

Drug Control Department rebuts misleading Inferences

Reaffirms Zero-Tolerance Policy against misuse of Habit-Forming Drugs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Drug Control Department, Jammu and Kashmir, has taken serious note of a news report published in a Jammu-based newspaper under the headline “Drug Seizures Mount, But Where Is Drug Controller J&K?” and rebutted what it termed as misleading inferences, stating that the factual position and enforcement efforts of the Department need to be placed on record for public awareness.

The Department clarified that Since January 2026, seizures of intoxicant drugs valued at ₹56,85,243 have been effected with the active support and coordination of the Police Department as part of ongoing enforcement efforts against drug peddling and the illicit circulation of habit-forming drugs. Significantly, these seizures have been made from drug peddlers and persons involved in the illegal trade, and not from licensed pharmacies or medical sale establishments.

Drug Control Department is mandated to regulate the manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the



Rules framed thereunder. In discharge of its statutory responsibilities, the Department has adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards the irregular sale, purchase and diversion of habit-forming drugs. Drug Control Officers are actively engaged in regulatory inspections, scrutiny of sale and purchase records, verification of compliance with statutory requirements and initiation of appropriate legal and administrative action wherever violations are detected.

As part of its preventive enforcement strategy, the Department has also ensured 100 percent compliance with the requirements for installation of CCTV cameras and adoption of computerised billing systems by medical sale establishments. These measures are intended to strengthen

traceability, improve transparency in pharmaceutical transactions, facilitate scrutiny of suspicious sales and deter diversion of medicines into unauthorised channels.

The department further stated that wherever irregularities or violations relating to the sale and purchase of habit-forming drugs are detected and substantiated, the concerned Drug Control Officers are recommending appropriate action, including cancellation of drug sale licences, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions and prescribed procedure. Pertinent to mention here that since January 2026 to ending September, 2026, 25 drug sale licenses stands already cancelled. The Department does not hesitate to initiate stringent and appropriate action against any licensed establishment found indulging in unlawful practices.

DC Kupwara chairs introductory-cum-review meeting with district officers

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KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, Wednesday chaired an introductory-cum-overview meeting with district and sectoral officers at the DC Office Complex to review the pace of developmental works, scheme implementation, and administrative functioning.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara Ghulam Rasool, Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) of Kupwara and Handwara, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Sub-Divisional Magistrates, and other senior district officers.

Addressing the officers, the DC underscored the need for a cohesive, people-friendly administration. He directed all district officers to designate specific time slots in their offices for public and redress grievances promptly.

Reviewing developmental expenditures under



District Capex, UT Capex, and Tribal Affairs schemes, the DC instructed executing agencies to significantly expedite work before the onset of snowfall. He reviewed key infrastructure projects, including GMC Handwara, NH-701, the 50-bedded AYUSH Hospital, and transit accommodations. Taking serious note of the slow pace of macadamization in the Tangdhar sector, the DC sought an explanation from the concerned Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B), and directed the ADDC to personally monitor progress.

The DC further directed ADCs and SDMs to conduct a gap analysis of public infrastructure, particu-

larly identifying government offices operating from rented accommodation.

In the rural sector, the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) was tasked with expediting the construction and proper upkeep of Panchayat Ghars, especially across the 16 strategic Vibrant Villages, while Line departments were instructed to actively utilize Panchayat Ghars as nodal village centers for public outreach and community initiatives.

Reviewing line departments, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) was instructed to complete structural safety audits across all school buildings and furnish Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) data.

DG Local Fund Audit reviews Financial Compliance, Audit of ULBs Kashmir

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SRINAGAR: A meeting on audit issues, financial compliance and pension matters concerning Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Kashmir Division, was organized by the Dy. Director, Local Fund Audit and Pensions, Kashmir under the chairpersonship of Neeraj Gupta Bakshi, Director General, Local Fund Audit and Pensions, J&K.

The meeting was attended by Syed Nadeem Iqbal, Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, Chief Executive Officers, Pay and Accounts Officers and Executive officers of Local Bodies of Kashmir division.

The meeting was convened to review financial management and compliance with prescribed rules and procedures in Urban Local Bodies, identify areas requiring improvement, and strengthen transparency, accountability and the efficient utilisation of public funds.

Emphasis was laid on the timely settlement of audit paras and submission of compliance reports. The officers concerned were advised

to examine pending audit observations, take appropriate corrective measures and ensure compliance with applicable rules within the prescribed timelines.

Pension-related matters, including verification of service records, maintenance of service books and timely processing of pension cases, were also reviewed. The need to ensure complete documentation, resolving pending issues and facilitation of timely settlement of pension cases in accordance with the prescribed rules was highlighted.

Maheem Yasin, Deputy Director, Local Fund Audit and Pensions, Kashmir, presented key issues relating to financial administration, accounting practices, revenue realisation, procurement procedures and the execution of developmental works. The observations highlighted the need for greater attention to statutory compliance, systematic record maintenance and effective internal monitoring to ensure that public resources are utilised judiciously and in accordance with established norms.

Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, appreciated the initiative taken by the Organisation. He assured that all issues discussed during the meeting would be taken up at the Directorate level for issuance of necessary directions to subordinate offices to ensure compliance and timely implementation. He further informed that remedial measures, including the adoption of technology, had already been undertaken to ensure the smooth functioning of Municipalities.

The Director General, Local Fund Audit and Pensions, J&K, emphasised the need for strict financial discipline, improved compliance with prescribed rules, result-oriented and performance oriented approach towards addressing all issues. She further underscored the importance of strengthening revenue augmentation and monitoring mechanisms, improving need for coordination among the concerned departments and ensuring that public expenditure is supported by proper records and adequate verification.

DC Srinagar hands over newly procured Water Tankers to Water Works Division

New tankers to ensure efficient service delivery in tail-end areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Wednesday handed over the keys of newly procured water tanker vehicles to the Water Works Division, Srinagar aimed to strengthen public water supply and improve water availability during the peak demand season.

The vehicles were formally inducted into the fleet of the Jal Shakti Department during a flag-off ceremony held at the Office of the Executive Engineer Water Works Division, Srinagar.

Additional Deputy Com-



missioner Imtiyaz Ul Aziz Mir, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Sai Kiran, Superintending Engineer,

Hydraulics, Er. Ambreen Anjum, Executive Engineer, Water Works Division, Aijaz Rafiq, and other Officers and Officials were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the DC said that the three water tankers, comprising one vehicle with a capacity of 6,000 litres and two with capacities of 5,000 litres each, had been procured at a cost of Rs 72 lakh through convergence of various schemes and funds at district level in coordination with Jal Shakti Department through the convergence of district-level funds.

He said the addition of these vehicles would significantly enhance the district's capacity to address drinking water deficit in tail end areas, particularly during the peak season and facilitate the provision of water in areas wherever

the need arises.

Emphasising the need for efficient deployment of the tankers, the DC directed that the vehicles be utilised optimally to ensure the supply of safe and adequate drinking water to consumers, especially in tail-end areas where water supply constraints are more pronounced.

The DC further observed that every water tanker makes a significant change during the peak season and expressed confidence that the newly inducted vehicles would help improve water supply services and bridge gaps in service delivery across the District.

NPEP Cell initiates Research Study on “Assessment of Eve Teasing”

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SRINAGAR: As per Plan of Action approved by NCERT, New Delhi, under Research and Evaluation component, the National Population Education Project (NPEP) Cell of J&K Board of School Education has initiated a significant research study on the topic “Assessment of Eve Teasing and Awareness among Adolescent Girls of UT of J&K”.

