

“No Voter To Be Left Behind” CEO J&K Announces Weekend Voter Enrolment Drives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: With the objective of ensuring that no eligible voter is left behind, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu and Kashmir, Sanjeev Verma, Wednesday announced a two-day Special Intensive Voter Enrolment Drive across the Union Territory on October 10 (Saturday) and October 11 (Sunday), 2026, marking the beginning of a regular weekend voter facilitation initiative.

The special drive will be conducted at all Polling Stations across Jammu and Kashmir from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on both days, providing eligible citizens with an accessible opportunity to enroll themselves as voters and update or correct their electoral particulars.

The announcement was made during a review meeting chaired by the CEO with District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) to review and finalize arrangements for the special drive.

Sanjeev Verma directed the election machinery to ensure extensive outreach and effective facilitation so that no eligible citizen remains outside the electoral rolls.



As part of the initiative, weekend voter enrolment and facilitation drives will be organized regularly, providing citizens with a convenient opportunity to approach their nearest Polling Station for enrolment and updation of electoral details.

The CEO directed DEOs and EROs/AEROs to undertake extensive institutional and public outreach to create awareness about the initiative. He also called for regular ground-level updates through official social media platforms, with posts carrying relevant Polling Station, Assembly Constituency and District details to enable citizens to easily access information regarding the facilities available in their respective areas.

During the two days drive, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will remain stationed at all Polling Stations from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM to ●P-06

Air Chief-Designate Dixit Meets Rajnath Singh Ahead Of New Role

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Air Chief-designate Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit on Wednesday called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh following his appointment as the next Chief of the Air Staff. Singh congratulated him on his appointment and extended his best wishes.

The government has appointed Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from the afternoon of October 31.

The present Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, will superannuate from service on October 31, following which Air Marshal Dixit will take charge as the head of the Indian Air Force.

Widely known for his role in promoting indigenous LCA Tejas and other indigenous aircraft projects in the force, Air Marshal Dixit is expected to further strengthen the government's Aatmanirbharta initiative in the defence sector.

Air Marshal Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986. He is



an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Staff Service College in Bangladesh and the National Defence College. He has more than 3,500 hours of flying experience.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the Air Marshal has held several significant field and staff appointments during his career.

As Commanding Officer, he re-equipped No. 9 Squadron with Mirage-2000 aircraft and later commanded a frontline fighter air base in the Western Sector and a premier fighter training base in the Southern Sector.

The Air Officer subsequently served as Air Defence Commander of Southern Air Command and held the appointments of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects) and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans) at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan).

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THE PRESENT CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF, AIR CHIEF MARSHAL Amar Preet Singh, will superannuate from service on October 31, following which Air Marshal Dixit will take charge as the head of the Indian Air Force.

Mamta Yadav Gets Info Dept Major Bureaucratic Reshuffle; 49 IAS, JKAS Officers Moved

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday carried out a major administrative reshuffle involving 49 IAS and JKAS officers, appointing Mamta Yadav as Director, Information, Basharat Qayoom as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and assigning Shaleen Kabra additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department.

A copy of the order, accessed, said the transfers and postings have been ordered with immediate effect in the interest of administration.

The order reads: Shaleen Kabra, IAS (AGMUT: 1992), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department (Additional charge of the posts of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K



and Administrative Secretary, Estates Department), shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department relieving Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, IAS of the additional charge.

Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, IAS (AGMUT: 1994), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Tourism Department (Additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department) is transferred and posted as ●P-06

Urs Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) Begins At Charar-I-Sharief

Poshak Bandi Ritual Held; Shrine Reverberates With Prayers, Naats, Manqabats

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: The annual Poshak Bandi ritual was performed with religious fervour at the revered shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) at Charar-i-Sharief in Budgam on Wednesday, marking the beginning of the annual Urs celebrations of the revered Sufi saint.

The sacred ritual of changing the cloth draped over the holy grave was performed by Senior Member of the J&K Waqf Board Syed Mohammad Hussain Hakani, Administrator Mohammad Amin Dar, and Mutawali Ziyarat Mohammad Younis Haji, in the presence of other Waqf board officials and a large gathering of devotees.

The shrine reverberated with Manqabats, Naats, prayers and



slogans in praise of Alamdar-e-Kashmir, as devotees gathered to witness the sacred ritual and offer prayers.

Popularly known as "Alamdar-e-Kashmir" and "Sheikh-ul-

Aalam", Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA) is among the most revered spiritual personalities of Kashmir, whose teachings, poetry and message of peace have deeply ●P-06

CS Reviews Progress On Solarization Of Houses, Govt Buildings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday reviewed the progress on implementation of the solarization programme in Jammu and Kashmir, taking detailed stock of rooftop solar installations among residential consumers and solarization of Government buildings through CAPEX and RESCO modes under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana here.

The meeting besides ACS, Power was attended by Commissioner Secretary, S&T; MD, JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineers; CEO, JAKEDA and other concerned officers. Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary while taking appraisal of the progress directed the Power Development Department



(PDD) and implementing agencies to address the bottlenecks affecting the pace of installations, with particular focus on bank financing, availability and distribution of vendors, metering and expeditious execution of PPAs.

Taking note of the high rejection rate of bank loans, the Chief Secretary directed the Discoms to take up all rejected loan cases with the concerned banks, ascertain the reasons for ●P-06

Keran Peace Replaces Fear, From Shelling Hit Area To Tourism Destination

Residents Say Better Connectivity, Sanitation Essential For Sustainable Growth

SAJID RAINA

KERAN: Once overshadowed by the fear of cross-border shelling and the constant threat from across the Line of Control (LoC), Keran in North Kashmir's Kupwara district is witnessing a remarkable transformation, with the sense of insecurity gradually giving way to peace and tourism.

According to the details available, tourists are arriving in large numbers to explore its mountains, forests and the Kishenganga river and the frontier area is abuzz with activity.

Located along the LoC, the picturesque area has emerged as an attraction for visitors from different parts of Jammu



and Kashmir and other states, offering a combination of scenic landscapes and a rare view of communities living on opposite sides of the international border.

The Kishenganga, known as the Neelum on the other

side, separates the two sides in parts of Keran.

For many tourists, the experience is unlike that offered by conventional destinations such as Gulmarg and Pahalgam. "Keran is different because you are not only seeing mountains

and rivers. You are also seeing the border from very close and watching people on the other side," said Aamir Hussain, a visitor from Srinagar.

The increasing tourist footfall has also created new opportunities for local residents. Several families have opened homestays, while horses are being made available for visitors wishing to explore nearby areas.

"Tourism has given people here another source of income. Earlier, there were very few opportunities, but now families can earn through homestays, horse rides and other services," said Farooq Ahmad, a local resident.

Residents said they ●P-06

PoK Girl Sent Back To Pakistan Through Poonch



GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: A girl from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), who was apprehended by security forces earlier this month, was sent back to Pakistan through the Chakkan Da Bagh crossing point in Poonch on Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the girl was apprehended by the Army on October 2 and was sent back to Pakistan through the Chakkan Da Bagh crossing point on Wednesday.

He said that after completion of all legal formalities, the In-Charge of Police Post Lam, along with an escort vehicle, took the girl to Chakkan Da Bagh for her return to Pakistan.

The girl was ●P-06

NIA Court Declares Pak-Based Terror Accused Proclaimed Offender



AGENCIES

JAMMU: A Special NIA Court here has declared a wanted terror accused, who is believed to be hiding in Pakistan, a proclaimed offender following an application filed by the National Investigation Agency.

Nazir Hussain, a resident of Hari village in Poonch district, is wanted in a terror conspiracy case being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) following the recovery of several grenades from an overground worker in the Surankote area of the border district in October 2024.

The investigation revealed

that the grenade consignment had allegedly been sent from across the border by Hussain, who is also known by several aliases, including Ali Khan, Nasir, Naziru and Shaheen, to carry out blasts.

Special judge (NIA), Jammu, Prem Sagar after hearing the NIA plea on October 1 declared Hussain a proclaimed offender under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

According to the court order, non-bailable warrants of arrest had earlier been issued against the accused. However, the warrants could not be executed as the accused was not ●P-06

MLA B'pora visits HKM GDC, assures support for Infrastructure



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Bandipora, Nizam Uddin Bhat, Wednesday visited HKM Government Degree College Bandipora for an interactive visit focused on the developmental needs, infrastructural requirements and student-related issues of the institution.

During the visit, the MLA also reviewed the ongoing development works worth approximately ₹18 crore at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora.

The visit provided an opportunity for the college administration, faculty and students to engage with the MLA on matters concerning the further

strengthening of the college and improving facilities for its students.

In his welcome address, the Principal HKM GDC Bandipora highlighted various developmental and infrastructural requirements of the institution and apprised the MLA of matters requiring attention and support. The interaction subsequently focused on the status of ongoing and proposed infrastructural works at the college.

The MLA took note of the requirement and assured that approximately ₹1 crore would be earmarked under the District CAPEX Budget for the next financial year for construction of a Girls' Rest Room at HKM Government Degree College, Bandipora.

He also assured the release of ₹30 lakh from his MLA Constituency Development Fund for the purchase of a college bus, which would help address transportation and accessibility-related requirements of the institution.

Several other important developmental matters were also discussed during the interaction. The status of the already allotted Library Block was reviewed, while the issue of sanctioning an Auditorium Block was also discussed.

Issues relating to accessibility and student scholarships were also discussed, with the college administration apprising the MLA of the concerns and practical difficulties faced in these areas.

VC LCMA visits Tchunti Khul, Dal Lock Gate to review Hydraulic Infrastructure

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Taking forward the Authority's efforts to restore and strengthen the water channels associated with Dal Lake, Vice Chairman, JKLCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, visited Tchunti Khul and the Dal Lock Gate to review the water flow, hydraulic infrastructure, and condition of the adjoining areas.

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers of Lake Division 1st and Lake Division 2nd, and other officers and officials of the Authority.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman took a detailed assessment of the existing condition of Tchunti Khul and the Dal Lock Gate and reviewed the water channel, adjoining stretches, and associated hydraulic infrastructure. He stressed the importance of maintaining the channel in a manner that facilitates smooth movement of water and supports effective water level management



of Dal Lake.

The Vice Chairman directed the concerned officers to undertake necessary cleanliness and site clearance measures along Tchunti Khul and its adjoining stretches. He called for identification of locations requiring desilting, dredging, removal of obstructions, and other restoration measures so that necessary works can be taken up in a systematic and time bound manner.

Reviewing the Dal Lock Gate, the Vice Chairman emphasized the need for its proper upkeep and functioning to ensure effective regulation of water flow. He directed the Engineer-

ing Wing to assess the condition of the lock gate and associated infrastructure and identify the works required for repair, restoration, and improvement.

The Vice Chairman further directed the concerned officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of Tchunti Khul and identify measures required to improve its water carrying capacity, cleanliness, and overall environmental condition. He stressed that restoration of the channel should be undertaken with due consideration to its ecological importance and its role in the water management network of Dal Lake.

Br MSME DFO Sgr launches Six-Week ESDP on AI & Business Development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), through Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, Wednesday kick-started a six-week Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Business Development in collaboration with the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, Pulwama.

The inaugural session was attended by Aijaz Bashir, Dean Academics, IUST, as the Chief Guest, in the presence of Saheel Afaqband, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Srinagar, and Prof. Parvez, Head, CIED, IUST. The programme was also graced by Altaf, Principal, Government Polytechnic Pulwama, faculty members and participating candidates.

Addressing the inaugural session, the Dean Academics, IUST, welcomed the initiative and appreciated the efforts of MSME DFO Srinagar and CIED in organising the



programme. He emphasised that the ultimate measure of such initiatives should be their outcomes and expressed his hope that the programme would lead to the emergence of successful entrepreneurs and tangible success stories.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Srinagar, said that the programme has been designed to provide participants with comprehensive exposure to Artificial Intelligence and its practical applications in business and entrepreneurship. He said the participants will be sensitised about how AI can be effectively leveraged to develop innovative business ideas, improve business processes and create new entrepreneurial opportunities in the rapidly evolving digital economy.

He further informed the six-week programme will also include

dedicated Entrepreneurship Development sessions, with experts and speakers from various stakeholder departments and institutions. These sessions will cover important aspects of entrepreneurship, including support available through the District Industries Centre (DIC), financial institutions, MSME-related schemes and other relevant areas required for establishing and successfully managing enterprises.

Head, CIED, IUST said that AI is rapidly becoming the future of business, and the next generation of entrepreneurs must be equipped to effectively integrate AI into their startups and business ventures. He stressed the importance of preparing young entrepreneurs to understand and adopt emerging technologies to remain competitive in the modern business environment.

DC Budgam distributes Free Spectacles to Students

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Wednesday distributed free spectacles among students at a programme held at Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam, as part of the District Administration's ongoing Children's Eye Health Programme.

The programme is being implemented by the District Administration Budgam in collaboration with Nayonika Eye Care Charitable Trust, covering children in the 6-18 years age group across the district.

Under the initiative, 60,500 out of 70,280 students have been screened so far for vision-related issues. The screening has covered government schools across the district, with comprehensive screening carried out during September.

Speaking on the occasion,



the Deputy Commissioner said, "We have undertaken a comprehensive eye-screening programme covering all children in the 6-18 years age group in government schools across Budgam. So far, around 60,500 children have been screened."

