurated in the presence of the District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO), Shopian, alongwith members of the technical committee,

departmental officials and field staff.

On the occasion, the District Youth Services & Sports Officer highlighted the importance of sports and games in the overall physical, mental and social development of young athletes.

DYSSO encouraged the participating players to compete with dedication, discipline and true sportsmanship and urged them to utilise the tournament as a platform to showcase

their talent and gain valuable competitive exposure.

The tournament is witnessing enthusiastic participation of young players from different age groups, providing them an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and compete in a healthy and sporting environment.

The department reiterated its commitment to providing quality sporting opportunities to youth and promoting a culture of sports across the district.

Australia dealt huge blow as Cameron Green ruled out of Durban Test

IAN5

NEW DELHI: Australia have been dealt a huge blow ahead of the opening Test against South Africa, with head coach Andrew McDonald confirming that Cameron Green will miss the first match of the series at Kingsmead, Durban.

Green sustained an abdominal strain while playing a hook shot during the third ODI against South Africa and has been racing against time to regain full fitness. He was absent from Australia's two-day warm-up fixture in Potchefstroom and has been restricted to minor physical conditioning work on the sidelines.

Speaking ahead of Australia's first full training session at Kingsmead, McDonald said Green was progressing well but would not be available for the Durban Test. "He's progressing pretty well, all things considered. He's still here for a reason, so there is some light at the end of

the tunnel. It'll just be a matter of going through the rehab," McDonald said, as quoted by Cricinfo.

"He's got a pretty demanding week as he reintroduces a few activities, and you'll see that probably play out in the net situation and during lunchtime, in and around the game. It's a bit of an unknown, but there's still optimism that he will take part in the series at some point," he added.

Green's absence is a significant setback for Australia, particularly with the 27-year-old having been in fine form with the bat. He scored a Test century against Bangladesh in Darwin and emerged as one of the stand-out batters in the series alongside Steve Smith.

He had also been Australia's leading run-scorer in the ODI series against Bangladesh in August and appeared to have settled into the No. 5 position after being shuffled around during last season's Ashes.

Football: Assam edge SAI on penalties to lift Junior Girls' Tier 2 title



Dr Talimeren Ao Junior Girls' National Football Championship Tier 2 at the RK Ashram Ground in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh, on Tuesday.

Both Assam and SAI earned promotion to Tier 1 for next season by reaching the final.

In the shoot-out, Krithika Haziwary gave SAI the lead with the opening kick before goalkeeper Anjali Basumatary denied Assam substitute Banasree Bordoloi. Assam goalkeeper Furchang Lama then saved a shot from SAI captain Ribika Basumatary, while Karishma Ruma converted to make it 1-1 after two rounds.

Lama continued to prove decisive, keeping out Sayani Chakraborty and Irom Deviya Chanu. In between, Anjali denied Jirmili Kramapi. Assam captain Minakshi Bhuyan then converted to put her side 2-1 ahead.

Mwiyuri restored parity for SAI with a powerful left-footed effort into the top-right corner, but Maanwi Mech calmly placed Assam's fifth and decisive kick low to the right to seal the shootout 3-2.

It was fitting that

Maanwi delivered the winning penalty after having come close to breaking the deadlock several times during regulation time. She had at least four chances during a sustained spell of Assam pressure in the second half, with Karishma regularly finding her with neat passes.

Three of Maanwi's efforts were blocked away for corners, while on another occasion, with the goal at her mercy, her attempted chip travelled wide of the left post.

At the other end, SAI striker Yaihabhi Thokchom was equally threatening. Ribika, Krithika and Roshni Basumatary repeatedly created openings for her, but Furchang produced a string of saves to keep Assam level.

The teams adopted contrasting approaches throughout the contest. SAI played a methodical and organised game, moving the ball through short passes and intelligent runs into the box, while Assam preferred a more direct route with long balls and through passes.

SAI, however, were unable to add the finishing touch to several promising moves. Minakshi was also

impressive at the heart of the Assam defence, covering the penalty area well and making a number of important interventions.

Assam's long passes often ran too deep in the first half, allowing Anjali to come off her line and collect comfortably, and neither side managed to create a clear opening before the break.

Assam altered their approach in the second half and began to pose a greater threat, with Karishma and Maanwi combining regularly in attack. Anjali, however, stood firm in the SAI goal to ensure the match remained goalless.

With both goalkeepers coming up trumps during regulation time, the contest headed to penalties, where Lama again played a decisive role before Maanwi converted the final kick to crown Assam champions.

SAI had reached the final after an unbeaten campaign, winning all four matches to finish on top of Group A before defeating Meghalaya 6-0 in the semifinal. Assam topped Group D with nine points from three victories and booked their place in the title clash after defeating Goa on penalties in the semifinal.

Smriti Mandhana replaces Harmanpreet as all-format captain of Indian women's cricket team

IAN5

MUMBAI: With Harmanpreet Kaur deciding to step down from captaincy, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday night announced that Smriti Mandhana will take over from her on a permanent basis.