The study is being conducted by administering a standardized Research Tool - Questionnaire among adolescent girls of Classes 9th to 12th in 40 sampled schools of four selected districts of the UT. The selected districts for this research study are Jammu, Kishtwar, Kulgam and Srinagar.

The first leg of this research survey was initiated on 13th October, 2026 under the guidance of Chairman, JKBOSE, Gh. Hassan Sheikh, and under the supervision of Director Academics / UT Project

Director, NPEP, Dr. Parveen Singh and Deputy Director/ UT Project Coordinator, Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal.

In this survey, 800 adolescent girls from 40 sampled schools across the 04 districts participated in the questionnaire-based assessment.

The research survey was conducted in collaboration with four selected DIETs of the respective districts. The DNOs (District Nodal Officers) from each DIET and SNOs (School Nodal Officers) from the selected schools were oriented and enriched about the objectives, methodology and ethical considerations of the research tool by Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, Deputy Director Academics / UT Project Coordinator, NPEP.

Dr. Arif Jan, Dy. Director, KD, and other staff members of the NPEP Cell played a vital role in successfully conducting the first leg of this research study by administering the questionnaire in the sampled schools.

Awareness Campaign on “Fake Pesticide v/s Genuine Pesticide” held in Budgam



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BUDGAM: Central Integrated Pest Management Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department Budgam, organized an Awareness Campaign on “Fake Pesticide v/s Genuine Pesticide” with farmers of Naraspora village, Block Budgam.

Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), discussed about National Pest Surveillance System to make farmers aware about pest or disease affecting their crops and spraying pesticides according to CIB&RC list.

Abdul Rouf Shah, ASCO and Nodal Officer NPSS, gave a valuable lecture about why this awareness campaign

is necessary and useful for farmers nowadays. He also highlighted different methods and aspects of IPM in agricultural sector nowadays.

Abir Shankhari, APPO (WS), demonstrated farmers about different toxicity level of pesticides and aware them about ill effects of pesticides on human health as well as taking all necessary precautions before applying pesticides to ensure Safe and judicious use of Pesticides always.

Kawal Nain Singh, SA, concluded the programme by briefing the participants about verifying QR codes and Batch details as well as Manufacturer details and poison level while buying pesticides from Govt. Authorized Pesticide dealers always.

MVD intensifies Enforcement Drive in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Shopian, conducted an enforcement drive Wednesday, to ensure strict compliance with traffic regulations and promote road safety.

During the drive, 43 vehicles were checked, 16 e-challans were issued and fines amounting to Rs 14,000 were imposed for various traffic violations. The violations included riding without helmets, driving without seatbelts, wrong parking and failure to produce valid vehicle insurance and Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUC).

The enforcement drive aimed to enhance road discipline, ensure adherence to traffic rules, and promote

responsible driving practices among motorists. The department stressed the importance of complying with all traffic regulations to prevent road accidents and safeguard the lives of commuters.

ARTO Shopian reiterated that such enforcement drives will continue to deter traffic violations and ensure strict adherence to road safety norms. Motorists were advised to wear helmets, use seatbelts, park vehicles at designated places and keep all mandatory vehicle documents valid and up to date.

The Motor Vehicles Department appealed to the public to cooperate with the authorities and follow traffic rules in letter and spirit to make roads safer for all.

KASHMEDCON 2026 Begins on High Note at SKICC Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of General Medicine, Government Medical College Srinagar, successfully concluded Day 1 of KASHMEDCON 2026 Wednesday at SKICC, Srinagar. The conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from doctors and delegates, with eminent national faculty delivering insightful scientific lectures and sharing the latest advances in internal medicine. The day also featured research paper presentations and academic discussions, providing a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and evidence-



based clinical learning.

The conference aims to strengthen clinical practice, encourage research, and provide young doctors with opportunities to interact with leading experts in medicine. The successful completion of Day 1 reflects the collective efforts of the organising team, faculty members, and delegates.

Day 2 will continue with further scientific delibera-

tions and academic activities, reinforcing the conference's commitment to advancing medical education and patient care.

The Department of General Medicine, GMC Srinagar, extends its sincere gratitude to all distinguished faculty, delegates, participants, and supporting teams for contributing to the success of this academic initiative.

DDC Shopian chairs comprehensive review Meeting of RDD&PR

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress, physical and financial performance, and implementation of various developmental schemes under the Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

During the meeting, the DDC conducted a detailed block-wise review of ongoing works, assessing their physical progress, financial utilization and overall implementation status.

Emphasizing the need to capitalize on the remaining working season, the DDC directed the concerned officers to expedite the execution of works and ensure timely achievement of all targets. He stressed that no laxity, avoidable delays or compromise on the quality of works would be tolerated.

All Block Development Officers (BDOs) were



directed to remain at their respective headquarters to ensure focused monitoring and completion of the assigned targets.

The DDC also directed the concerned officers to fast-track works under flagship schemes while ensuring strict adherence to prescribed guidelines and maximum public facilitation.

Progress under works funded through DDC and PRI grants, along with the construction of Panchayat Ghars, was also reviewed in detail.

The DDC stressed the need for close monitoring, efficient fund utilization and timely completion of all approved works.

The chair also reviewed the implementation of NRLM, with a focus on strengthening rural liveli-

hoods, promoting financial inclusion and enhancing the economic empowerment of women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Detailed presentations were examined regarding key milestones, cluster formation, credit linkage, income-generating activities and enterprise development among SHG members.

Special emphasis was laid on accelerating the Lakhpati Didi initiative to enable more rural women to achieve sustainable annual incomes through viable livelihood activities.

The DDC reviewed progress in identifying and supporting potential beneficiaries under the initiative, with a focus on enterprise models such as pickle-making, food services and apple processing.

DC Kupwara interacts with Media Fraternity Calls for collective synergy for district's development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma Wednesday presided over an introductory-cum-interactive session with members of the district's media fraternity.

Organised by the District Information Centre (DIC) Kupwara, the meet aimed to strengthen coordination between the administration and the press for community-centric governance.

The session was attended by ADC Gulzar Ahmad, ACR Peerzada Muntaz Ahmad, DIO Aadil Manzoor Wani, along with senior journalists and correspondents representing prominent print, electronic, and digital media organizations.

Welcoming the DC on assuming charge in Kupwara, the media fraternity



appreciated the prompt initiative in convening the interaction and expressed optimism regarding the tenure ahead. They also apprised the administration of their ground-level operations, challenges, and key requirements to facilitate seamless reporting.

Addressing the gathering, the DC remarked that North Kashmir, particularly Kupwara, is known for its strong intellectual tradition. Explaining that the interaction aimed to gain a firsthand appraisal of grassroots issues, the DC

commended journalists for reporting under demanding conditions including inclement weather and disasters, to spotlight genuine public grievances.

The DC urged the media fraternity to act as integral partners in the district's development. Assuring them of an open-door policy, the DC encouraged journalists to bring forward public issues not merely as administrative matters, but as collaborative partners working in unison to steer society forward.

PM to inaugurate 5 projects worth ₹3350 crore projects for Ladakh today

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation five major development projects worth around Rs 3350 crore in Ladakh on Thursday through virtual mode.

According to a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the Prime Minister will also address a gathering on the occasion.

As per the statement, the PM will inaugurate five major projects worth Rs 3350 crore through video conferencing.

“These projects will strengthen connectivity, improve energy infrastructure, conserve cultural heritage and enhance water security in the region,” the statement said.