He said that the initiative is aimed at ensuring timely identification and treatment of vision-

related problems among school-going children. "Around 450 children have been identified with vision-related difficulties or those requiring specialised eye care. Our focus is to ensure that every such child receives timely treatment and support," he added.

The DC said that the second stage of the programme involves exami-

nation by ophthalmology teams at Sub-District Hospitals, where children requiring spectacles are assessed and their prescriptions prepared.

"After the initial screening, children requiring further examination are being assessed by ophthalmology teams at our Sub-District Hospitals. Based on the prescriptions, spectacles are being provided free of

cost," he said.

The DC further informed that the administration is working towards completing the screening of all students in government schools shortly. "We are hopeful that 100 per cent of the children in government schools will be screened within the next few days," he said.

Emphasising the importance of continued care, the Deputy Commissioner said, "For children requiring specialised or tertiary-level treatment, we have also established linkages with medical colleges and tertiary care hospitals so that they receive appropriate treatment and follow-up care."

The first batch of spectacles was distributed to students during the programme today, while the remaining identified beneficiaries are expected to receive their spectacles within the next 10-15 days.

Additional Commissioner Kashmir Visits Shopian

Reviews progress of Land Records Digitization



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Akramullah Tak, Wednesday visited Shopian and reviewed the progress of land records digitization and updation in the district.

During the visit, the Additional Commissioner took a detailed review of the status of digitization of land records and interacted with the concerned officers regarding the progress achieved, issues being faced and measures being taken to ensure timely completion of the ongoing process.

He stressed the need for ensuring accuracy and transparency in the digitization and updation of

land records and directed the concerned officers to maintain proper verification of records and ensure that the process is completed in a time-bound manner.

The Additional Commissioner also emphasized effective coordination among the Revenue functionaries and timely resolution of issues related to land records and public grievances.

Earlier, the Additional Commissioner visited Chitragam and other areas of the district to assess the on-the-spot progress of the digitization process.

The Meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, Tehsildars and other revenue officers.

Distribution Camp under ADIP, RVY schemes held in Kulgam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Social Welfare Department, Kulgam, in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Wednesday organised a distribution camp under the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities (ADIP) Scheme and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) at the Conference Hall, Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam.

The camp was organised for the benefit of persons with disabilities and senior citizens, with the objective of providing them assistive devices to facilitate mobility, independence and improved quality of life.

The distribution was carried out in the presence of MLA Kulgam,

Mohd. Yousuf Tarigami, District Social Welfare Officer Kulgam, Rameez Raja Ganje, and other officials of the Social Welfare Department.

More than 140 beneficiaries were covered during the camp and provided with various assistive devices as per their assessed needs. The devices distributed included hearing aids, battery-operated tricycles, wheelchairs, walking sticks, braces and other assistive aids.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the efforts of the Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO in facilitating the beneficiaries and ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the intended sections of society.

SWD organizes Awareness Programme on Social Security Schemes

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized an awareness programme at Illahi Bagh, Srinagar, to sensitise the local community about various social security schemes and welfare initiatives being implemented for the benefit of eligible beneficiaries.

During the programme, detailed information was provided regarding marriage assistance, prosthetic aid and other social security schemes, with emphasis on eligibility criteria, benefits and the procedure for availing assistance under the respective schemes.

Officials of SANKALP-HEW Srinagar interacted with the participants and addressed their queries regarding the welfare measures available through the Social Welfare Department. The programme aimed to ensure that eligible individuals and families are made aware of government support and are able to access the benefits meant for them.

As part of the initiative, 20 beneficiaries were linked with various social security schemes, enabling them to avail the benefits

Organizes Community Outreach Program under BBBP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a community outreach programme at Palpora, Srinagar, to sensitise the community about various issues concerning child protection.

The programme was aimed at strengthening awareness among community members about the rights and protection of children and the need for collective efforts to prevent practices that adversely affect the safety, dignity and well-being of children and families.

During the programme, detailed awareness was provided on the provisions and significance of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with emphasis on the responsibility of parents, guardians and community members to ensure a safe environment for children. The participants were sensitised about the importance of recognising situations that may put

children at risk and the need for timely intervention and reporting through appropriate authorities.

Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Srinagar, who was the resource person at the programme, spoke on the occasion and highlighted the legal provisions and social implications associated with these issues. The resource person also emphasised the role of families and the community in preventing child-related offences and ensuring a safe and supportive environment for children.

The issue of child marriage was also discussed in detail. Participants were made aware of the adverse consequences of child marriage on children's education, health, personal development and overall well-being. The programme stressed the importance of ensuring that children are allowed to grow and develop in a safe environment and have access to education and opportunities.

JKAACL inaugurates two-year Calligraphy course

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the University of Kashmir, Wednesday inaugurated a two-year Calligraphy Course at the Academy's Seminar Hall, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The inaugural session was presided over by Secretary JKAACL, Harvinder Kour, along with Additional Secretary, Kashmir, Ideel Saleem and Additional Secretary, Central, Lal Chand. While Prof. Habibullah Shah, Principal, Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Kashmir, attended the session as the Guest of



Honour, and former Chief Editor (Urdu), Mohammad Ashraf Tak also attended the inaugural session.

The course was formally inaugurated by the Secretary JKAACL. The dignitaries visited the calligraphy room and appreciated the initiative aimed at reviving and promoting the traditional art of calligraphy.

Addressing the gathering, Habibullah Shah highlighted the enduring relevance and significance of

calligraphy in the contemporary era and emphasized the need to preserve traditional art forms through structured training and institutional support.

In his remarks, Mohammad Ashraf Tak underlined the cultural and artistic significance of calligraphy and appreciated the efforts of JKAACL and the University of Kashmir in reviving the course and providing a platform for imparting systematic training in this traditional art.

ADDC B'pora inaugurates National Science Exhibition at IDPS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazeer Ahmad Mir Wednesday inaugurated a one-day National Science Exhibition on the theme "Innovation and Critical Thinking: Discover, Design and Develop" at International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Bandipora, with participation from several schools across North Kashmir.

Joint Director Education/ Joint Director CBSE Kash-

mir, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Director Planning (Jal Shakti department), Imtiyaz Ahmad, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, Deputy Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Zonal Education Officers, Chairman IDPS Bandipora and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Representatives from the Universities of Bangalore also participated in the event.

On the occasion, a cultural presentation featuring a welcome song by teachers, a Kashmiri group song by

LKG students and a Kashmiri dance by Class I students marked the opening of the event.

Around 2,000 students participated in the exhibition, setting up dedicated stalls and showcasing innovative ideas, scientific models and creative projects. The exhibits covered a wide range of concepts, with students explaining the underlying principles, working mechanisms and practical applications of their projects to the visiting guests and participants.

The exhibition provided students a platform to demonstrate their creativity, scientific temperament, problem-solving abilities and critical thinking, besides offering them an opportunity to interact with peers from different schools, exchange ideas and learn from one another.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the participation and efforts of the students and teachers and emphasised the importance of promoting scientific inquiry, innova-

tion and critical thinking among young learners.

The exhibition also featured stalls by sponsors showcasing educational products and services, adding an educational and community dimension to the event.

The programme concluded with the felicitation of guests, sponsors, participating schools, students, teachers and organisers in recognition of their contribution towards promoting science, innovation and creative learning among school children.

Intern doctors threaten to resume strike if Govt fails to hike their stipend within 5-days

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The Association of Interns and Medical Students Association (AIMSA) on Wednesday urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to issue a formal order within five days on the enhancement of stipends for MBBS and BDS interns, warning that failure to meet the deadline would leave them with no option but to resume their agitation.

According to the details available, a delegation of medical interns and AIMSA representatives on Wednesday met Peerzada Zahoor Ahmad, JKAS, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Minister for Health and Medical Education to seek an update on the pending file and issuance of the formal order.

The association said the concerned officer informed the delegation that all required levels of processing and signatures have already been completed. The officer assured the representatives that the order would be issued within the stipulated timeframe and is expected in the next few days.

Following the assurance, the intern representatives decided to give the administration some more time to complete the process, while making it clear that their patience would be limited



to five days.

AIMSA State President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan said, “The government must hike the stipend within the given timeframe. We have already waited for a long time and now expect the written assurance to be honoured without any further delay.”

Meanwhile, the association said: “If the order is not issued within the stipulated five days, we will most likely resume our strike. We will subsequently hold a press conference in Srinagar and formally announce the next course of action,” the association said.

The development comes after MBBS and BDS interns suspended their agitation last month following an assurance by the Health Minister that their stipend will be hiked and the formal order will be issued. The interns have sought an increase in the stipend from the existing Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000 per month.

The interns had set October 9 as the deadline for the government to fulfil its written assurance, with a warning that they could launch a hunger strike from October 10 if the order was not issued.

With the latest assurance from the authorities, the intern representatives have decided to wait for a few more days before taking any further step.

The association said its decision to defer the agitation was based entirely on the assurance given by the concerned authorities and that failure to adhere to the promised timeline would compel the interns to resume their planned course of action.

The interns have also urged Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo to intervene personally and ensure that the stipend enhancement order is issued at the earliest, saying the matter has remained pending despite repeated assurances—(KNO)

MLA Shopian reviews Tourism Development Works

Conducts extensive Field Inspection of Bohrihalan, Dubjan, Peer Ki Gali

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Bohrihalan to assess the progress of ongoing and proposed tourism development works in the district and to strengthen inter-departmental coordination for their timely execution.

During the meeting, the MLA reviewed the status of ongoing and newly proposed tourism projects, addressing various issues, challenges and bottlenecks affecting their execution. He emphasised the critical need for close coordination among all concerned departments and directed officers to work in a time-bound manner to ensure the prompt completion of tourism-related



infrastructure.

Furthermore, the Forest and Wildlife Departments were instructed to expedite necessary permissions and clearances to ensure the smooth execution of development works.

Chief Executive Officer, Shopian- Dubjan-Peer Ki Gali Tourism Development Authority (TDA, SDPKG). Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Shopian, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Shopian, Executive Engineer Electric Division Shopian, Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) Shopian, Tehsildar Shopian, Tehsildar Keller, Executive Officer Municipal Council Shopian and Assistant Tourist Officer Shopian attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, Kullay also conducted extensive field inspection of major tourist destinations, including

Bohrihalan, Dubjan and Peer Ki Gali.

Officers including, CEO, TDA, SDPKG and other officers were accompanying the MLA during the visit.

The MLA highlighted that coordinated efforts by all concerned departments are essential to harness the district's rich tourism potential, boost visitor facilities and generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The inspection focused on reviewing the status of ongoing works, assessing site-specific requirements and exploring the scope for new tourism initiatives in these areas.

AK-47, grenades, rounds recovered from Handwara Hideout

AGENCIES

KUPWARA: Security forces on Wednesday recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from an old hideout in the Nagda Nar forest area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

A top officer said that, based on specific information, a joint team of Handwara Police, Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF conducted a search operation in the forest area.

He said that during the search, the joint team detected and destroyed an old hideout and recovered one AK-47 rifle, three grenades, 857 AK rounds, 192 PIKA rounds, eight AK magazines, one silencer and 83 pistol rounds, besides other incriminating material.

The official said that in this regard, FIR No. 232 under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation initiated—(KNO)

5 terrorist associates held, arms cache recovered in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Police in Kulgam, in a joint operation with the Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF, arrested five terrorist associates and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession at Khrewan Chadder in Kulgam, officials said on Wednesday.

An official said that the operation was launched on the basis of credible inputs, leading to the arrest of five persons.

He said the recoveries included two pistols, three magazines, 40 rounds of 9mm ammunition and three grenades.

The official identified the arrested persons as Tajamul Hussain Mir, son of Manzoor Ahmed Mir, resident of Gufbal; Rehmat Ali Naikoo, son of Gh Hassan Naikoo, resident of Khrewan; Tehir Ahmed Bhat, son of Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat, resident of Khrewan; Manzoor Ahmed Bhat, son of Gh Hassan Bhat, resident of Khrewan Chadder; and Kifiyat Ahmed Dar, son of Ab Rasheed Dar, resident of Maltalhama, Kulgam.

He said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered, while further investigation is underway—(KNO)

5 houses damaged in overnight fire in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Five residential houses were damaged after a fire broke out in the Qazi Mohalla area of Anantnag during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the fire damaged five residential houses in the area, leaving one person injured.

He said the Fire and Emergency Services Department rushed to the spot after receiving information and brought the blaze under control with the assistance of local residents.

The official said no loss of life was reported in the incident, while the injured man sustained minor burn injuries and was shifted to a hospital for medical assistance.

Meanwhile, the cause of the fire is under investigation, he added—(KNO)

Bear mauls Man in Tral's Monghama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

TRAL: A man was injured after being mauled by a bear in the Monghama Dankaad area of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday, officials said.

An official said that the man was attacked by a bear in Dankaad area of Tral.

He said the injured was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tral for treatment, from where he was referred to Srinagar for further medical care. His condition is stated to be stable.

The injured was identified as Bilal Ahmad, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a resident of Monghama Dankaad.

Meanwhile, the incident has triggered alarm in the area. It is the second bear attack reported in the Tral sub-division today—(KNO)

Deptt of Posts Holds Two-Day Workshop on 'One State One GST' in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Posts organised a two-day Zone-wise Workshop on 'One State One GST' at Srinagar, on October 5th and 6th to review the preparedness and requirements for implementation of the initiative across the Department.