Mandhana has led India in different formats earlier. While she will be the full-time white-ball captain from now on, Smriti has led India in 18 T20Is and 4 ODIs.

Smriti has been one of the leading figures in Indian women's cricket over the years and has played a key role in the team's progress across formats. An experienced international cricketer, she has also demonstrated

her leadership qualities in domestic and franchise cricket, most recently leading Royal Challengers Bengaluru to the Women's Premier League titles in 2024 and 2026.

"Having been part of the Indian team since 2013, Smriti brings considerable experience into the role. She will now take on the responsibility of leading the side, with the team entering a new phase and continuing to build on the progress made in recent years," the BCCI said in a release on Tuesday.

Speaking on her appointment, Smriti Mandhana said: "To be given the responsibility of leading India is a very special honour. Representing India has always meant a great deal to me, and to

now have the opportunity to lead the team is something I will value deeply. I am grateful to the BCCI, the selectors, my teammates, and everyone who has supported me throughout my journey and for the trust they have placed in me.

"I would also like to acknowledge Harmanpreet and the contribution she has made as captain over the years. She has led the team with great commitment and has been an important part of our journey.

"I understand the responsibility that comes with this role and look forward to working with the team, learning along the way and giving my best to take Indian Cricket forward," she added.

Top stars in fray in Kapil Dev Invitational Tour Championship in Greater Noida

IAN5

GREATER NOIDA: A top-class field featuring leading Indian stars like Shubhankar Sharma, reigning PGTI Order of Merit champion Yuvraj Sandhu, current PGTI Order of Merit leader Saptak Talwar, Khalin Joshi, Veer Ahlawat and Honey Baisoya will be among the top contenders in the Kapil Dev Invitational Tour Championship to be played at the Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort, Greater Noida, from October 7 to 10.

The Kapil Dev Invitational, which carries a prize purse of INR 2 crore, returns for its fourth edition this year but will be held as the Tour Championship for the first time.

The event will witness participation by 64 professionals, including the current Top-60 on the DP World PGTI Order of Merit. This is the last event before the Top-24 in the Race to India Championship are sealed for the season finale the following week.

The other leading Indian professionals in the field are Akshay Sharma and Rashid Khan. Besides Saptak Talwar, the other leading Greater Noida-based professionals in the



field are Amardeep Malik and Arjun Sharma.

There are 10 foreign professionals competing from eight different countries. The foreign names in the field include Sri Lanka's N. Thangaraja, Italy's Michele Ortolani, Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain, Badal Hossain and Md Akbar Hossain, Nepal's Subash Tamang, Czech Republic's Stepan Danek, Uganda's Joshua Seale, Thailand's Tanapat Pichaikool and Japan's Koichiro Ishika.

The tournament combines the Professional Championship with a thrilling Pro-Am component, bringing together professionals and amateurs in a dynamic and engaging way. All four rounds of the tournament will feature a separate set of amateurs, with a different Pro-Am

competition being held in every round alongside the professional rounds.

Each Pro-Am team will consist of one professional and one amateur. The amateurs will play in the modified scramble format, while the professionals will play in stroke play like all other PGTI events. The professional's score will be counted towards both the professional leaderboard and the Pro-Am championship. The top three Pro-Am teams stand to win prizes at the end of each round.

Kapil Dev, President, Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), said, "I am delighted to see the Kapil Dev Invitational return for its fourth edition as the Tour Championship. It is particularly gratifying that the tournament brings together the best professionals on the

Tour while also creating an opportunity for amateurs to experience the competitive environment of professional golf.

"The tournament promises intense competition as the PGTI's top-60 professionals will not only be competing for the trophy this week, but also for the final opportunity to secure their place among the top-24 of the Race to DP World India Championship. The participation of amateurs across all four rounds adds more excitement and makes this a truly unique format.

"I am confident that the Kapil Dev Invitational 2026 will provide a memorable experience for the players, amateurs, partners and golf fans, and I wish all the participants the very best for the tournament."

C. Sasidhar, Chairman, Vishwa Samudra Engineering, said, "This will be our third tournament with the DP World PGTI, but our first Tour Championship, making the occasion particularly special for us. It is also our first association with the Kapil Dev Invitational, a name synonymous with sporting excellence and a strong commitment to nurturing talent in India."

INOX

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07 OCTOBER 2026 WEDNESDAY

DRISHYAM : THE CONCLUSION (UA 16+)

HINDI	ATMOS	10:45 AM	01:45 PM
		04:45 PM	07:45 PM
HINDI		11:50 AM	03:20 PM
		06:20 PM	

DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NEW NOBITA AND THE CASTLE OF THE UNDERSEA DEVIL (U)

HINDI	01:05 PM	03:05 PM
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PREM KEETANU (UA 16+)

HINDI	05:25 PM
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VERITY (A)

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10:35 AM

DIGGER (A)

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