As per the statement, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the new passenger terminal building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee airport, Leh, built at a cost of Rs 640 crore. Spread over 23,800 square metres, the modern terminal is designed to handle 35 lakh passengers annually. Incorporating geothermal energy to enhance efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint, the facility reflects the importance of sustainable infrastructure in Ladakh’s ecologically sensitive environment. Blending modern passenger amenities with elements of Ladakh’s rich cultural heritage, the terminal will improve passenger



convenience and strengthen air connectivity with the rest of the country.

The Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation the 298-km-long Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road, constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Connecting Nimmu in Leh with Darcha in Himachal Pradesh through the remote Zaskar Valley, the road provides an alternative connectivity corridor to Ladakh, supplementing the Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh highways. Traversing challenging Himalayan terrain, including the high-altitude Shinkun La Pass, the road marks a significant engineering achievement. Its strategic importance lies in enhancing operational mobility and strengthening logistical support for the Armed Forces. It will also benefit residents of Zaskar by improving access to healthcare, education, markets and essential services.

As part of efforts to strengthen energy security and harness Ladakh’s renewable energy potential, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the 9 MW Hanu Small Hydroelectric Project and the 66 kV Double-Cir-

cuit Dah-Hanu-Khaltsi Transmission Line. These projects will strengthen power evacuation infrastructure and improve the reliability of Ladakh’s electricity network, marking an important step towards harnessing the region’s hydropower resources.

Recognising the importance of preserving Ladakh’s ancient archaeological heritage, the Prime Minister will inaugurate India’s first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat, Leh. Ladakh is home to hundreds of prehistoric rock art sites featuring carvings of wildlife, human figures and symbolic representations that offer valuable insights into thousands of years of human history. The conservation park will provide a dedicated space for protecting these vulnerable archaeological remains, raising public awareness and encouraging responsible heritage tourism.

PM Modi will also inaugurate 40 water bodies developed across 40 villages under ‘Project Him Sarovar’, an initiative aimed at addressing Ladakh’s unique geographical and climatic challenges through water conservation, in line with the objectives of Mission Amrit Sarovar. Agriculture in Ladakh faces a seasonal imbalance between water availability and demand, with farmers often experiencing scarcity during the crucial sowing season despite substantial snowmelt and glacial runoff at other times. —(KNO)

Woman, unborn baby die

Gurez shuts down in protest as family alleges referral delay

Officials trade blame, probe ordered; Minister says action will be taken if lapses found

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: The death of a pregnant woman and her unborn baby triggered a shutdown and protests in Gurez on Wednesday, with residents alleging that a delay in shifting her to a hospital in Bandipora contributed to the tragedy.

Markets in Dawar, remained closed as residents blocked roads, shut shops and staged a sit-in, raising slogans against the local administration, particularly the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), over the handling of the case.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo said strict action would be taken if any lapses were found. “We have taken action in the past in such cases. If the



deaths occurred due to lapses, action will follow,” she said.

The deceased, Haseen Bagem, wife of Showket Hameed Lone and a resident of Mazgund village in Tulail, was taken to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Sheikhpura late on Tuesday evening. Her family alleged that no med-

ical staff were available there, following which she was shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Gurez.

Doctors at SDH Gurez reportedly found her blood levels critically low and advised her immediate referral to District Hospital Bandipora.

The family alleged that snowfall and restrictions

on movement delayed the transfer. They claimed that Project Beacon, the Border Roads Organisation’s road maintenance wing, had agreed to clear the road for the ambulance, but permission to proceed was not granted by the SDM.

“She remained in pain throughout the night, and the baby died in the womb before delivery at SDH Gurez around midnight,” a family member alleged.

A senior doctor at District Hospital Bandipora told KNO that the woman was brought to the hospital at around 8 am on Wednesday and was declared dead on arrival.

SDM Gurez Dr Mukhtar denied the allegations, saying he was informed by medical authorities that

the patient required referral to Bandipora.

He said snowfall around Razdan Pass had initially hampered movement, but after receiving assurances from Project Beacon that the road was open, the patient was shifted during the early hours of Wednesday.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Gurez Dr Feroz Iqbal, however, said the health department had informed the administration in time but was not allowed to shift the patient promptly.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora Dr Bhajan Kour said the health department had launched an inquiry into the incident and described the deaths as unfortunate—(KNO)

Identify new trekking routes, promote off-season tourism: Secy Tourism

Calls for year-round tourism activities to attract more visitors to Kashmir



WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Secretary Tourism Avny Lavasa on Wednesday called for identifying new trekking routes, strengthening adventure tourism infrastructure and promoting off-season activities to attract more visitors to Kashmir throughout the year.

Chairing a review meeting at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Srinagar, to assess the functioning and operational roadmap of the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, Lavasa stressed the need for a structured annual event calendar to ensure sustained tourist engagement and effective promotion of the region’s diverse tourism offerings.

She directed the department to plan major festivals, cultural events and seasonal activities well in advance, with proper inter-departmental coordination and wider publicity to attract tourists across different seasons.

Lavasa also called for greater focus on trekking, paragliding, water sports, skiing and mountaineering. She instructed the Directorate to identify new trekking routes, strengthen safety measures and improve related infrastructure.

She also emphasised promoting adventure tourism as a key attraction for young travellers and niche tourist segments, particularly during the off-season.

During the meeting, Director Tourism Kashmir gave a presentation on the department’s organisational structure, staff strength, vacancies, statutory enforcement framework and the progress of various government schemes, promotional campaigns and infrastructure projects.

Lavasa reviewed year-wise Capex budget allocations, expenditure patterns and pending developmental projects, directing officials to adhere to stipulated completion timelines.

She also reviewed the licensing framework for hotels and other tourist establishments and directed officials to clear pending registration and renewal applications promptly to facilitate ease of doing business.

The meeting also discussed revenue generation, outstanding liabilities and operational bottlenecks. Lavasa assured the Directorate of administrative support in resolving pending proposals and improving service delivery across Kashmir. —(KNO)

Career Defence School signs MoU with Indian Navy to promote defence education in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Career Defence School (CDS) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to promote defence education and youth development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The MoU, as per the statement issued, was signed by Rear Admiral Aditya Hara, representing the Indian Navy, and Er. Vinay Rai, Founder and CEO of Career Defence School, marking an important step towards strengthening defence awareness and inspiring young students to explore opportunities in the armed forces.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to encouraging discipline, leadership, teamwork, patriotism and a spirit of national service among the younger generation, it reads, the statement said, adding, through this association, Career Defence School aims to further strengthen defence-ori-

ented education, enhance awareness about career opportunities in the Indian Navy and other Armed Forces, and motivate students to develop the confidence, physical fitness and character required to pursue their aspirations.

It said the collaboration also opens avenues for exploring mutually agreed educational initiatives and student engagement activities in accordance with the provisions of the MoU.

Expressing gratitude to the Indian Navy, Er. Vinay Rai, Founder and CEO of Career Defence School, said the association was a proud moment for the institution and reaffirmed its commitment to guiding and preparing young aspirants for future challenges.

He emphasised the importance of providing students with appropriate guidance, career awareness and opportunities to develop leadership qualities while nurturing a strong sense of responsibility towards the nation. —(KNO)

12 years on

Tral-Wahab Sahab road project remains incomplete, locals seek intervention

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: More than a decade after it was proposed, the Tral-Wahab Sahab road project remains incomplete, prompting residents of Tral and adjoining areas in south Kashmir’s Pulwama district to urge authorities to expedite work on the vital connectivity link.

Residents said that the approximately eight-kilometre Syedabad Pastuna-Wahab Sahab road was planned to connect Syedabad Pastuna in Tral with Wahab Sahab Shaar in Pampore tehsil, providing a shorter route between the two areas without travelling via Awantipora.