Col. Sagar Hanuman Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Jammu & Kashmir Postal Circle, inaugurated the workshop in the presence of Shri Shrees-hail Malge, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, Department of Posts, Dak Bhawan, New Delhi.

The two-day workshop focused on the preparedness of participating Postal Circles and the operational requirements for implementation of 'One State One GST'. The participants discussed implementation



related issues, shared experiences and deliberated on measures for uniformity in GST related processes across the participating Circles.

The workshop brought together senior officers and representatives from Postal Circles of the Northern Zone, including Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Amanullah Tak, Director (Accounts), Jammu & Kashmir Postal Circle; Saurabh M. Deshmukh,

Director (Taxation), Dak Bhawan, New Delhi; and Adam Mohiddin, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Srinagar Division, were among those present.

The workshop also discussed coordination among Postal Circles and stakeholders for timely implementation of the initiative. The deliberations concluded with emphasis on coordinated efforts towards implementation of 'One State One GST' in the Department of Posts.

Sakeena Itoo stresses skill development, demand-driven courses for youth

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The Government Degree College (GDC) D H Pora, Wednesday organized a programme on the theme "From Campus to Career", with Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo as the chief guest.

Commissioner Secretary Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary in Higher Education Shafqat Iqbal, Director Colleges, Dr. Twinkle Suri and Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges Dr. Seema Naz also attended the programme.

The programme commenced with a plantation drive inaugurated by the Minister in presence of Commissioner Secretary and other officers and students.

Sakeena Itoo appreciated the efforts of the college in advancing the skill based education in the area. She emphasised focused attention on creating skilled human resource and the need for introducing demand-driven subjects and courses to enhance opportunities and enrolment in the college.

The Minister advised the students to channelize their energies in the right direction and focus on enhancing their skills, which would enable them to navigate the challenges of life with confidence. She emphasized that youth is the most productive phase of life and should be utilized for learning, innovation and self-development. She urged them to stay away from distractions, work with discipline and determination and contribute positively towards nation building.

The Commissioner Secretary exhorted the students to draw inspiration from the dignitaries present on the dais and emphasized the importance of treading the path of hard work to build successful careers. Encouraging the female students in particular, he urged them to galvanize themselves by looking at the three eminent women achievers on the podium as live symbols of women empowerment.

He informed that a proposal for creation of a dedicated Music Department in the college shall be submitted to the Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary in Higher Education Department emphasized the importance of skills, overall development and leadership qualities beyond mere degrees among the young.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Principal, GDC DH Pora highlighted the college's efforts towards transforming the students' abilities into skills, opportunities and jobs.

The programme was also attended by SDM Noorabab Bashir ul Hassan, ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, CEO, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, CMO, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Party,faculty members, students and other officers and officials besides the students and residents.



PM-eBus Sewa

Jammu Smart City set to expand electric bus fleet with 75 new buses

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu is set to get 75 new 7-metre, air-conditioned Smart Electric Buses, giving a further boost to the city's public transport system and expanding the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) electric bus fleet.

The bidding process for the new buses has been completed under the PM-eBus Sewa programme, with M/s PMI Electro Mobility Solutions Private Limited emerging as the lowest bidder (L-1) for the Jammu and Kashmir lot.

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) has conveyed the bidding outcome to the Jammu and Kashmir administration. The formal award of the contract is likely to follow soon. The new buses will be 7-metre, standard-floor and fully air-conditioned, offering commuters another option for comfortable and cleaner public transport in the city.

Jammu already has 100 Smart Electric Buses operating through JSCL. The existing fleet includes 25 buses of 12 metres and 75 buses of 9 metres. The electric bus fleet is set to grow further, as 25 more 12-metre Smart Electric Buses are also being added.



The contract for these buses was signed in August 2026 and the buses are currently being manufactured.

This means Jammu is now moving towards a much larger electric bus network, with 7-metre, 9-metre and 12-metre buses. The different sizes will give the city greater flexibility to run buses according to the needs of different routes.

The new 7-metre buses are also expected to be useful on routes where smaller buses can move more easily through busy city areas. Being air-conditioned, they will provide a more comfortable journey for passengers, especially during Jammu's hot weather.

Under the arrangement, the selected operator will provide and maintain the buses and run them on the city's public transport routes. The CEO Jammu Smart City Limited, Dr

Devansh Yadav said the expansion of the electric bus fleet would further improve public transport in Jammu.

"Jammu is moving towards a cleaner, smarter and more passenger-friendly public transport system. The addition of 75 new 7-metre AC Smart Electric Buses will further strengthen the JSCL fleet and provide people with cleaner, reliable and comfortable mobility," Dr Yadav said.

The 75 buses are part of Lot-16 under the PM-eBus Sewa Tender-3 and have been specifically allocated for Jammu. With the bidding process now complete, the administration will complete the remaining formalities, including issuing the Letter of Award and signing the agreement with the selected operator. The buses will be deployed after these formalities are completed.

Two festival special trains to run between New Delhi - SMVD Katra

YOGESH

JAMMU: In view of the extra rush of passengers during the festive season, Northern Railway has decided to run two reserved Festival Special Express trains between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra for the convenience of travellers and devotees.

Officials said that the railway administration will operate Train No. 04083/04084 New Delhi – Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra – New Delhi Reserved Festival Special Express for two trips each.

Train No. 04083 from New Delhi to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra will depart from New Delhi at 14:00 hrs on October 9 and

October 16, 2026 (Friday) and will reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 03:00 hrs the next morning.

On its return journey, Train No. 04084 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to New Delhi will depart from Katra at 10:00 hrs on October 10 and October 17, 2026 (Saturday) and will reach New Delhi at 23:30 hrs on the same day. The train will cover a total distance of 655 kilometres and will have a total of 22 modern LHB coaches for the convenience of passengers.

En route, the festival special train will halt at Sonipat, Panipat, Kurukshetra, Ambala Cantt, Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar

Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Shaheed Captain Sunil Kumar Choudhary Kathua, Jammu Tawi and Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan stations. In the same sequence, special train No. 04081/04082 is also currently being operated, which will remain operational till October 26.

Giving information in this regard, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, said, "During the festive season, there is a huge increase in the number of devotees visiting Mata Vaishno Devi. In view of this, these special trains are being run so that passengers can be provided with a smooth and comfortable journey with confirmed seats."—(KNO)

GMC Srinagar faces shortage of 347 faculty, 1,853 non-gazetted staff

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar is facing a significant shortage of manpower, with 347 faculty posts, 1,853 non-gazetted posts and 158 gazetted posts lying vacant.

According to details obtained, the shortage has been reported across different categories of posts, raising concerns over the availability of adequate human resources for patient care, teaching and other hospital services at the premier healthcare institution.

The details reveal that GMC Srinagar has a sanctioned strength of 620 faculty posts, of which 347 are vacant, leaving only 273 positions filled.

Among the faculty posts, out of 125 sanctioned posts of Professors, 37 are vacant. Similarly, 107 posts are vacant out of 187 sanctioned Associate Professor posts.

The highest number of vacancies has been in the Assistant Professor category, where 203 posts are lying vacant against a sanctioned strength of 307.

The shortage is not confined to the teaching faculty. Among non-gazetted employees, 1,853 posts are vacant against a sanctioned

strength of 4,840, leaving a substantial gap in the workforce required for day-to-day functioning of the institution.

Likewise, 158 posts are vacant among the gazetted category against a sanctioned strength of 379.

The vacancies assume significance as GMC Srinagar caters to a large number of patients not only from Srinagar but also from different districts of Kashmir and other parts of the Union Territory, with many patients being referred to the institution for specialised and tertiary-level treatment.

Patients and attendants said that adequate staffing is essential for ensuring timely consultations, investigations, procedures and other healthcare services, particularly in departments witnessing heavy patient footfall.

An attendant at the hospital said that patients often have to wait for consultations and other services and that strengthening the available manpower could help improve the overall patient experience.

"Patients come here from different districts with the hope of receiving specialised treatment. Adequate staff is

important so that patients can get consultations and other services without unnecessary delays," the attendant said.

Another patient said that doctors and other healthcare workers are already dealing with a large number of patients and that filling vacant posts would help reduce the pressure on the existing workforce.

"We understand that doctors and staff have a heavy workload. If the vacant posts are filled, it can benefit both patients and the staff by improving the availability of services," the patient said.—(KNO)

Good Morning

Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Pashmina Is More Than A Craft

Pashmina is not merely a product that carries a premium price tag. It is a living piece of Kashmir's history, patience and artistic genius. Every thread carries the story of artisans who have preserved this delicate craft through generations, often despite difficult economic circumstances. The recent meeting of the Pashmee-na Entrepreneurs Makers and Artisans (PEMA) Foundation, led by its President Tariq Dar, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is therefore significant. The appreciation extended to the administration for supporting the Pashmina Artisan Awards and promoting local craftsmanship is welcome. But recognition must go beyond ceremonies and awards. The real challenge is to ensure that the person who actually creates the pashmina, the artisan, can continue to live with dignity from his or her craft. Rising costs, shrinking artisan numbers, changing markets, machine-made imitations and weak returns threaten an industry whose value cannot be measured merely in rupees. If Kashmir allows its genuine pashmina tradition to disappear, it will lose far more than an economic activity. It will lose a part of its identity. Our pride in Kashmir's heritage cannot survive on photographs, exhibitions and speeches alone. It has to be reflected in the lives of the artisans who keep that heritage alive. Saving pashmina means saving the hands that make it, the skills that define it and the traditions that give it authenticity. If pashmina vanishes from Kashmir, a piece of Kashmir's pride, history and soul will vanish with it.

J&K GCC Summit 2026:

The Arithmetic Of A Capability Centre

Why Should Gccs Even Consider J&K?



SHAILENDRA KUMAR

Ask the chief financial officer of a Global Capability Centre what it costs to run. The answer begins with people. Salaries, pension, gratuity, power subsidy and social benefits take the largest share of UT's annual budget. That simple fact should shape how Jammu and Kashmir competes for the sector. And that simple fact is what the J&K Government is going to position at the J&K GCC Summit 2026, being organized by Government of J&K and IIM Jammu. If a capability centre is a ten-year commitment to recurring cost, the location decision turns on what the centre will cost to run in its fifth and eighth years, discounted to today. The one-time cost of setting up is a minor line in that calculation. We have 55 investors from the world's leading Fortune 500 GCC and GCC-enabling companies and India's leading multinationals descending at IIM Jammu on 9-10 October for the Summit. And each one of them perhaps already knows that a capital subsidy, however generous, only addresses the smallest part of the problem. A subsidy is easy to announce and it makes good PR. But what moves a location decision is sustained relief on recurring cost. That means employment-linked support for each professional hired and retained, a defined share of payroll cost reimbursed for a limited period, lease rental assistance, electricity tariff subsidy, stamp duty relief on leases and a grant for each candidate trained and placed. Outcome-linked support also has a fiscal property that capital subsidies lack. Its cost rises only when jobs rise. The exposure of the exchequer is therefore bounded by success and



can be budgeted year by year against verified employment. A capital subsidy is paid at the start, whatever happens afterwards. Recovering it from a nucleus that underperforms is slow and uncertain. Retention is the second variable. Here Jammu and Kashmir holds a structural advantage. Consider an illustrative centre of 500 professionals. At an annual attrition rate of 20 per cent it must replace 100 people every year. At 10 per cent it replaces 50. Over a decade the difference is 500 replacements, equivalent to rebuilding the entire centre once over. Each replacement carries the cost of recruitment, training and months of reduced productivity. Professionals who work in Jammu and Kashmir are, for the most part, working where their families live. The pull of a marginally better offer across town, which drives much of the churn in metropolitan clusters, operates with far less force here. Add office, talent and utility costs well below metropolitan levels and the Union Territory has a cost position that rests on its own fundamentals.