They said the foundation stone was laid in 2015 by then MLA Mushtaq Ahmad Shah and work was subsequently initiated. However, the project has remained stalled for years, with little progress on the ground.

Initially estimated to cost around Rs 16 crore,



the road is a long-pending demand of residents, who say its completion would improve connectivity, reduce travel time and benefit more than a dozen villages.

Nadeem Ahmad, a resident of Tral, said the road would provide direct connectivity to Khrew and Pampore, saving commuters considerable time and distance.

“It is an important project for Tral and neighbouring villages. Its completion would make travel easier for students, employees, traders and other commuters, but people are still waiting for the work to resume,” he said.

Another resident,

Wakeel Ahmad, said the road would provide a convenient alternative to existing routes and significantly benefit people on both sides.

Residents urged the administration, the department concerned and elected representatives to prioritise the project and ensure its early completion.

Meanwhile, an official acknowledged the delay, saying a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth around Rs 26 crore had been submitted for the road’s construction.

However, he said the DPR is yet to receive approval and forest clearance has also not been granted—(KNO)

Div Com Directs DCs to constantly review Agristack, SVAMITVA progress

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Tuesday directed Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to expedite registrations and data compilation under Agristack and SVAMITVA, stressing on constant review and timely achievement of district-wise targets.

Chairing a meeting with DCs, Garg reviewed the progress under both initiatives and emphasised achieving saturation of data entry of Khasras in approved villages under Agristack. He called for close monitoring and prompt action to ensure the completion of all assigned targets within the stipulated timelines.

He also took stock of farmer registrations under Agristack and the status of property cards generated across districts under SVAMITVA.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner congratulated the newly appointed Deputy Commissioners and extended his best wishes, urging them to discharge their duties with dedication



and ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of district administrations.

Garg also reviewed issues raised during previous meetings and field visits, directing the concerned DCs to prioritise their resolution. The issues included the provision of potable water at Budgam and Srinagar railway stations, completion of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-I, security arrangements and basic amenities at transit accommodations for PM Package employees, redressal of migrant grievances, land acquisition for security agencies, and construction of an access road at Humhama.

The meeting also dis-

cussed issues concerning AIIMS Awantipora, including electricity and water supply, road maintenance, functioning of lifts, land expansion, and bus service requirements.

Emphasising the need for advance planning ahead of winter, the Divisional Commissioner directed the DCs to convene review meetings and ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance.

He further stressed the need for border districts to ensure advance stocking of essential commodities and fuel to maintain an uninterrupted supply of essential items during the winter months.

Crime Branch chargesheets three officials in service-record fraud case

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a chargesheet against three Agriculture Department officials for allegedly manipulating service records to secure undue benefits.

In a statement issued, a spokesperson said the chargesheet in Case FIR No. 02/2022 was presented before the Court of the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, against Abdul Rashid Gojri, Helper in the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Office, Beerwah; Manzoor Ahmad Wani, Section Officer in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Budgam; and Peer Abdul Rashid, retired Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO).

The case was registered under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 120-B of the RPC and Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The spokesperson said the case originated from a communication dated February 15, 2022, from the Deputy Director Agriculture, Central Kashmir, regarding alleged manipulation of service records by officials to obtain undue benefits.

During verification, it surfaced that Gojri had allegedly submitted a forged date-of-birth certificate showing his date of birth as February 27, 1973, instead of his actual date of birth, February 27, 1975. Accordingly, an FIR was registered at Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir, now Police Station SCW Kashmir.

Investigation revealed that Gojri was 17 years and

two months old when he was initially engaged as a daily wage in the Agriculture Department. The spokesperson said Wani and Peer Abdul Rashid allegedly facilitated the inclusion of the incorrect date of birth in his service records by disregarding directions for document verification, thereby enabling the regularisation of his services.

The spokesperson said the investigation established the offences mentioned in the FIR against all three accused. After obtaining the requisite approval and sanction in respect of the two serving government employees, the chargesheet was presented before the court. The Crime Branch has advised the public to remain vigilant against fraudsters and report such incidents to the department—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

A Well-Deserved Pat For GMC

Sincere hard work coupled with dedication to serve people, and that too patients, always deserves recognition and appreciation. And today's appreciation by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir for Government Medical College (GMC) acknowledges the efforts of its doctors, nurses, technicians, employees and administrative staff, who work every day to care for patients and save lives. For many people, a government hospital is more than just a healthcare facility. It is the place where helpless souls expect the best from people with noble professions. Healthcare workers who give their time, energy and dedication, sometimes working under tremendous pressure. Their efforts deserve recognition, respect and support. However, while appreciation is welcome, it should also remind us that there is still work to be done. Every institution has its strengths, but there is always room to improve. The real challenge is to build on what has been achieved and ensure that patients continue to receive better care. A hospital is a place where people arrive with fear, pain and uncertainty. They trust doctors and other healthcare workers with their lives, often hoping for nothing more than timely treatment, a reassuring word and the feeling that someone genuinely cares. Medical expertise is essential, but so are kindness, patience and respect. For a patient and their family, even a small gesture of compassion can make a difficult experience easier to bear. At the same time, the responsibility for improving healthcare cannot rest on doctors and frontline workers alone. They need adequate staff, modern equipment, clean facilities and an efficient administration to perform their duties effectively. The government and hospital management must continue to address these needs and create an environment where both patients and healthcare workers feel supported. There must also be room for honest feedback. When patients raise concerns or the public points out shortcomings, such criticism should not automatically be seen as an attack on the institution. Instead, it should be treated as an opportunity to identify problems and find solutions. Appreciation and accountability are not opposites; both are necessary for progress. The true success of GMC will ultimately be reflected in the experiences of ordinary people. It will be seen in a patient who receives timely treatment, a family that feels reassured, and a person who leaves the hospital believing that they were treated with dignity and care. The Lieutenant Governor's recognition is a welcome gesture and a reason for the institution's staff to feel proud of their efforts. But the larger goal must remain clear: to keep improving the quality of healthcare and strengthening public confidence. Praise encourages people to do better, but public trust is earned every day. For GMC, the greatest achievement will be to ensure that every patient who walks through its doors feels that their health, dignity and life truly matter.

Brain Aneurysms: The Silent Threat



DR. VIPUL GUPTA

A brain aneurysm, also called a cerebral or intracranial aneurysm, is a weakened area in the wall of a blood vessel in the brain that develops into a bulge or balloon like sac. Many aneurysms remain unruptured and may never cause symptoms, but rupture can result in bleeding around the brain, known as subarachnoid haemorrhage, which is a medical emergency. September is observed as Aneurysm Awareness Month, providing an important opportunity to understand a condition that can remain silent for years but may become life-threatening if it ruptures.

A 30-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh, who had been leading a healthy life, developed sudden right-sided weakness, severe headache and vomiting. She initially sought treatment at a local hospital, where a brain MRI revealed a massive, densely enhancing lesion suspected to be a swollen blood vessel. Subsequent CT Angiography and MR Angiography confirmed the presence of an exceptionally large brain aneurysm measuring approximately 4 × 5 cm, one of the largest reported sizes. The aneurysm had completely involved the Posterior Cerebral Artery, making conventional repair extremely complex and carrying significant risk to the brain.

The patient was referred for specialised neurointerventional treatment to Dr Vipul Gupta. Detailed evaluation using high-resolution Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA), 3D Angiography and Angio-CT was performed to assess the aneurysm and the affected blood vessel. As the entire artery was involved, the medical team opted for a minimally invasive strategy aimed at safely managing the aneurysm while preserving adequate blood supply to the brain through alternative vascular pathways.

Using two microcatheters simultaneously, the doctors carefully closed the smallest and safest segment of the affected blood vessel. This resulted in redirection of blood flow through alternative routes, allowing the patient to remain clinically stable while minimising the risk of neurological complications.

Following the procedure, she was closely monitored, including management of intracranial pressure. She received medications, steroids and blood thinners as part of her post-procedure care. Her clinical condition continued to improve, and she



remained stable during recovery. The case highlights the complexity of treating giant brain aneurysms and the role of advanced minimally invasive neurointerventional techniques in managing such high-risk vascular conditions.

One of the most concerning aspects of a brain aneurysm is that it may remain completely asymptomatic until it becomes large or ruptures. However, some larger aneurysms can exert pressure on surrounding nerves or brain structures, causing symptoms such as pain around or behind the eye, visual disturbances, double vision, a drooping eyelid, or changes in pupil size. A sudden, extremely severe headache, often described as the "worst headache of life", particularly when accompanied by nausea, vomiting, neck stiffness, sensitivity to light, confusion, seizures or loss of consciousness, should never be ignored. Such symptoms can indicate aneurysmal rupture and require immediate emergency evaluation.

Certain individuals are more susceptible to developing an aneurysm or experiencing its rupture. Important risk factors include uncontrolled high blood pressure, smoking, increasing age and a family history of brain aneurysms. Some inherited conditions, including polycystic kidney disease and certain connective-tissue disorders, are also associated with increased risk. Women, particularly in older age groups, may have a higher risk of aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage. Family history deserves particular attention, especially when more than one close relative has been affected. Advances in neuroimaging and

neurointervention have significantly expanded treatment options. The decision to monitor or treat an aneurysm depends on several factors, including its size, location, shape, growth pattern, relationship with surrounding blood vessels, patient's age and overall health, and estimated risk of rupture. Not every unruptured aneurysm requires immediate intervention, making individualised assessment essential.

Endovascular coiling: A minimally invasive technique in which a catheter is guided through the blood vessels, usually from the wrist or groin, into the blood vessels of the brain. Tiny detachable platinum coils are then placed inside the aneurysm to promote clot formation and prevent blood from flowing into it. Unlike open surgical procedures, coiling does not require opening the skull and can provide a minimally invasive treatment option for appropriately selected patients.

Stent-assisted coiling: This technique is particularly useful for aneurysms with a wide neck or challenging anatomy. A small stent is placed across the opening of the aneurysm to provide support and help keep the coils securely within the aneurysm while maintaining normal blood flow through the parent artery. This approach has expanded the range of aneurysms that can be treated using endovascular techniques.

Intrasaccular Devices - These are mesh-like, wire-based devices available in oval or cup-shaped designs. They are placed directly within the aneurysm to block blood flow into the sac, promoting rapid closure and allowing the procedure to be completed in a

relatively short time.

Flow-diverter stents: These specialised, densely woven stents are increasingly used for selected large, wide-necked or complex aneurysms. The device is placed within the parent artery across the aneurysm opening. Rather than directly filling the aneurysm, it redirects blood flow away from the aneurysm, encouraging gradual clot formation and allowing the vessel wall to heal and remodel over time.

Modern aneurysm care therefore increasingly relies on a combination of high-resolution imaging, advanced endovascular devices and multidisciplinary decision-making. Early identification can provide an opportunity to assess an aneurysm before rupture and, where treatment is indicated, select the safest and most appropriate strategy.

Awareness, however, remains the first line of protection. Controlling blood pressure, avoiding smoking, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and discussing appropriate screening with a physician when there is a significant family history can help address modifiable risks. Most importantly, a sudden, severe and unusual headache—especially when accompanied by neurological symptoms—should be treated as an emergency rather than dismissed as a routine headache. In brain aneurysm, recognising the warning signs and reaching a specialised centre without delay can make a critical difference.

Author is Director, Neurointerventional Surgery, Sir H.N Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai

Feeding The Future Before The Soil Falls Silent

"The World Is Not Running Out Of Food Alone; It Is Running Out Of Healthy Soil, Productive Land, And Freshwater Resources. The Future Of Food Security Depends On Protecting The Natural Foundations Of Agriculture Today."

DR. SRINIVAS KATHERASALA

DR. RAM SHEPHERD
BHEENAVENI

As the world observes World Food Day on 16 October 2026, the question before humanity is no longer whether we can produce enough food. The more urgent question is whether we can continue producing safe, nutritious, and sustainable food without exhausting the very natural resources upon which agriculture depends. World Food Day is commemorated every year on 16 October to mark the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The observance itself was instituted by FAO member countries in 1979 to raise global awareness about hunger, food security, and the need for sustainable agricultural systems.

For decades, humanity celebrated remarkable achievements in food production. Scientific advances, improved irrigation, mechanization, fertilizers, and modern crop varieties helped increase yields and reduce food shortages in many regions. Food became more available and, in many cases, more affordable. Yet behind this success story lies a growing paradox: while agricultural output has increased, the ecological foundations of food production are steadily weakening. Today, millions still go to bed hungry. According to recent assessments by the United Nations system, about 645 million people experienced hunger in 2025, while progress toward ending hunger remains uneven and fragile across many developing regions. Africa and parts of Western Asia continue to experience rising

levels of undernourishment. The tragedy is not merely that people lack food. Increasingly, the world faces a crisis of food quality, soil health, water security, and agricultural sustainability.

The Hidden Crisis Beneath Our Feet

Soil is the foundation of human civilization. More than 95 percent of global food production depends directly or indirectly on land and healthy soils. Yet this invaluable resource is deteriorating at an alarming pace due to erosion, excessive chemical inputs, unsustainable cultivation practices, deforestation, and urban expansion. Recent FAO assessments estimate that approximately 1.7 billion people live in areas where agricultural yields are declining because of human-induced land degradation. The report identifies soil erosion, declining soil organic carbon, and loss of soil moisture as major contributors to reduced productivity and food insecurity.

The importance of this topic can't be exaggerated and gets supported by the increasing scope of studies on soil character and food security. The key message from the studies can be summarized in the following way: no country can ensure sustainable food security without taking care of its soils. While farmers are still relying heavily on fertilizers and chemicals, this practice helped improve their short-term yields. On the contrary, their careless usage results in damaging the soil biological activity, reducing the level of organic materials, polluting water sources, and weakening the long-term sustainability of agriculture. In other words, healthy soil is not just a piece of soil because it is an ecosystem that controls nutrient exchange, carbon storage, water



keeping, and the existence of numerous species. So when the soil quality goes down, food security goes down too.

More People, Less Farmland, Less Water

The pressure on global food systems is set to intensify. The United Nations projects that the world's population will reach approximately 10 billion by 2050, adding two billion more people compared to the early decades of this century. Feeding such a population will require significantly higher food production. Yet the amount of available agricultural land is not expanding. In many countries, fertile farmlands are increasingly being converted into industrial corridors, highways, urban housing projects, and commercial infrastructure.

Urbanization undoubtedly drives economic growth, but it often consumes productive agricultural landscapes. Every acre of fertile farmland lost to unplanned development represents a reduction in future food-producing capacity. Research increasingly links rapid urban expansion with growing concerns over food security, particularly in developing economies. At the same

time, agriculture faces mounting competition for freshwater resources. Industry, energy generation, urban consumption, and environmental pressures are intensifying demand for water. Climate change further compounds the challenge through droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events. The convergence of these factors creates a dangerous equation: more mouths to feed, less fertile land, less healthy soil, and increasing water scarcity.