The competition is real. At least eight States have notified dedicated GCC policies, from Karnataka, which moved first, to Haryana in May 2026. Tamil Nadu addresses the sector through a dedicated framework and Andhra Pradesh through its IT policy. Their incentive menus vary widely. So do the thresholds at which benefits begin. A Union Territory without an existing GCC base cannot borrow a threshold designed for a mature cluster. It must set thresholds that a first entrant can realistically meet. J&K's GCC Policy has been drafted and will be showcased to the prospective GCC multinationals that are attending the J&K GCC Summit. These multinationals will benchmark J&K against the above expected benefits. Be that as it may, we should assess support for the sector in J&K against five rules. First, pay for outcomes. Support from the J&K Government should be attached to jobs created and sustained, payroll actually paid and candidates actually placed, each verified against EPFO and ESIC records, the exchequer may pay for delivery and only after it. Second, setting a horizon. Every incentive

should reduce over time and end on a known date, so that a centre's economics is tested on its own profitability rather than continuing purely because of support. Third, weigh the return. At an illustrative average salary of 10 lakh a year, a centre of 500 professionals pays 50 crore in salaries every year, much of it spent locally. It pays stamp duty on its leases. Its local spending and the consumption of its employees generate GST. It supports a comparable number of indirect jobs in facilities, transport and hospitality. For a Union Territory working to strengthen its own revenue base, a sector whose spending stays local is fiscally attractive. Fifth, publish the ledger. The incentives paid and the jobs verified against them should be disclosed every year. Transparency is the cheapest way to sustain public confidence in industrial incentives. But then, the caveat is that no incentive can compensate for an unclear approval timeline, a building that is yet to be built or a talent pipeline that falls short of an employer's requirement. And that is where the J&K Government is ensuring that investors, and not just from the GCC ecosystem, are provided clear approval timelines, assessed and industry-ready talent pool and infrastructure that is plug-and-play ready than bare land. As I mentioned earlier, the J&K GCC Summit 2026 at IIM Jammu on 9 and 10 October gives the Union Territory a rare opportunity to hear from operators what actually can work for us to be considered as the emerging destination for GCCs. Join the conversation and give us your inputs on what may work. Well, this is a first step, and we hope one that goes a million miles. The writer is Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Building J&K's Place In India's GCC Future



ATAL DULLOO

On 9 and 10 October 2026, something quite interesting is going to happen at IIM Jammu. The J&K GCC Summit 2026, being organised by IIM Jammu in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and in knowledge partnership with NASSCOM, will bring together some of the country's leading Global Capability Centre (GCC) companies, policymakers, academics and industry leaders. But I believe the significance of these two days goes well beyond a summit. For perhaps the first time, some of the senior-most administrative leaders of Jammu and Kashmir will sit across the table with leaders of India's GCC industry in a series of candid, no-holds-barred conversations about a question that matters deeply to us: What will it take for Jammu and Kashmir to enter India's growing GCC ecosystem, and to do so as a credible Tier-2 and Tier-3 destination? That may sound like a familiar proposition at a business summit. It is not. Economic growth is ultimately driven by two sets of stakeholders—the government that creates the enabling environment and the businesses that take the risk of investing in it. Genuine growth begins when these two sides are willing to listen to each other, ask difficult questions and speak honestly about what works and what does not. That is precisely the spirit in which we are approaching the J&K GCC Summit. Let me explain why. In June 2025, a train crossed the Chenab on the world's highest railway arch bridge, connecting the Kashmir Valley to the national rail network. The bridge was decades in the making. Its deeper value, however, can be expressed in one word that matters as much to an investor as it does to a traveller: predictability. A journey that once depended heavily on weather and a single highway can now be planned with greater certainty. That is the journey we want to begin for J&K's GCC ecosystem. Building a significant GCC destination will not happen overnight. It may take years. Perhaps decades. But the journey can be made predictable if we learn from those who have already travelled it. Be they leading GCC companies or States that have successfully attracted such investments. That is why the Summit is bringing industry leaders together with representatives of States such as Gujarat, Bihar and Tamil Nadu, which have valuable lessons to share. We do not intend to reinvent the wheel. We want to understand what has worked elsewhere, what has not, and what can be adapted to J&K's own circumstances. The opportunity before us. India already hosts more than 2,200 capability centres employing around 1.9 million professionals and generating close to USD 65 billion in annual exports. Importantly, more than 220 of these centres have already chosen Tier-2



and Tier-3 cities. The next phase of the GCC story is increasingly moving beyond the established metropolitan centres, with locations outside the metros expected to account for a substantial share of the sector's future workforce. This is where J&K must position itself. The question is not whether Jammu and Kashmir can replicate Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai or Pune. We should not try to become another metro. Our opportunity lies in becoming a different kind of GCC destination. Over the last decade, the case for J&K has changed significantly. Rail and road connectivity has been transformed and air connectivity has expanded. The Union Territory today has an institutional ecosystem that includes an IIM, an IIT and an AIIMS, alongside CSIR-IIM, NIT Srinagar, the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and the prestigious Universities of Jammu / Kashmir, among several other institutions offering new-age and specialised programmes. In addition to that we also have something that every GCC ultimately needs—human resource. Jammu and Kashmir has a young, educated and increasingly aspirational population. Its universities and technical institutions are producing talent across disciplines. Office, talent and utility costs remain competitive compared to established metropolitan locations. And the security environment today provides a foundation for businesses to plan for the long term. Yet a good proposition is not enough. An investor looking at a new location will ask some very practical questions. Who will take my decision? How long will my approvals take? Where will my people sit on the first day? And who will do the work? The answers to these questions can determine where a GCC chooses to locate, often more decisively than the headline value of an incentive. We have to answer each of them. The first is facilitation. The hardest part of entering a new region for an established business is often not the investment itself, but understanding whom to approach and how to navigate the system. In J&K, an investor should not have to make multiple rounds of enquiries across Departments. The investor should have one phone call or one email to make. We therefore need a named facilitation officer, with the authority to convene Departments, resolve issues and remain accountable as a single point of contact for the prospective investor. If banks can provide relationship managers to their

customers, there is no reason why government cannot provide the same degree of institutional ownership to an investor. The second question is time. Approvals relating to registration, premises, power, fire safety and labour compliance should carry clear and published timelines. These should be tracked through the single-window system and, importantly, measured against actual performance. An investor can plan around a known timeline. It is uncertainty that stalls a project. Strict adherence to prescribed timelines translates to confidence which is quintessential for attracting investments. The third question is space and infrastructure. J&K needs to identify and earmark ready-to-occupy office spaces in both Jammu and Srinagar, with floor plates, tenure and tariffs clearly stated in advance. A GCC that decides to come here should be able to occupy its premises within months, not years. The space has to exist before the decision is made. There is also a unique advantage here that few locations can offer. Jammu and Srinagar are two major cities within one Union Territory, under one administration, one policy framework and one institutional point of contact. They draw upon different talent pools and can potentially serve as primary and continuity locations for the same GCC. A company should be able to scale across both cities without having to navigate two different administrations. The fourth question is people. Our commitment has to be simple: skilling must respond to actual employer demand. Here comes the role of Mission YUVA and our technical institutions. Mission YUVA, the Skill Development institutions, our universities and the ITI network being upgraded under PM-SETU must increasingly train people for specific roles, in specific numbers and within specific timelines. The Department of Labour and Employment, which is spearheading the organisation of the Summit, will have an important role in translating industry conversations into an actionable talent strategy. This is also where the GCC opportunity becomes much more than an investment proposition. A GCC does not merely bring an office. It brings new skills, new career paths, new technologies and new aspirations. For a young person in Jammu or Srinagar, the arrival of a global company should mean that a world-class career no longer necessarily requires leaving home for Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai or

Delhi. That is the human dividend we must keep at the centre of this conversation. And then comes the most important question of all: Who will be the first? The first GCC centre matters disproportionately. Every subsequent investor will ask: Who else is already here? The answer today has to change from zero. An anchor GCC can do more than create direct employment. A centre employing 500 professionals can support a comparable ecosystem of opportunities in facilities, transport, hospitality, food services, professional services and other allied sectors. Securing that first anchor tenant is therefore not just another investment target. It is the decisive step in establishing confidence. The administration will concentrate its efforts accordingly. This is why the J&K GCC Summit matters. Every panel, every panellist, every question and every answer over these two days will be an opportunity for us to learn and, equally important, to allow industry to tell us what it needs from us. We are not approaching the Summit merely to showcase J&K. We are approaching it to listen. If we want global capability centres to look beyond the metros, then we must demonstrate that a Tier-2 or Tier-3 location can offer something equally compelling: access to talent, competitive costs, quality institutions, reliable infrastructure, responsive governance and, above all, confidence that commitments made today will hold tomorrow. Jammu and Kashmir has many of these ingredients. The task before us is to bring them together into an ecosystem that works. Our entrepreneurial spirit is gathering momentum. Our young people are increasingly looking towards new-age sectors and new forms of enterprise. The GCC ecosystem can benefit from this talent and ambition, even as its presence here can accelerate the development of that very ecosystem. The Path Forward I do not believe J&K needs to become the biggest GCC destination in India. I believe it can become one of the most differentiated. We have learnt something from building the Chenab Rail Bridge. Great journeys begin with an audacious idea, but they are completed through engineering, patience, persistence and thousands of smaller decisions made correctly along the way. The GCC journey will be no different. We have the ambition. We have the foundations. We have a growing pool of talent. What we now need is execution, industry partnership and the patience to build for the long term. The first J&K GCC Summit is therefore not the culmination of a journey. It is the beginning of one. And if we get the beginning right, I believe the destination is within reach. A GCC ecosystem that proves that the next generation of India's growth need not come only from its largest cities, but can also emerge from its most promising Tier-2 and Tier-3 centres. Jammu and Kashmir is ready to make that journey. The promise is not that it will happen overnight. The promise is that we are ready to make it happen. The writer is Chief Secretary, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning

Kashmir

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IAF At 94: A Saga Of Freedom, Security And Pride

YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

The Indian Air Force is celebrating its 94th Raising Day on October 8. This is not merely a celebration of power and technology but also a celebration of a saga symbolising freedom, security and pride in India's skies. The grand air shows organised on this occasion provide a direct glimpse of the courage, skill and dedication of Indian air warriors. The roar of advanced fighter jets such as the Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29 and Tejas in the skies, along with their spectacular aerobatic manoeuvres, not only enthralls spectators but also sends a message that India's skies are impregnable to any aggressive intent. The precise formation flights of the helicopters of the Sarang team, the capabilities of advanced helicopters such as Dhruv and Prachand, and the strength of giant transport aircraft such as the C-17 Globemaster and C-130J Super Hercules are indicative of the Indian Air Force's multi-dimensional capabilities.

The journey that began in 1932 during British rule as the 'Royal Indian Air Force' now stands as the world's fourth-largest air force. The force that initially began with merely four aircraft and six officers has today grown into a formidable organisation with more than 150,000 personnel, thousands of advanced aircraft, sophisticated missile systems and globally respected technological capabilities. Since its inception, the Indian Air Force has established its importance not merely from a military perspective but also as a strategic power. In its history, the Indian Air Force has displayed exceptional valour in the wars fought with China and Pakistan. Its role was decisive in 1947, 1965, 1971 and the 1999 Kargil War.

During the 1962 war with China, the role of the Air Force remained limited, but in the decades that followed, the Air Force strengthened its strategy and technology to such an extent that even China's numerical superiority cannot stand against it today. In the 1971 war, Pakistan was divided into two and Bangladesh was created; the attacks by the Indian Air Force played a major role in breaking Pakistan's backbone. During the Kargil War, the Air Force's 'Opera-



tion Safed Sagar' destroyed enemy positions located at high altitudes and provided the Indian Army with a decisive advantage.

Defence experts believe that India's precise utilisation of resources, the quality of its military exercises and the indomitable spirit of its air warriors give it an edge over countries such as China and Pakistan. Today, the Air Force possesses formidable fighter jets such as the Rafale, Sukhoi-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Tejas and Jaguar. Aircraft such as the Sukhoi-30 MKI are capable of striking targets up to 3,000 kilometres away and can remain airborne for nearly three and three-quarter hours. The Rafale's precision strike capability and advanced radar system have further strengthened India's air defence. Tejas, manufactured using indigenous technology, is a symbol of India's technological self-reliance. In addition, helicopters such as the Chinook and Apache, based on American technology, have the capability to rapidly deploy troops and heavy weapons on the battlefield. Transport aircraft such as the C-17 Globemaster and C-130J Super Hercules play an important role not only in wartime requirements but

also in natural disasters and relief operations.

The role of the Indian Air Force is not limited merely to defending the borders. Whenever natural disasters have struck the country, whether earthquakes, floods or cyclones, the Air Force has played a leading role in relief and rescue operations. During the Nepal earthquake, the Kedarnath tragedy in Uttarakhand and various flood-affected areas, the Indian Air Force has courageously and devotedly transported relief material and evacuated people to safer locations. This is why the Air Force is regarded not merely as a war-fighting force but also as the backbone of humanitarian disaster management. Today, the greatest strength of the Indian Air Force lies in its technological superiority and continuous modernisation. Its missile systems include supersonic cruise missiles such as BrahMos, which can attain speeds of up to 952 metres per second and are difficult for enemy radar systems to detect.

This is why the morale of neighbouring countries is subdued in the face of the Indian Air Force. Drone technology and artificial intelligence-based weapon systems are also gradually being incor-

porated into the Air Force, making its strike and surveillance capabilities increasingly effective. However, the challenges are also significant. China possesses a much larger number of fighter aircraft and rocket launchers than India. But numerical strength is not always decisive, India has demonstrated that quality is more important than quantity through technological precision, better training and prudent utilisation of resources. The wars with Pakistan have already established that victory is ensured not merely by numbers but by strategy and morale.

Looking at history, the foundation of the Indian Air Force was laid during British rule. The 'Royal Indian Air Force' was established on October 8, 1932. It played an important role during the Second World War. At that time, the force was under the British Army. After independence, it was renamed the 'Indian Air Force' in 1950 and emerged with its identity as an independent military branch. Sir Thomas W. Elmhirst became the first Chief of the Air Staff, and later Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee became the first Indian chief. At that time, there were only a few aircraft and limited resources, but today

the Air Force possesses state-of-the-art weapons, a vast fleet of aircraft and a robust organisational structure. This transformation is not merely a story of numbers but of a transformation in strategic vision.

A major objective of the Indian Air Force is also to inspire the younger generation. Air shows and displays of military power are not merely messages to adversaries but also encourage young people to join this prestigious service. Life in the Air Force is a combination of discipline, courage and patriotism, and serves as an inspiration for young people to enter this field not merely as a career but as a form of national service. Today, as India moves towards becoming a developed nation, a strong security architecture is essential. For maintaining equal strength on land, at sea and in the air, the role of the Air Force is the most sensitive and decisive because wars are no longer fought only on the ground but are increasingly won in the skies. The nature of warfare has changed in the modern era. Drone warfare, cyberattacks and artificial intelligence-based weapons have assumed growing importance. The Indian Air Force is preparing itself for these emerging challenges.