The Future of Food Depends on Today's Choices

The solution does not lie in abandoning modern agriculture. Rather, it requires transforming food systems to become more sustainable, resilient, and environmentally responsible. Governments must prioritize soil conservation, encourage regenerative farming practices, support organic matter restoration, promote balanced nutrient management, and protect prime agricultural lands from indiscriminate conversion. Investments in climate-resilient agriculture, precision farming, sustainable irrigation, and farmer education must become national priorities.

Equally important is consumer awareness. Food waste remains a global challenge, while dietary choices increasingly influence environmental outcomes. Sustainable food systems require participation from farmers, scientists, policymakers, businesses, and consumers alike. World Food Day should therefore be more than a ceremonial observance. It should serve as a reminder that food security is inseparable from environmental stewardship. Hunger is not solely the result of insufficient production. Often, it is the consequence of poor resource management, degraded ecosystems, and short-sighted development choices.

Humanity has demonstrated its capacity to increase food production. The challenge before us now is greater: producing enough nutritious food while preserving the soils, water, and biodiversity that sustain life. If we continue to treat soil as an expendable resource, future generations may inherit productive technologies but impoverished landscapes. Conversely, if we invest today in soil health, sustainable agriculture, and responsible resource management, we can build a food system capable of nourishing both people and planet.

As the world marks World Food Day 2026, perhaps the most important message is this: the future of food begins beneath our feet. Protect the soil today, and humanity will eat tomorrow.

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Beyond The Image

The Real Crisis Of Our Digital Culture

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Social media has given everyone the opportunity to express their views, opinions, and connect with the world. It can become a powerful medium for disseminating knowledge, science, literature, art, and social concerns on a wide scale. But the question is: what are we using this medium for? To understand scientific discoveries, to read literature, to reflect on national and global problems, or to search for body parts in others' photos and make obscene comments? This question is not only about social media use, but also about our mindset, interests, and social priorities.

A woman complains that her photos repeatedly receive comments asking why she shows her backside in every photo. Such comments have appeared hundreds of times. This situation raises many questions. What is the perspective of the person commenting on the photo? Why do they focus on a particular part of a woman's body instead of considering her entire image, her personality, her work, or her achievements? Has a woman's presence on social media become simply a means of public comment on her body?

This woman's response is sharp. She says that when some people are interested in such photos, she shows them those because their interest and understanding level doesn't seem to go beyond that. Her response is full of sarcasm, anger, and even contempt for those who limit a woman's photo to her body rather than her personality. However, the most important aspect of this entire incident is not the woman's photo or her response, but the mentality that considers it normal to constantly objectify women and make obscene comments about their bodies.

A fundamental point needs to be understood here. What a woman chooses to portray in her photo is her personal decision. Some may like her photo, others may not. But likes and dislikes do not justify posting obscenity, making derogatory comments, or attacking someone's character. Freedom of expression does not mean the right to trample on another person's

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dignity. There is a clear distinction between expressing disagreement with someone's photo and insulting them.

The other side of this issue is even more serious. When a post is shared about the achievements of Nobel Prize-winning scientists in chemistry, it often doesn't receive the expected response. Not even a hundred people like the post, and not even fifty people express their opinion. Meanwhile, images that center the body seem to garner far more interest. If this is the experience of any social media user, it should be considered where our collective interests are headed.

However, the intellectual capacity



of an entire society cannot be judged based on the likes and comments received on a single post. Social media algorithms, the timing of a post, its presentation, subject matter, and audience interest also influence its reach. Nevertheless, if we repeatedly find that entertainment and materialistic content garners greater response, while science, research, and critical thinking are ignored, it is a fitting opportunity to review our digital culture.

We want India to lead the world in science and technology. We want our scientists to make new discoveries, our universities to become world-class research centers, and our young generation to break new ground in medicine, space, artificial intelligence, and chemistry. We aspire to surpass the technological achievements of countries like the United States, China, and Israel. But is this possible only through slogans? Can we, while dreaming of becoming a world leader, shirk the responsibility of understanding the work of scientists, understanding research, and sharing knowledge?

A country's scientific progress doesn't happen solely in laboratories. It also requires a social environment where curiosity is respected, the habit of asking questions is cultivat-

ed, researchers are encouraged, and knowledge is respected. Only when young people discuss the achievements of scientists, understand the findings of research, and consider the social impact of new technology does scientific consciousness become part of society. If knowledge is considered boring and vulgar entertainment is considered the most attractive, then serious discussion on this trend is necessary.

It's also true that entertainment and science aren't mutually exclusive. Social media should also have a place for humor, beauty, fashion, and entertainment. Everyone can't be expected to read serious articles all the time. The problem isn't with entertainment, but rather when a woman's photo is used to promote obscenity, insults, and misogyny, while efforts to cultivate interest in informative content are consistently ignored.

The double standards toward women are equally worrying. On the one hand, people view their photos, comment on them, and share in their popularity; on the other, they lecture those same women on morality. If you don't like a woman's photo, it's not necessary to view or comment on it. However, using derogatory language about someone's photo shows disre-

spect for that person's dignity. Before questioning a woman's freedom, one should also consider the responsible behavior of the person making the comment.

The question of popularity and revenue on social media is also linked to this debate. When a particular type of content attracts a large audience, some people turn it into a source of income. This is not surprising; audience interest on digital platforms often influences content dissemination and revenue. But it does raise the question of what type of content we are encouraging. If viewers consistently view, share, and respond to content, they contribute to its circulation, even if unknowingly.

Therefore, blaming only the content creators isn't enough. Viewers also need to understand their role. The posts they respond to, the videos they rewatch, and the comments they forward shape the digital environment. If we want science, literature, education, and social concerns to find greater space on social media, we must also learn to read, share, and engage in meaningful discussion of such content.

Ultimately, the question isn't about a woman's clothing, her photographs, or her responses. It's about a vision that reduces women to body parts rather than a complete human being. It's also about a society that aspires to be a world leader but doesn't make sufficient collective efforts to popularize knowledge and scientific achievements.

To become a world leader, it's not enough to simply dream of technological progress; society must also cultivate respect for knowledge, dignity for women, and curiosity for ideas. It's easy to make lewd comments after seeing someone's photo, but understanding a scientist's discovery, reading a book, and seriously considering a social problem requires effort. We must decide which direction we want to take our digital world—toward superficial attraction or toward knowledge, wisdom, and sensitivity. This choice will ultimately determine our social character.

(The author is a PhD in Political Science. He contributes to various publications)

When We Listen, Real Change Can Begin

DR BATULA RASHID

MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

“Are you okay?” It is a simple question, but sometimes it can mean a lot. The real question is not only whether we ask it, but whether we are ready to listen when someone says, “No, I am not okay.”

People who have faced issues related to their mental well-being have much to teach us. It is not enough to just listen to these experiences, but to learn from them and improve our mental healthcare services.

The importance of this discussion in Jammu and Kashmir is greater than ever because there are various sources of stress that affect our youth today. Academic exams, job prospects, unemployment, family pressures, economic stresses and constant comparisons with their peers and relatives weigh heavily on our youth. The youth may be asked to become a doctor, an engineer or even a government servant, while their own interests are overlooked.

Another source of stress in today's age is social media. Our youth are always exposed to other people's success, lifestyles and accomplishments. This might give rise to feelings of jealousy and inferiority behind a seemingly normal social media account.

The feeling of loneliness is yet another issue that cannot be ignored. One may be seated amidst their friends, classmates or family members and feel absolutely lonely. At times, people don't necessarily require counselling before anything else. What they require



at times is somebody who can sit and listen to them without passing any judgement on them.

It is essential to make students realise that one examination or one poor performance in an exam will not determine what will happen to their entire lives. It becomes even more difficult than taking the exam itself because of the fear of letting down their parents or being compared with others. We must make the youth realise that seeking help is no sign of weakness.

Moreover, there is another problem of silence related to gender issues. Boys are constantly told that they should “be men” and should not express their feelings, while girls have different kinds of problems associated with education, family, marriage and society in general.

As a nursing student, I have realised that taking care of a patient entails more than just giving medicines, administering treatments, doing tests and checking vital signs. A patient is more than just a diagnosis. Behind every patient's condition are fears, family issues, hopes and experiences. Listening is another form of taking

care of patients.

From a psychiatric perspective, mental health issues must be identified and prioritised early. No one should have to reach a point of crisis for their pain to be prioritised. Privacy, confidentiality, trust and respect are required in order to encourage people to seek treatment.

Here comes a very important question. What happens when the time comes that a person decides to seek help? In the absence of safe counselling, proper referral, follow-up and nearby facilities, saying “seek help” alone will not do.

This is where colleges in Jammu and Kashmir can play an important role. Students require confidential counselling facilities, qualified personnel to detect any signs and links to professional services. Also, schools can include education regarding basic mental health so that from an early age, children are aware of their emotions and stress, and seeking help is seen as normal.

Even our rural areas require attention. Distance, lack of awareness and stigma regarding mental health issues might be among the hurdles facing

Moreover, there is another problem of silence related to gender issues. Boys are constantly told that they should “be men” and should not express their feelings, while girls have different kinds of problems associated with education, family, marriage and society in general.

people living far from big hospitals. Linking colleges, PHCs, DHs and psychiatric care facilities would be helpful in providing assistance to those in need. Tele-MANAS can be very useful for individuals facing difficulty in visiting mental healthcare facilities.

The role of the family cannot be overestimated. Sometimes, a young person just does not require a lecture on grades and profession. Sometimes, they need only one question: “What's troubling you?” Listening does not mean agreeing with all ideas. It means that a person is able to talk without being judged at once.

We should avoid two extreme positions. Not every sadness requires a diagnosis of depression, and not every worry represents “overthinking”. Mental illnesses are sometimes casually self-diagnosed through social media, while true mental disorders remain unnoticed due to stigma. There is a need for responsible awareness, but not for self-diagnosis.

We should also listen to the families of those people with mental health issues. The process of taking care of someone may result in their own exhaustion and stress. They also require information and support.

Most importantly, perhaps, individuals who have experienced something should not just be told to “tell their story”. The personal experience of the individual must guide the formation of mental health services. When patients tell us they have been ignored, we need to know why. When students inform us that the counselling process is not a safe one for them, something needs to be done to address that. When families don't know how to obtain services, then the system needs to make sense to them.

World Mental Health Day should not end with a poster, speech or Facebook post. It should leave us with one tough, but essential, question: What are we changing as a result of hearing their voices?

The world mental health day should help us learn to break stereotypes. Let us not just ask, “Are you okay?” Let us create societies where it is possible for someone to answer.

Because a quiet student might have something to say. Because a patient's lived experience might teach us lessons. And because listening to those voices can lead us to better care. When real voices are truly heard, real change can begin.

(Dr Batula Rashid is the Head of the Psychiatric Department at Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences, Galander, Pampore. And Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral)

■Traffic Management in Srinagar

Comm SMC chairs review meeting to ensure compliance with MDC Directions

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, who is also the Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar

Smart City Limited (SSCL), Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess compliance with the directions issued by the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) concerning traffic management, road infrastructure and urban mobility in Srinagar.

The meeting was convened to review progress on actionable points arising from the MDC directions, identify issues requiring intervention, and ensure coordinated compliance.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioner, R&E, SMC/Additional Chief Executive Officer, SSCL; Chief Engineer, SSCL; Joint Commissioner, Works, SMC; General Manager, Public Transport Operations (PTO), SSCL; Executive Engineer, City Roads, SMC; Executive Engineer, SSCL; and General Manager, Integrated Command and Control



Centre (ICCC), SSCL.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review was undertaken of key traffic management issues under the MDC framework, with particular emphasis on traffic congestion, road infrastructure, junction improvements, traffic circulation, road-user safety, inter-agency coordination and the effective utilisation of technology-driven solutions to improve urban mobility.

The deliberations also focused on strengthening IT-based parking management systems, developing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, establishing an effective Traffic Control Room, and systematically developing and upgrading



bus stops to ensure organised parking, promote sustainable mobility, enhance real-time traffic monitoring, and improve public transport infrastructure across Srinagar.

The Commissioner emphasised the importance of ensuring effective and timely compliance with MDC directions through coordinated efforts, clearly defined responsibilities and result-oriented interventions. The discussions focused on identifying existing gaps, addressing operational challenges and formulating practical measures to streamline traffic movement and improve the overall efficiency of the city's transport network. Special emphasis was

laid on strengthening the utilisation of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS), real-time surveillance, Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) infrastructure and other smart mobility interventions to facilitate efficient traffic monitoring, improved junction management and better coordination among the concerned agencies.

The meeting underscored the need for a structured, coordinated and accountable approach towards implementing MDC directions, ensuring that identified traffic management challenges are addressed through effective planning, institutional coordination and technology-enabled solutions.

The initiative reflects the commitment of SMC and SSCL towards ensuring compliance with MDC directions while strengthening traffic management mechanisms, promoting sustainable transport solutions, improving road safety and facilitating safer, smoother and more efficient movement for residents and commuters across Srinagar.

Chairman DLSA Sgr inspects ADR Centre, Creche; Interacts with Staff

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Srinagar, Naseer Ahmad Dar, conducted an inspection of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre and the creche facility at the District Court Complex, Srinagar.

During the inspection, the Chairman DLSA Srinagar took stock of the functioning of the ADR Centre and the facilities available at the creche. He reviewed the arrangements and emphasized the importance of maintaining a conducive, accessible and well-organized environment for the smooth delivery of services.

The Chairman also interacted with the staff members of DLSA Srinagar, and PLVs deputed at front office/help desk, took feedback regarding the functioning of the Authority and gave necessary instructions for the effective delivery of Legal Aid Services. He stressed the importance of dedication, discipline, teamwork and efficiency in discharging official responsibilities.

The visit reaffirmed the commitment of DLSA Srinagar towards strengthening legal services, improving institutional functioning and ensuring that the facilities provided within the District Court Complex remain responsive to the needs of litigants, staff members and the general public.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Vandana Kotwal W/o Paramvir Singh, R/o Green Park, Officers Enclave, Poonch Lines, Udeywala, Jammu intends to correct my name which has been inadvertently written as Vandna Kotwal on the educational certificates of my son namely Ruderveer Singh, bearing Roll No. 13123360, Class 10th Year 2024 and Roll No. 13623744, Class 12th, Year-2026 who had passed the CBSE Board's Examinations from G.D Goenka Public School, Gajansoo, Jammu.

If anybody has objection in this regard, the representation shall be submitted to concerned authorities within 7 days of publication of this public notice, no objection will be heard after that.

JKTPO organizes awareness-cum-e-commerce onboarding drive in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a major initiative aimed at strengthening local enterprise and giving a digital boost to local products, the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), organized a comprehensive Export Awareness Cum E-Commerce Onboarding, at Bandipora.