India's air power is not confined merely to defence. It also strengthens India's strategic position in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Amid the new equations emerging in world politics, the strength of the Indian Air Force is a symbol of trust for friendly countries and a source of concern for adversaries. This is one of the reasons why India's position on international platforms has become stronger than ever before. Indian Air Force Day not only reminds us of our glorious legacy but also points towards our responsibilities for the future. The Air Force will have to continuously modernise its fleet, adopt more indigenous technologies and strengthen its space-based capabilities. This alone will guarantee our security and strategic superiority in the decades to come.

Author is a strategic affairs analyst and author of the widely acclaimed book 'Sagar Se Antariksh Tak: Bharat Ki Raksha Kranti'. He can be mailed at mediacaregroup@gmail.com

Wildlife Conservation: Securing The Future With Nature



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Wildlife is not just a country's natural wealth; it is also a vital link in its ecosystem. Forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, and marine ecosystems can remain balanced only when the diverse species inhabiting them are protected. India is among the world's most important countries in terms of biodiversity. It is home to a diverse range of habitats, from the Himalayas to the Western Ghats, the Thar Desert to the Sundarbans and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore, wildlife conservation is not just an effort to save a few rare species, but also a question of protecting natural resources and human life. The efforts to scientifically reintroduce the captive-bred Great Indian Bustard (Great Indian Bustard) to its natural habitat in Rajasthan are an example of India's emphasis on scientific interventions alongside traditional conservation measures.

The first and most obvious importance of wildlife conservation is protecting biodiversity. Every species plays a role in the ecosystem. The extinction of a species is not simply the loss of a single individual, but can also affect many biological processes associated with it. The conservation of a critically endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard is important because its survival is linked to the protection of its entire grassland habitat. Similarly, the conservation of the tiger has promoted the protection of large forest areas, prey species, and the entire food chain in India. Therefore, the conservation of an 'umbrella species' can provide a protective shield for many other species.

Wildlife also plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Predatory species control herbivore populations, pollinators aid plant reproduction, and many birds and small creatures contribute to seed dispersal. Weakening a crucial link in the food chain can have devastating effects on the entire ecosystem. Healthy forests



and grasslands also contribute to water conservation, soil quality, and carbon sequestration. Thus, wildlife conservation is directly linked to climate and environmental security.

Wildlife conservation also ensures numerous ecological services for human society. Conservation of forests and wetlands helps conserve water, recharge groundwater, control floods, and moderate temperatures. Conservation of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is linked to agricultural productivity. Similarly, natural habitats contribute to carbon storage and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Therefore, protecting nature is not just an environmental responsibility; it is also fundamental to food, water, and livelihood security.

Wildlife conservation is also of no small economic importance. National parks, sanctuaries, and tiger reserves promote nature-based tourism, creating employment and income opportunities for local communities. If tourism is developed with local participation and within environmental constraints, conservation and livelihoods can complement each other. Furthermore, wildlife is part of India's cultural and natural heritage. It is our

generation's responsibility to ensure that future generations see tigers, elephants, great Indian boas, rhinoceroses, lions, and numerous bird species in their natural surroundings.

However, the challenges facing wildlife conservation are serious. The most significant challenge is habitat degradation and fragmentation. Growing populations, agricultural expansion, mining, roads, railways, industries, and other infrastructure projects are shrinking wildlife habitats. Fragmented forests affect animal movement and breeding. Protecting wildlife corridors is essential, especially for large species such as elephants, tigers, and leopards.

Modern infrastructure development has also brought new challenges. Road and rail accidents, collisions with power lines and energy infrastructure can threaten many bird and other wildlife species. The Great Indian Bustard is a significant example. Simply increasing bird numbers is not enough to conserve it; threats to its habitat must also be mitigated. This highlights the need for conservation strategies to be both species-focused and landscape-focused.

Human-wildlife conflict also poses a major conservation challenge. When

elephants enter farmlands, leopards appear near settlements, or wild animals damage crops, they pose real economic and security challenges for local people. If conservation benefits do not reach local communities, resentment towards conservation can develop. Similarly, poaching and wildlife trafficking continue to threaten some species. Climate change further complicates this challenge, as changing temperature and rainfall patterns are impacting the traditional habitats of many species.

Therefore, the strategy ahead must be multifaceted. First, natural habitats must be protected while simultaneously restoring damaged habitats. Wildlife corridors must be scientifically identified and protected. Environmental clearances for development projects must consider not just a single protected area, but the entire landscape and wildlife movement. Where scientifically appropriate, captive breeding, gene banks, radio-tagging, camera traps, and other modern technologies should be utilized. Breeding and restoration programs for endangered birds like the Great Indian Bustard will only be successful if their natural habitats are also protected.

The participation of local communi-

Wildlife conservation also ensures numerous ecological services for human society. Conservation of forests and wetlands helps conserve water, recharge groundwater, control floods, and moderate temperatures.

ties is one of the most important prerequisites for conservation. Instead of treating villagers as mere conservation law enforcers, they should be made partners in conservation. Eco-tourism, local handicrafts, sustainable livelihoods based on natural resources, and conservation-related employment opportunities can be promoted. In the event of human-wildlife conflict, prompt and transparent compensation systems and rapid response mechanisms at the local level are also essential.

Ultimately, wildlife conservation needs to go beyond the narrow concept of "saving animals." The real goal is to protect the forests, grasslands, wetlands, and biological corridors on which the future of countless species and humanity depends. Scientific research, modern technology, stringent laws, safe habitats, and the active participation of local communities—all must be integrated. India's development journey will be considered sustainable only if it also includes adequate space for nature. Saving wildlife is actually saving the ecosystem, which ultimately underpins human survival.

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

CEO J&K Announces

assist citizens with the submission of Forms 6, 7 and 8 and facilitate enrolment, deletion and correction/ updation of electoral details. Citizens will be provided assistance for both physical submission of forms and digital submission through the Voter Helpline App.

The CEO further directed BLOs to undertake door-to-door outreach to identify and assist eligible citizens who may have been left out of the electoral rolls, with particular focus on youth, first-time voters, women, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and other eligible citizens requiring assistance.

Urging citizens to make full use of the initiative, Sanjeev Verma called upon all eligible persons to visit their nearest Polling Station on October 10 or 11 and avail the enrolment and facilitation services available there. He emphasised the importance of active citizen participation in ensuring that the electoral rolls remain complete accurate and inclusive.

The Election Department has reiterated its commitment to making voter enrolment more accessible at the grassroots level and ensuring that every eligible citizen has a convenient opportunity to become part of the electoral process.

Air Chief-Designate

and distinguished service to the nation, Air Marshal Dixit has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2006, Vishisht Seva Medal in 2011, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2023, and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2026.

‘Small’ MDR On

The FCNR(B) scheme, where banks raised nearly USD 133 billion in deposits from the diaspora under a concessional swap facility, illustrates the strength in macroeconomic fundamentals of the country, the career bureaucrat-turned-central banker said.

He also added that the RBI is confident that banks will deploy the funds prudently.

Malhotra said external headwinds have resulted in a dip in flows and added that the pressure on the current account is a temporary issue.

He exuded confidence that the Balance of Payments would soon return to surplus, citing several supporting factors.

Malhotra declined to answer any question on the RBI rejecting Tata Sons' request for surrendering its NBFC licence and asking the largest business conglomerate to list in compliance of the upper-layer NBFC norms, which is at the centre of a protracted conflict between the majority owners and the management of the holding company.

Rain lashes

places, while another brief spell of light rain may occur towards the evening of October 9.

Weather conditions are likely to become more 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 expected from October 11 to the evening of October 13, followed by another spell of generally cloudy weather with light rain, light snowfall over higher reaches, thunderstorms and gusty winds at many places on October 14 and 15.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 24.6 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, 0.9 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 9 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 25 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 9.8 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 19 degrees and 9.2 degrees respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum of 24.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10 degrees, while Kukulernag recorded 24.4 degrees and 9.8 degrees respectively.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 14.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest among the Valley stations, while its minimum temperature was 6.8 degrees.

In the Jammu division, Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 32.9 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20.9 degrees. Kathua recorded the highest maximum temperature in the division at 33.6 degrees, while Katra recorded 29.6 degrees.

The weather office 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 said people should take necessary precautions during the forecast wet spells—(KNO)

Major Bureaucratic

Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department.

Sarmad Hafeez, IAS (AGMUT: 2009) Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department is transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department.

Ramesh Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2011) Divisional Commissioner, Jammu (Additional charge of the posts of Additional CEO, Jammu Metropolitan Regional Development Authority and Resident Commissioner, J&K Govt., New Delhi) is transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Culture Department and continue to hold the charge of Resident Commissioner, J&K Govt., New Delhi.

Naveen S L, IAS (AGMUT: 2012), Secretary to the Government, Civil Aviation Department (Addl. charge of Commissioner, Civil Aviation) is transferred and posted as Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K.

Avny Lavasa, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Secretary to the Gov-

ernment, Transport Department (Additional Charge of the posts of Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department and Tribal Affairs Department) is transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department. She shall continue to hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department.

Ms. Anjali Sehrawat, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission is transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Public Grievances Department.

Vikas Kundal, IAS (AGMUT: 2013) Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board is transferred and posted as Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. He shall also hold the additional charge of the post of Additional CEO, Jammu Metropolitan Regional Development Authority.

Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu, IAS (AGMUT: 2013) Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K is transferred and posted as Inspector General of Registration, J&K relieving Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray, IAS of the additional charge.

Rahul Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2014) Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation Limited (Additional charge of MD, JK Power Corporation Limited) is transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department relieving Sh. Saurabh Bhagat, IAS of the additional charge. He shall also hold additional charge of the Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation Limited.

Owais Ahmed, IAS (AGMUT: 2014), Director, Skill Development J&K (Additional charge of Special Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department) is transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department. He shall also hold additional charge of the post of Director, Skill Development J&K.

Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray, IAS (AGMUT: 2014), Special Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department (Additional charge of Mission Director HADP, JKCIIP, Agristack & Inspector General of Registration, J&K) is transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (Additional charge of the posts of CEO, SPV, Jammu City and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)) is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri.

Rakesh Minhas, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Jammu is transferred and posted as CEO, State Health Agency, J&K with additional charge of MD, Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, J&K.

Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara is transferred and posted as Chairman, J&K Services Selection Board.

Ms. Akriti Sagar, IAS (AGMUT: 2016), Managing Director, National Health Mission, J&K (Additional charge of Special Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department) is transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation with additional charge of CEO, J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA).

Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan, IAS (RJ: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Budgam is transferred and posted as Managing Director, National Health Mission, J&K.

Basharat Qayoom, IAS (JH: 2016), Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama is transferred and posted as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with additional charge of CEO, SPV for Srinagar City for implementation of the Smart City Project.

Ms Ayushi Sudan, IAS (AGMUT: 2017), Deputy Commissioner, Samba is transferred and posted as Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation with additional charge of the posts of CEO, SPV, Jammu City and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission, (Urban).

Minga Sherpa, IAS (AGMUT: 2017), Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Jammu.

Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS (AGMUT: 2018), Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department. He shall hold the additional charge of Mission Director HADP and JKCIIP.

Abhishek Sharma, IAS (CG: 2018), Deputy Commissioner, Rajouri is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara.

Rupesh Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2019), Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Samba.

Jatin Kishore, IAS (AGMUT:2020), Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Budgam.

M Shreya Singhal, IAS (AGMUT: 2020), Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation (Additional charge of CEO, JK ERA and Director, Information, J&K) is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal.

Ananth Dwivedi, IAS (AGMUT: 2021) CEO, State Health Agency, J&K with additional charge of MD, Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, J&K and Additional Secretary to the Govt., Revenue Department is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner; Udhampur.

Ms. Mamta Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Director, Information, J&K.

Ms. Mahima Madan, IAS (AGMUT: 2021) Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua, is transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Anantnag.

Vidhu Shekhar, IAS (AGMUT: 2021) Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu is transferred and posted as Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority.

Pranjal Hazarika, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), Additional District Development Commissioner, Baramulla is transferred and posted as Director, J&K Archives, Archaeology and Museums.

Vivek Agarwal, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), Additional District Development Commissioner, Budgam is transferred and posted as Director, Employment, J&K with additional charge of CEO, Mission YUVA.

Ms. Ishita Rathil, IAS (AGMUT: 2022), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu vice Sh. Vidhu Shekhar, IAS

Vikas Ahlawat, IAS (AGMUT: 2022), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, is transferred and posted as Labour Commissioner, J&K.

Prince Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2023), Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uri is transferred and posted as OSD, Shri Amar-

nathji Shrine Board (SASB).

Gaurav Yadav, IAS (AGMUT: 2024), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uri.

Ms. Seerat Baji, IAS (AGMUT: 2024), awaiting orders of posting in the General Administration Department, is posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (West).

Ms Leena Padha, IAS (AGMUT), Mission Director, Skill Development Mission is transferred and posted as Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K vice Md. Shafiq Chak who shall report to General Administration Department for further posting.

Rajinder Singh Tara, IAS (AGMUT) Secretary in the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment is transferred and posted as Secretary in the Revenue Department.

Ms. Anoo Malhotra, IAS (AGMUT), Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K is transferred and posted as Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission.

Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, JKAS, Director, J&K Archives, Archaeology and Museums is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama.

Charandeep Singh, JKAS, Labour Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Shopian.

Rakesh Kumar, JKAS Additional Deputy Commissioner, Reasi is transferred and posted as Special Secretary, Lok Bhawan.

Sachin Jamwal, JKAS, Additional Secretary JKPSC is transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kathua.

Sushil Kesar, JKAS, Deputy CEO, SASB is transferred and posted as Additional Deputy Commissioner, Reasi.

Irfan Bahadur, JKAS Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Srinagar (West) is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Budgam.

Ms. Afroza Bano, JKAS Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Budgam is transferred and shall await in the General Administration Department for further posting. By Order of the Lieutenant Governor—(KNO)

Urs Sheikh

influenced the Valley's spiritual and cultural traditions.

The annual Urs attracts devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir, who visit Charar-i-Sharief to pay their respects, offer prayers and seek blessings.

As per the programme issued by the J&K Waqf Board, Shab Khwani will be held on October 8, while the main Urs Mubarak will be observed on October 9. The concluding Friday ceremony is scheduled for October 16.

Authorities have made arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Urs, with concerned departments directed to ensure adequate water, electricity, sanitation and transport facilities, besides necessary security arrangements for the devotees.

The administration and police have also put in place measures to regulate the movement of devotees and ensure the peaceful conduct of the annual Urs celebrations—(KNO)

CS Reviews

rejection and resolve the issues instantly so that eligible consumers are not denied the benefits of the rooftop solar programme due to avoidable financing bottlenecks.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Discoms to proportionately distribute vendors across districts to ensure adequate availability of service providers and accelerate the pace of rooftop solar installations.

He also took a detailed appraisal from the concerned Deputy Commissioners regarding district-wise progress, seeking details of the impediments hampering achievement of assigned targets and calling for their resolution through coordinated intervention of the concerned agencies.

The meeting was informed by the ACS, PDD, Ashwani Kumar that J&K has achieved 55.24 per cent of its target under PM Surya Ghar, with 46,133 residential rooftops installed against the UT target of 83,500 installations by March 31, 2027. The achievement is higher than the national progress of 50.80 per cent.

While explaining the MD, KPDCIL, Mehmood Ahmad Shah highlighted that of the total installations, 17,809 have been completed in JPDCL areas with a capacity of 62.69 MW, while 28,324 installations have been completed in KPDCIL areas with a capacity of 102.55 MW, taking the cumulative installed rooftop solar capacity in J&K to 165.24 MW.

The meeting was informed that 344.14 crore of Central subsidy and 13 crore of UT subsidy have so far been credited to beneficiaries. Against the 83,500 target, 89,680 applications have been received, with 82,591 applicants who had selected vendors, 69,460 consumer agreements uploaded and 42,686 rooftop systems commissioned.

It was further divulged that around 75 per cent of rooftop solar installations in KPDCIL areas are dependent on bank financing. Of the 61,566 loan applications submitted, 17,416 cases have been rejected, including 14,232 in KPDCIL areas. Meanwhile, 38,773 cases have been sanctioned and disbursed, while another 5,367 cases are under process.

Reviewing the solarization of Government buildings, the meeting was informed by Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Babila Rakwal that against a total CAPEX target of 12,994 Government buildings, 8,850 buildings have already been solarized, with a combined capacity of 95.64 MW.

This includes 4,793 buildings covered under PM Surya Ghar and 4,057 buildings solarized with a capacity of 41.50 MW, besides 4,617 buildings projects under the ongoing programme with a capacity of 54.14 MW, she added.

The remaining projects are also at various stages of implementation, with materials supplied to 1,300 buildings, 943 sites under active implementation and surveys underway for another 1,901 buildings.

Under the RESCO mode, the CEO, JAKEDA, PN Dhar detailed out that it has proposed solarization of 8,000 Government buildings with a cumulative capacity of 152 MW, with work orders already placed for 5,185 buildings. Moreover it was given out that NHPC has proposed solarization of 1,500 Government buildings with a capacity of

23 MW under this arrangement.

It was also highlighted that a Power Purchase Agreement for 8 MW has already been signed for the Health and Medical Education Department in Jammu, while the solarization survey of School Education Department buildings in Jammu is underway.

The Chief Secretary directed JAKEDA to take up installation of meters with the respective Discoms simultaneously, so that metering does not become a bottleneck after installation of rooftop solar systems on Government buildings.

He, in turn, directed the PDD to ensure installation of smart meters forthwith, facilitating early commissioning and functioning of the solar rooftop systems already installed on Government buildings.

The Chief Secretary also called upon the concerned departments to complete the requisite PPAs expeditiously, stressing that administrative and procedural formalities should move in tandem with physical implementation to ensure that completed solar assets become operational without delay.

He further advised JAKEDA to accord greater focus to the RESCO mode of solarization, observing that the progress under this component is slow and needs to be accelerated through closer monitoring and timely resolution of implementation issues.

The Chief Secretary called for time-bound action and close inter-agency coordination to sustain the momentum of solarization, stressing that bottlenecks related to financing, vendor availability, metering, PPAs and project execution should be resolved promptly to translate the growing pipeline of rooftop solar projects into commissioned assets.

Peace Replaces

were increasingly conscious of the need to make visitors feel welcome while also explaining the area's history.

"We want tourists to leave with a good impression of Keran. We help them with accommodation, guide them around and also tell them about the history of the place," said Riyaz Ahmad, who runs a homestay in the area.

"The Army has also contributed to promote Keran as a tourist destination by facilitating visits by social media influencers and travel content creators," locals said, adding, "Army initiatives have helped bring attention to Keran. A few years ago, very few people outside Kupwara knew much about this place. Now people from different parts of the country are coming here."

But the rise in tourist numbers has also exposed gaps in basic infrastructure, particularly waste management. Garbage, including plastic bottles and food wrappers, are found at several locations near areas frequented by tourists. "It is disappointing to see people throwing waste along the river. We need proper disposal arrangements, but tourists also have a responsibility to keep the area clean," said Javed Ahmad a local resident.

Mobile connectivity remains another major concern for both residents and visitors.

Rohit Sharma, who had travelled to Keran with his family, said the lack of reliable mobile connectivity made it difficult to remain in contact with relatives and access online services.

"For a tourist destination that is receiving more visitors every year, basic communication facilities are important. The administration should address this issue," he said.

Officials said the administration is aware of the infrastructure requirements and is working to improve facilities in the area.

Several public toilets are being constructed in and around the tourist areas, while a plan for scientific disposal of waste is also under consideration, officials said.

For residents, however, the biggest change in Keran has come not from tourism but from the relative peace that has prevailed since the February 2021 ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan.

The ceasefire brought a significant change to life along the LoC, residents said, after years in which shelling had disrupted daily life and damaged homes and other property.

"Before the ceasefire, people lived in fear. Shelling could happen at any time and families had to remain prepared to move to safer places," said Ghulam Nabi, a resident of Keran.

He said the cessation of firing has allowed people to resume normal activities and opened the possibility of tourism developing in the area. "We have lost people and seen houses damaged during the years of shelling. Nobody wants those days to return. Today, when we see tourists coming here, it feels like a completely different Keran," Nabi said.

Some families who moved away during the years of conflict have not returned, residents said, leaving behind abandoned and damaged houses in the area.

The residents, however, believe that sustained investment in infrastructure could help Keran emerge as one of the major tourist destinations in north Kashmir.

Better roads, mobile connectivity, sanitation and scientific waste management would be crucial for sustaining the growth in tourist arrivals, they said.

For a region once defined by the sound of shelling, the growing presence of tourists along the Kishenganga now offers a markedly different picture of Keran, where the border remains visible but everyday life is increasingly shaped by tourism and the pursuit of peace—(KNO)

PoK Girl Sent

identified as Samiya Azeem, daughter of Mohamad Azeem and a resident of Bains Gala, Seri, Tehsil Khuiretta, District Kotli.

Meanwhile, details regarding the circumstances leading to her apprehension were not immediately available. Further details are awaited—(KNO)

NIA Court Declares

found at his residence and, according to the execution report submitted by the NIA, had absconded to Pakistan.

The court noted that despite efforts by the prosecution, including publication of notices in newspapers and the official gazette of J-K, the accused had not appeared or surrendered, making it clear that the accused had deliberately evaded arrest.

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Combating Digital Crimes

Sopore Police Hosts Mega Cyber Awareness Drive at Sopore Law College

IRFAN TILGAMI

BARAMULLA: Under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (JK-C4) initiative, Sopore Police conducted a comprehensive Cyber Awareness Programme at Sopore Law College on Wednesday. The outreach targeted emerging cyber threats and reinforced best practices in digital hygiene for over 120 students, research scholars, and faculty members.

The session opened with a welcome address by Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq, who commended the Sopore Police specifically Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore Iftikhar Talib (JKPS) and Station House Officer (SHO) of Cyber Police Station Sopore, Inspector Imtiyaz Ahmad for spearheading the initiative. Addressing the audience, Principal Sheikh Mohammad Ishaq noted that while rapid digitalization offers unmatched efficiency, it has also magnified risks such as online financial fraud, targeted harass-



ment, and cyberbullying.

Delivering the keynote presentation, SHO Cyber Police Station Sopore Inspector Imtiyaz Ahmad provided a detailed operational breakdown of contemporary cybercrimes. His briefing covered phishing tactics, fraudulent investment mechanisms, sextortion, identity theft, and unauthorized account takeovers. Inspector Ahmad emphasized the critical importance of immediate incident reporting during the operational "golden hours" to maximize financial recovery and aid forensic tracking. Urging the audience to act as community ambassadors, he called upon law students

to actively disseminate this crucial knowledge within their social and family circles so that the common masses can stay alert and protected against digital fraudsters.

Attendees received technical guidance on registering complaints via the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cyber-crime.gov.in) and utilizing the national helpline 1930, alongside protocols for engaging local law enforcement. A vibrant interactive session followed, during which SHO Cyber Police Station Sopore Imtiyaz Ahmad addressed numerous queries from curious law students with great clarity and patience, elab-

orating on practical case studies, legal provisions, and prevention strategies.

Institutional leadership including Chairperson Maryam Bacha, Vice-Chairperson Tamkinah Naseem Bacha, and Trustee Javid Ahmad Bhat received commendation for providing organizational support and campus resources. The event proceedings were moderated by Sheikh Sikandar, a 9th-semester B.A. LL.B student.

Logistical and academic coordination was managed by a faculty and administrative committee from Sopore Law College comprising Course Coordinator Faheem Rasheed Shah, Assistant Professor of Law Ummar Rashid, Librarian Dr. Mudasir Ahmad Bhat, Administrative Incharge Akhter Rasool, and Junior Assistant Aneesa.

Affirming the Jammu & Kashmir Police's commitment to preventive and community policing, officials stated that structured digital literacy drives will continue across regional educational institutions to build a resilient, cyber-aware community.

Taxpayers are partners in nation-building: IT Dept

RAJA SYED RATHER

GANDERBAL: Tax is a tool for nation-building and should not be viewed as a burden, but as a contribution towards nation-building, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, Monika Dhami said on Wednesday.

Dhami was addressing an awareness programme organised by the Income Tax Department at the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal, to sensitise industrialists, traders, hoteliers, Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and other stakeholders about the provisions of the New Income Tax Act, 2025 and promote voluntary tax compliance. She was the chief guest at the programme.

The Principal Commissioner was accompanied by Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Srinagar, Dr Ruveda Salam; Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax Sandhya Partap; and Income Tax Officers Vikash Parihar, Samsudin and Avinash Singh.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal Jatin Kishore was also present and addressed the gathering. He welcomed the initiative and stressed the need for greater awareness among the local business community about tax compliance, taxpayer services and facilities available to them.

Addressing the participants, Dhami called for timely, accurate and transparent compliance with income tax laws, while highlighting the role of

taxpayers in strengthening the country's economic growth and development. She urged members of the business community to make full use of taxpayer services provided by the department and seek professional guidance wherever required.

Speaking to reporters, Dhami said the department had conducted extensive outreach in the district and interacted with the business community, chartered accountants and taxpayers.

"Our main message was that tax is a tool for nation-building and should not be viewed as a burden, but as a contribution towards nation-building," she said. She said the department now had better data, improved data processing and stronger connectivity, enabling it to "connect all the dots", and stressed that voluntary compliance was the way forward.

"We appeal to the people of Kashmir to join the nation-building process through voluntary compliance. The Income Tax Department, assesses and taxpayers are all partners in nation-building," Dhami said.

On DDOs, the Principal Commissioner said the department had planned a DDO Awareness Week programme and was ready to address their concerns. "We have explained various tools and measures to help DDOs improve compliance. I hope DDO awareness will become stronger and that they will not face difficulties in TDS filing," she said.

Hindi Pakhwada concludes at NIT Srinagar, top performers felicitated



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday concluded its Hindi Pakhwada celebrations with a valedictory ceremony and felicitation of winners and participants who excelled in various competitions and Hindi language examinations.

Organised by the Rajbhasha Cell, the programme featured competitions, awareness activities and training sessions aimed at encouraging the use of Hindi in official communication and strengthening its presence in the institute's administrative functioning.

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, while noted multilingual writer and broadcaster Dr. Satish Vimal attended as the Guest of Honour.

The programme was attended by Dean P&D Dr. Yaswant Mehta, In-charge Hindi Officer Dr. R.P. Shukla, AR (Rajbhasha) and Hindi Teaching & Training Supervisor Mohammad Iqbal Dar, AR Accounts Shahid Hamid, Hindi Anuvadak Dr. Sabzar Gani Batoo, faculty coordinators of the Rajbhasha Cell and ministerial staff from

various departments.

Addressing the gathering, Director NIT Prof. Anurag Misra appreciated the Rajbhasha Cell for organising the programme and involving faculty and staff in activities aimed at promoting the official language.

He said sustained efforts towards Rajbhasha would help strengthen official communication and improve coordination across academic and administrative units.

"The consistent efforts of the Rajbhasha Cell reflect our commitment to promoting Rajbhasha as an effective medium of official communication. Such initiatives not only preserve our linguistic identity but also foster inclusivity and better coordination within academic and administrative systems," he said.

Dr. Satish Vimal appreciated the Rajbhasha Cell for successfully conducting the Hindi Pakhwada and highlighted the importance of language in preserving cultural heritage and strengthening social bonds.

He said Kashmir has historically been a confluence of diverse languages and traditions, with Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Urdu and Kashmiri contributing to the region's rich linguistic heritage.

EPG seeks rational deployment of wildlife officers in J&K

BILAL DAR

SRINAGAR: The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to ensure professional and need-based deployment of qualified wildlife personnel, particularly Assistant Conservators of Forests (Wildlife) and Grade-I Range Officers (Wildlife), to strengthen field-level wildlife and habitat conservation.

In a representation to the Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, EPG Convenor Faiz Bakshi said the Wildlife Department has a valuable pool of professionally trained and experienced personnel whose expertise should be utilised for wildlife protection, habitat management, wetland conservation, enforcement and management of Protected Areas.

The group said officers with qualifications such as a Master's Degree in Wildlife Science or a Diploma in Wildlife Management, coupled with years of field experience, possess expertise in wildlife monitoring, biodiversity assessment, human-wildlife conflict management, wildlife rescue, anti-poaching operations, wildlife crime prevention, camera-trap, GPS and GIS-based monitoring, Protected Area management



and conservation planning.

It said wildlife conservation is inherently field-oriented and requires regular presence of experienced officers in Protected Areas, Wildlife Ranges, Conservation Reserves and ecologically sensitive areas.

EPG particularly stressed the need for stronger field-level protection of wetlands, which, it said, are increasingly coming under pressure from encroachments and other human activities. It said qualified wildlife personnel could play an important role in monitoring wetland boundaries, detecting encroachments, documenting ecological changes and coordinating timely action for protection and restoration.

The group expressed concern over prolonged attachment of technically qualified wildlife personnel to offices, particularly against non-existent or temporary positions. It said such attachments had

become more prevalent from January 2024, when a large number of professionals were allegedly attached or placed against positions in Directorate and Regional Offices.

It urged the Government to review such attachments and, wherever there is no genuine continuing administrative requirement, consider field deployment based on officers' qualifications, specialisation and experience.

Highlighting the growing challenge of human-wildlife conflict, EPG said experienced field officers were required to verify incidents, identify conflict hotspots, coordinate with communities and local administration and formulate preventive and long-term mitigation measures.

It also stressed the importance of experienced personnel in preventing poaching, illegal hunting and wildlife trafficking through surveillance, intelligence

gathering, patrolling and coordination with enforcement agencies.

EPG has sought a comprehensive review covering the present place and nature of posting, duration and justification of office attachments, status of positions against which officers are attached, duties being performed, professional qualifications and field experience, and staffing requirements of Wildlife Divisions, Ranges and Protected Areas.

The group also proposed a periodic review mechanism to ensure that qualified personnel are deployed effectively and transparently.

"Wildlife conservation requires professional expertise as well as sustained field presence. The department must ensure that qualified personnel are deployed where their knowledge and experience can directly contribute to protection, conservation and management of wildlife habitats and wetlands," EPG said.

It urged the Government to take appropriate measures for rational deployment of ACFs (Wildlife), Grade-I Range Officers (Wildlife) and other qualified personnel, saying this would strengthen field conservation, improve protection of vulnerable habitats and wetlands and ensure better utilisation of public resources.



DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SRINAGAR SHERGARHI, OPPOSITE IQBAL PARK SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR 190009

Email: dposrinagar@jkpolice.gov.in | Tele: 2311324 Fax: 2311322

FINAL SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

R/Ct. Hilal Ahmad Sheikh
No. 38.00/S EXK156179

S/O Shri Gulam Rasool R/O Baran Pather Batamalo Srinagar.

Whereas, among others, you R/CT Hilal Ahmad Sheikh No. 3800/S EXK156179 S/o Shri Gulam Rasool R/O Baranpathar Batamallo Srinagar selected for undergoing 'Basic Recruit Training Course' at STC Sheeri w.e.f 18/05/2026 in terms of PHQ J&K, order No. 1548/2026 dated 15.05.2026.

Whereas, pursuant to PHQ directives, you were accordingly relieved from this District wide relieving order issued under endstt. No. Estt/CRG-IV/3800/2026/22885-99 dated 16/05/2026 wherefrom you absented unauthorisedly from training w.e.f 07/06/2026 as reported by Principal, STC Sheeri vide signal No. TRG/BRTC-02/2026/3383 dated 10/06/2026 & No. STC/TRG-BRTC-02/2026/3457 dated 13/06/2026.

Whereas, despite summons issued through local PS and duly executed by the SHO, followed by a notice issued vide this office letter No. Estt/CRG-IV/3800/2026/30305-06 dated 13/07/2026, calling upon you to explain within (03) days positively why stern departmental action, including discharge from service under the relevant provisions of J&K police rules, shall not be initiated against you for failing to report back at PTS Kathua and resume the mandatory training.

Whereas, you subsequently submitted your reply through DySP (DAR) DPL Srinagar vide letter No. DAR/SGR/DE/12178 dated 21/07/2026, stating that you remained absent due to serious medical complications. However, upon examination, it has been found that you remained absent from training unauthorisedly at your own will and failed to intimate either the concerned training authority or this office through any proper or lawful channel regarding your medical condition, treatment of surgery. You left the training without obtaining prior permission from the competent authority and remained absent from training and duty w.e.f 07/06/2026 which has adversely affected discipline and set a wrong precedent among other police personnel. Such conduct amounts to a breach of discipline and unauthorised absence from duty/mandatory BRTC constitutes a serious act of misconduct and may attract action under the provisions of Article 128 J&K CSR Vol-Ist, besides other relevant service rules. Thus, a prima facie case of misconduct is made out against you.

Whereas, a final Notice was issued to you vide No. Estt/CRG-V/3800/2026/31916-18 dated 23/07/2026 calling upon you to explain, within (07) days positively as why you should not be removed/discharged from service under the relevant provisions of the J&K Police under rules for your repeated failure to undergo the mandatory BRTC and for your persistent acts of indiscipline.

Whereas, you submitted your reply through DySP (DAR) DPL Srinagar vide letter No. DAR/SGR/DE/12942 dated 03/08/2026, wherein you stated that you would complete the mandatory training with the ongoing batch or at any other training centre in next batch, while seeking one final opportunity to complete the mandatory BRTC in accordance with the applicable rules and departmental instructions; upon examination of your reply and scrutiny of your service record, it has been found that you had already been afforded a final opportunity when you were selected at STC Talwara in year 2025, but you remained absent for (91) days. Your repeated failure to avail the opportunities afforded to you clearly reflects a persistent lack of discipline and disregard for lawful departmental instructions. The reasons advanced by you from time to time have also been examined and found neither genuine nor acceptable.

Whereas, the consequences of refusal or failure to undergo BRTC were duly explained to you in terms of PHQ J&K vide circular order No. 242/2003 dated 17/01/2003 read with PHQ J&K circular No. Pers/25/2024/245-55 dated 11/05/2024, No. AIG/P/BTRC/26/1582-85 dated 13/04/2026, No. Trg/55/2026/2171 dated 17/07/2026 wherein it has been directed that Recruit Constables who refuse or fail to undergo the mandatory BRTC are liable to be discharged from service. Despite giving an assurance that you would complete the training with the next available batch, you have again failed to do so even (11) years, of your appointment, thereby violating the provisions of Rules 177, 187, 797 & 810 of J&K Police Rules governing probation and mandatory training.

Whereas, pursuant to the directions of PHQ J&K, Srinagar communication bearing No. Trg/55/2026/2194 dated 01/08/2026 for initiation the process of discharging you from the police department on the following reasons and asked for detailed report within (10) positively:

- Those who are appointee of year 2013 to 2023 be selected but failed to join or remained absent from training resulting their reversion clearly indicates that they are not willing to undergo the mandatory BRTC.
- Existing legal provisions are being cited to underline the consequences of not completing the BRTC within a given time limit:
- A probationer has to clear the BRTC within the period of probation otherwise, he/she is liable to be discharged (PR 177, 187, 797 & 810).
- No Annual Increment be allowed to the probationer until he/she clears the BRTC within the period of probation (Art. 84 of service regulations).

A show cause notice was issued to you vide No. Estt/CRG-V/3800/2026/33958-59 dated 06/08/2026 calling upon you to explain, within (07) days positively as why you should not be removed/discharged from service under the relevant provisions of the J&K Police under rules for your repeated failure to undergo the mandatory BRTC and for your persistent acts of indiscipline, in case no reply is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defense, and appropriate action, as warranted under rules shall be taken against you accordingly.

Whereas, in response, you approached this office through an application supported by an affidavit, duly attested on 07/08/2026, requesting permission to resume and completion the mandatory BRTC with the ongoing batch at STC Sheeri or at any other designated training centre with the next batch. The matter was accordingly taken up with PHQ J&K vide this office letter No. Estt/CRG-IV/3800/2026/34381-84 dated 10/08/2026. However, the earlier directions of PHQ J&K were not modified and remain in force.

Whereas, your service record has been perused and it has been found that you have been appointed as Constable in District Srinagar vide DPO Srinagar order No. 831/2015 dated 23/10/2015 and are yet to complete the mandatory BRTC. You had earlier been selected for BRTC on the following occasions but failed to undergo the training:-

S.No	Earlier selection for BRTC	BRTC Conducted	Reason for not undergone the BRTC
1.	Trg/118/15/2416 dated 18/11/2015	CTC Lethpora	One week Pack Drill and Period of desertion w.e.f 26/11/2015 to 12/12/2015 i.e., (17) days treated as Earned Leave.
2.	Trg/18/18/48218 dated 10/07/2018.	STC Sheeri	Censure and period of desertion w.e.f 14/07/2018 to 29/08/2018 i.e., (47) days treated as Earned Leave.
3.	Trg/118/19/65485 dated 09/11/2019	PTS Kathua	Written Warning and period of desertion w.e.f 16/11/2019 to 04/01/2020 i.e., (51) days treated as Diesnon.
4.	Trg/118/21/52830 dated 06/09/2021	PTS Manigam	Censure and period of desertion w.e.f 18/09/2021 to 28/10/2021 i.e., (41) days treated as Earned Leave.
5.	736/2022 dated 28/02/2022	PTS Kathua	Post Facto Sanction and period of desertion w.e.f 06/03/2022 to 25/03/2022 i.e., (20) days treated as Earned Leave.
6.	Trg/118/2022/58306 dated 03/11/2022	STC Sheeri	Period of desertion w.e.f 10/11/2022 to 29/09/2023 i.e., (325) days treated as Diesnon.
7.	Trg/73/2023/1464 dated 14/03/2024	PTS Manigam	Period of desertion w.e.f 27/03/2024 to 20/07/2024 i.e., (113) days treated as Diesnon.
8.	Trg/110/2024/753 dated 18/02/2025	STC Talwara	Final Opportunity and Period of desertion w.e.f 23/02/2025 to 25/05/2025 i.e., (91) days treated as Diesnon.

Whereas, your service records further reveals that you have repeatedly remained absent from training, resulting in enquires into your unauthorised absence, recording of huge period of absence (580) days of Diesnon, and imposition of two (02) censures besides a one week pack drill, written warning. You were also granted a final opportunity during your earlier selection at STC Talwara to complete the mandatory BRTC before being permitted to resume duties.

Whereas, your repeated failure to undergo the mandatory BRTC clearly establishes that you are deliberately avoiding the training, despite repeated opportunities, and have shown complete disregard for lawful orders and departmental discipline. In this backdrop, it has been concluded that your continued conduct reflects gross indiscipline, wilful disobedience of lawful orders and complete lack of interest in serving the Police Department. Accordingly, the undersigned is of the opinion that your case warrants action under the relevant provisions of the J&K Police Rules and the instructions issued by PHQ from time to time.

Therefore, I Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy-IPS Sr. Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, hereby call upon you, R/Ct Hilal Ahmad Shiekh No. 3800/S EXK156179 S/O Shri Gulam Rasool Shiekh R/o Baranpathar Batamallo Srinagar, to show cause within (07) days from the date of issuance of this notice as to why should not be removed/discharged from service under the relevant provisions of the J&K Police Rules for your repeated failure to undergo the mandatory BRTC and for your persistent acts of indiscipline in light of PHQ fresh directives. In case no reply is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defense, and appropriate action, as warranted under rules shall be taken against you accordingly.

No. Estt/CRG-IV/3800/2026/42980-902
Dated: 28.09.2026

DIPK-6491-26
DT: 07/10/2026

Senior Superintendent Of Police,
District Srinagar



GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT)

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,

ANGORA RABBIT FARM WUSSAN PATTAN (193121)

E-mail: arf-wussan@jk.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from the interested persons/firms/contractors for Harvesting including Drying, Binding, Stacking, Collecting, lifting and loading etc of Kharief Fodder Crop (Sorghum) for Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan Pattan for the year 2026 on terms and conditions given below:

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The tenders must reach this office by or before 13/10/2026 upto 12:30 PM and shall be opened on the same date at 2:00 PM in presence of the committee constituted for the purpose. In case the last date happens to be holiday etc, the next working day shall be treated as the day of opening of tenders.
- The rates shall be quoted @ Per quintal for Harvesting including Drying, Binding, stacking, collecting, lifting and loading etc.
- The rates shall be inclusive of all i.e., Harvesting, Drying, Binding, Stacking, Collecting, lifting and loading etc.
- The rates should not exceed Rs. 620/= per quintal.
- The tenderer shall be personally responsible for any kind of damage to the fodder crop until the produce is supplied to other station.
- The tender shall include a CDR amount of Rs.1000/= (Rupees one thousand only) pledged to Assistant Director Angora Rabbit Farm Wussan Pattan.
- The successful tenderer should have to start harvesting process from the next day to the date of issuance of work order.
- The payment shall be made after receiving of acknowledgement of the supplied fodder from the concerned stations/Sheep Breeding Farms.
- This office reserves the right to cancel any tender without assigning any reason.
- Any condition if deemed necessary shall be communicated on spot.

Sd/-
(Dr. Waseem Muzaffar Malik)
Assistant Director
Angora Rabbit Farm
Wussan

DIPK-6497-26
DT: 07/10/2026

CM Omar inaugurates ₹30.35 Crore sports facility at Gindun Rajbagh

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday inaugurated a ₹30.35-crore package of sports infrastructure at the Sher-i-Kashmir Multi Sports Activity Centre (SKMSAC) at Gindun Rajbagh, marking a significant expansion of facilities for swimming and gymnastics in Jammu & Kashmir.

The newly inaugurated facilities include a 50-metre × 25-metre, 10-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, an all-weather heated training and toddler swimming pool, and a modern indoor gymnastics hall equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the new facilities would provide young people with opportunities to take up sports beyond traditional disciplines and enable them to train throughout the year.

“Through this facility, we are trying to provide students with new sports milieu. For example, there is an Olympic-sized swimming pool in Kashmir for the first time. Now, there is an arrangement for heating, which will be done through



solar energy so that children can practice and train here for 12 months a year,” he said.

The main swimming pool, constructed at a cost of ₹19.96 crore, is equipped with 10 competition lanes, diving platforms at 1, 3 and 5 metres, modern filtration, circulation and disinfection systems, changing rooms, washrooms, storage lockers and spectator seating for 300 people. The facility has been developed to support competitive swimming, diving and other aquatic sports.

The ₹5.35-crore training and toddler swimming pool facility has been designed for year-round use, with a heating system, indoor lap pool,

child-friendly toddler pool, anti-skid pool decking, modern filtration and disinfection systems, and supporting changing and shower facilities. The facility is intended to cater to athletes, students and the wider community, including winter training.

The ₹5.04-crore gymnastics hall, spread over 36 metres × 21 metres with a 10-metre height, has been equipped with modern gymnastics equipment. The facility is expected to provide a dedicated platform for gymnastics training and coaching in Kashmir, where the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council has been conducting coaching camps and working towards develop-

ing a dedicated Gymnastics Academy.

Referring to the new gymnastics facility, the Chief Minister said there was considerable interest among children in Kashmir in taking up the sport, but the lack of dedicated infrastructure had limited opportunities.

“Generally, when we talk about gymnastics in Jammu and Kashmir, we only talk about Jammu. However, our children are interested in it and want to do it in Kashmir. But due to the lack of infrastructure, they could not do it,” he said.

“A magnificent indoor gymnastics hall was inaugurated today. In the same way, we will keep adding more sports so

that we can give our children options and alternatives. And they can also develop an interest in new sports,” the Chief Minister added.

During the inauguration, the Chief Minister witnessed live swimming and gymnastics demonstrations by sports persons and trainees at the newly developed facilities.

The new infrastructure is aimed at strengthening grassroots participation, widening access to professional coaching and creating better pathways for young athletes to progress to national and international competitions. The all-weather aquatic facilities will also enable sustained training during the winter months.

Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary J&K Sports Council Tazayun Mukhtar Kawoosa, besides students, sportspersons and other concerned officers, were present on the occasion.

'We have a strong desire to get the better of them': South Africa's Bavuma ahead of Australia Test

IANIS

NEW DELHI: South Africa captain Temba Bavuma expects another fiercely contested battle against Australia when the two sides begin their Test series in Durban on Friday, with the Proteas looking to build on their World Test Championship triumph.

South Africa defeated Australia in the 2025 WTC Final at Lord's to claim the title and will now face the reigning world champions in a home series as they look to strengthen their position in the 2025-27 WTC cycle.

Bavuma believes the rivalry brings out the competitive edge in both teams and expects another intense contest.

“When you play against Australia, you don't just play against those individuals; you play against what it means to be Australian. It's always a clash we look forward to. It tends to at least bring out the competitive edge of both teams. We have a strong desire to get the better of them,” Bavuma told Cricinfo. “We give them a lot of respect, but we also take confidence in that we've been able to get the better of them. The respect lies in the fact that they've been very dominant over the years,” he added.

South Africa's memorable WTC final victory came after they overcame a 74-run first-innings deficit, with Aiden Markram and Kagiso Rabada playing key roles in securing the title.

Bavuma, who battled an injury during the final, said



the team has developed the resilience required to remain competitive even when faced with difficult circumstances.

The Proteas have also strengthened their pace attack for the Australia series, with Anrich Nortje returning to Test cricket after more than three years and Gerald Coetzee making his comeback after a two-year absence. They will join Corbin Bosch and Marco Jansen in the squad. “Part of it is bringing back the aspect of fast bowlers. Countries or players must know when they come into South Africa, they're going to deal with fast bowling,” Bavuma said.

The captain believes the upcoming season could prove particularly important for South Africa, with the team set to face Australia, England and other major challenges ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup on home soil.

“Every season always feels like a big season, and maybe this one feels a little bit more. I wouldn't want to put too much pressure on myself to say or define who I am as a cricketer.

I've had over ten years of international cricket, and you'd hate to think that one moment will dictate everything about it,” he said.

“But this year we've got the opportunity to play against the big three teams, and, from a competitive point of view, that's definitely going to get us going. We want to see ourselves on the right side of the result,” Bavuma added.

The South Africa skipper also acknowledged that Australia remain a formidable opponent despite changes in their approach. “They're not as in-your-face. They still play their cricket hard. They've still got guys like Travis Head at the top, who look to put you under pressure. And then they still have that quartet of a bowling attack always putting you under pressure,” he said.

“But they're probably not as brash and in your face as I think of 2016, when we toured Australia. They made you feel uncomfortable. From a cricketing point of view, they haven't lost a great deal. It's still as tough as Australia that we know,” he added.

1st North Kashmir Women's Sports Festival concludes



GMK SPORTS DESK

BARAMULLA: The three-day 1st North Kashmir Women's Sports Festival concluded today at Government Degree College (GDC) for Women, Sopore, with participation of over 900 athletes from 14 degree colleges and five Higher Secondary Schools across North Kashmir.

The festival, sponsored by Lazzat Spices, Sopore, commenced on October 5,

concluded today. The valedictory function was presided over by MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Subeena Chilloo highlighted the importance of sports in empowering young women and promoting physical and mental well-being.

Finals in Kabaddi, Badminton and Table Tennis were held on the concluding day, witnessing enthusiastic participation and com-

petitive spirit. Trophies and certificates were presented to winners, runners-up, athletes, officials and organizing committee members.

The event was attended by principals and representatives of various colleges from North Kashmir. The organizers expressed gratitude to the Higher Education Department, Lazzat Spices and all participating institutions for their support in making the festival a success.

ADC B'pura inaugurates UT-Level AAG Boys Rugby Competition at S.K Stadium

GMK SPORTS DESK

BANDIPORA: Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Bandipora, successfully commenced the Inter-District UT Level Rugby AAG Boys Competition at S.K.



Stadium Bandipora with an energetic opening ceremony.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with the young participants, sharing inspiring words and encouraging them to play with disci-

pline, confidence and true sportsmanship. DYSSO Bandipora Ab Majeed Rather was also present on the occasion.

The opening matches witnessed exciting action. In the U14 Boys category, Bandipora defeated

Jammu in the opening match. In the U17 Boys category, Jammu secured victory over Bandipora in the first game.

The competition continues with young athletes from across the UT showcasing their talent, determination and sporting spirit at S.K. Stadium Bandipora.

Baramulla clinches all six IDPL Kho-Kho Championship Titles

GMK SPORTS DESK

BARAMULLA: Baramulla scripted a remarkable sporting achievement by winning all six Inter-District Provincial Level (IDPL) Kho-Kho championship titles across different age categories, completing a historic clean sweep.

The 18-day championship, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, under the supervision of Director General Anuradha Gupta, concluded today at HSS Doabagh. The Under-14 Girls final saw Baramulla defeat Budgam to complete the unprecedented six-title sweep.

Around 720 boys and



girls from different districts of Kashmir Province participated in the championship. The closing ceremony was attended by the Principal, HSS Doabagh, who congratulated the players, coaches, officials and organising teams for the successful conduct of

the event. DYSSO Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori appreciated the dedicated efforts of the organising committees, officials, volunteers and staff of HSS Doabagh for ensuring the smooth conduct of the championship.

'I know Smriti will take this team forward': Harmanpreet backs her long-time teammate for new role

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Former India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur believes that her team is in safe hands with Smriti Mandhana taking over the captaincy baton, backing her long-time teammate to take the team forward after a leadership journey that spanned more than a decade.

Harmanpreet, who took over the responsibility of leading India in 2012, stepped down as captain across all formats on Tuesday, bringing an end to a significant chapter of her career. Her decision came after India's Asian Games campaign, where the team won the gold medal, but Harmanpreet made it clear that the move was not prompted by one particular tournament or result.

Instead, she said the decision was driven by her desire to enjoy the game more, focus on her own cricket and make time for family and friends, while continuing to contribute to the team through her experience and mentorship.

The 37-year-old, who led India to their maiden ODI World Cup title, also spoke about her relationship with Mandhana, with whom she has shared the Indian dressing room for more than a decade. Harmanpreet said their long-standing understanding would continue to



be valuable as they move into a new phase, with Mandhana now leading the side.

In an exclusive interaction with IANS, Harmanpreet opened up about her decision to step down, what captaincy taught her, her relationship with Mandhana and her ambitions as a player going forward.

IANIS: You have said this decision was about putting the team and its future ahead of an individual position. When did you first begin to feel that Indian cricket needed a new voice in the captaincy, and what finally convinced you that the time had come?

Harmanpreet Kaur: For over a decade, since the responsibility of captaincy first came to me in 2012, I have cherished the opportunity and made several plans towards the development of Indian women's cricket. It was never about an indi-

vidual position. I simply wanted to use my instincts, experience and ideas to help the sport grow, encourage talent and fill the spaces that needed to be filled. Over the years, I have also realised that you may not achieve everything you set out to, and that is the nature of a team sport. Every day is different, and every player has a different journey. Whatever championships we have won as a team have added to our collective pride. This decision to step down is purely based on how I see my own growth in the sport I love. I wanted to pass on the baton for my own reasons — to play with more enjoyment, while continuing to be there for my team with my experience, quality and mentorship.

IANIS: For almost a decade, captaincy has been intertwined with your identity as a cricketer. Now that responsibility is gone, what

part of Harmanpreet Kaur do you think the captaincy had forced you to suppress, and are you looking forward to rediscovering that player?

Harmanpreet: Throughout my tenure, I served my team and my country, and it was never about me. It was always about bringing the team together, winning together, and celebrating every moment as a collective victory. Even on days when things didn't go our way, we stood by each other. I feel responsibility, captaincy, and leadership will always remain a part of me, and I believe that leadership should evolve in every player who represents the country and has goals to achieve.

I have always wanted to plant that seed of leadership in every player because it teaches you to be responsible, accountable, empathetic, giving, and kind, while also making you sharper and more decisive. Now, as a player, I am looking forward to seeing someone else lead from the front and create an environment for the team. And I am very happy that it is Smriti, who has been alongside me for more than a decade. We have shared the same table, made decisions together and seen Indian cricket evolve, so I know that understanding will continue to be valuable.

INOX
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SRINAGAR

MOVIES Watchlist

07 OCTOBER 2026
WEDNESDAY

DRISHYAM : THE CONCLUSION (UA 16+)
HINDI ATMOS 10:45 AM 04:45 PM 01:45 PM 07:45 PM
HINDI 11:50 AM 08:20 PM 03:20 PM

DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NEW NOBITA AND THE CASTLE OF THE UNDERSEA DEVIL (U)
HINDI 01:05 PM 03:05 PM

PREM KEETANU (UA 16+)
HINDI 05:25 PM

VERITY (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
10:35 AM

DIGGER (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
08:10 PM

CALL : 95416 13868

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