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

The workshop aimed at empowering local artisans, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), startups and MSMEs of Bandipora to leverage e-commerce platforms for wider national and global market access. The workshop witnessed an overwhelming response with participation of over 150 sellers from across the district, dealing in Crewel (GI Tagged), ODOF of Bandipora, Milk & Dairy Products, Walnuts, and other Handicrafts & Handloom products.

Representative of

JKTPO briefly explained about the role of JKTPO and its objectives for promotion of trade and exports from district level. He said, Bandipora is famous for crewel-based shawls. Our main focus is to take Crewel shawls and other district products to national and global markets.

The drive was aimed at empowering local artisans, FPOs, MSMEs, Mission Yuva beneficiaries and SelfHelp Groups (SHGs) to leverage e-commerce platforms for expanding their market reach and realizing the vision of Vocal for Local to Global.

Muzamil, consultant from ONDC-Mission YUVA Bandipora, highlighted the benefits of ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce), an initiative of DPIIT, Govt. of India. He explained the registration process, documents required and how ONDC provides open access to buyers across India with zero commission and low logistics cost. He said ONDC is the digital backbone of Mission YUVA to create youth entrepreneurs.

Maqbool Shah, Senior Consultant, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), provided a detailed overview of the GeM portal, explain-



ing registration process, documentation requirements, and benefits of government procurement. He encouraged Artisans/FPOs to leverage GeM for bulk government orders.

Representative from Department of Posts explained the role of post office from promotion of ODOF products under the newly launched scheme Dak Niryat Kendra and informed the audience to leverage the benefits of the said scheme.

On-spot help desks were established by GeM, Department of Posts and ONDC for instant onboarding and document verification. More than 50 sellers were onboarded on-spot on ONDC and GeM during the workshop while over 100 enquiries were registered for further handholding

and export documentation.

The interactive session provided participating enterprises an opportunity to understand the benefits of e-commerce, seek clarifications and gain practical insights into leveraging digital commerce for business expansion.

The initiative forms part of JKTPO's continued efforts towards promoting digital adoption, strengthening market access and enabling MSMEs, farmers and artisans of Jammu & Kashmir to access wider markets.

The workshop will bring together leading national e-commerce and procurement platforms including Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), department of posts and the state scheme Mission YUVA, to provide direct assistance, live onboarding, and capacity-building training to local entrepreneurs, artisans, unit holders, and youth.

The programme concluded with an emphasis on encouraging more enterprises from Bandipora to adopt digital commerce and leverage platforms to strengthen their online presence and explore sustainable business growth.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION BARAMULLA e-mail, id, xenmhd.bla@jk.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2026-27/101/2888-94
Date:	14-10-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on Percentage basis from experienced firms Registered with J&K Govt., PWD, Department through JKPWDOMS for the below mentioned work:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion (in days)
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Medical Grade (SS316) Reverse Osmosis (RO) Double Pass Plant of 500 LPH Capacity for Dialysis Unit alongwith allied works at CHC Kreeri.	14.95	1000.00	29900/-	30 days

Note:-

- AAA: -Administrative Approval accorded by Director Health Services Kashmir vide order No. 47/DHSC of 2026 Dated: - 10-10-2026.
- Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla vide No. M&HDB/TS/58 of 10/2026 Dated: - 13-10-2026.
- Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14-10-2026
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 14-10-2026 to 03-11-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 14-10-2026 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	03-11-2026 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	04-11-2026 (13:00 HRS)

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTEHSIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Technical Specifications	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "C" duly accepted by the bidder.
05.	Tax Registration	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
06.	GST/Latest GST clearance certificate	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
07.	Non - Blacklisting Declaration	Undertaking as per Annexure "D" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any department
08.	Experience	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts in any Govt. / Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall be considered. Similar nature of work means SITC of RO Plant (500 LPH or Higher Capacity)
09.	Other Documents to be uploaded	Design / Layout and Brochures of offered model of RO / Total Dissolved Solids at delivery point, Technical Data Sheet etc.
10.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.

Note:-

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor / Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.
- A. **Cover-II shall contain:**
- 01. Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

Instruction to Bidders:-

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar / blacklist such firm(s).
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to deposit additional performance security as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-101/2888-94

Dated: - 14-10-2026

DIPK-6710-26

DT: 14/10/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KULGAM NEAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL, KULGAM - PIN CODE 192231 SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS e-NIT No: 14/IDK/2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on percentage basis from Govt. approved/registered Gas companies/Dealers for supply/providing of LPG filled Commercial Gas Cylinders for Irrigation Division Kulgam for heating purpose during winter season 2026-27, including all carriages (from source of supply to Divisional Store of Irrigation Division Kulgam).

S. No	Description	Cost of Tender Doc. (Rs)	Tender Value	Earnest Money (Rs)	Class of Contractor	Validity period
1	Supply/providing of LPG filled Commercial Gas Cylinders of capacity 19 kg (net weight) for heating purpose during the winter season 2026-27, including all transportation/carriage charges, loading/unloading etc. (complete job) from source of supply to Divisional Store of Irrigation Division Kulgam	200/-	2.8 lacs	4000/- (pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Kulgam in the form of CDR/FDR) to be uploaded while bid submission	Registered/Govt. approved LPG supply dealers	Winter season 2026-27

Ref: Superintending Engineer Hyd Circle Anantnag/Kulgam's authorization No. 6881 dated: 30-09-2026. The bidding documents, consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details, can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates mentioned.

S. No	Event	Date and Time
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14-10-2026, 06:00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-10-2026, 09:00 PM
3	Bid submission start date	15-10-2026, at 09:00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	30-10-2026, up to 02:00 PM
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	30-10-2026, at 02:30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Kulgam

Terms and conditions:

- The basic rate of each fill/refill shall be the Government-approved rate (as notified by the respective oil company or other competent authority) applicable on the date of delivery (inclusive of all carriage/conveyance charges).
- The bidders shall quote a uniform percentage rate per fill/refill on the said Government-approved rate, and the bidder offering maximum percentage rebate shall be declared as lowest (L1).
- The quoted rebate percentage shall remain firm and unaltered during the entire contract period, irrespective of any revision (increase/decrease) in Government rates.
- Payments shall be made as per actual verified quantity received, at the applicable Government rate minus the accepted rebate percentage.
- Payment shall be made only after release of funds by the Competent Authority under appropriate head of the account.
- The agency shall ensure supply of authorized and safety-certified LPG cylinders only.
- The department reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity as per requirement.
- Delayed or partial deliveries may invite penalty as per departmental norms or even termination of contract.
- The contract shall remain valid for winter season 2026-27, unless extended or terminated earlier.
- Disputes (if any) shall be subject to the jurisdiction of Hon'ble Courts at District Kulgam only.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- Other terms and conditions shall be the same as laid down in PWD Form-25 (double) or as applicable.

Documents to be uploaded:

- Valid authorization certificate from HPCL/BPCL/IOCL.
- GST Registration Certificate and Account Number linked to it (payment will be made to this A/C No. only).
- Valid original Treasury Challan (MH-0702) as proof of payment of cost of tender document.
- Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Kulgam.
- Contact details of authorized representative.

NO: IDK/ 4798-4801

Dated: 14-10-2026

DIPK-6728-26
DT: 14/10/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Kulgam

3 J&K Khelo India Soft Tennis players to represent India at World Championship in China

GMK SPORTS DESK

JAMMU: In a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir, three talented players from the Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre; Sidhani Singh, Shreemai Bhatt and Madhvender Singh Sambyal have been selected to represent the country at the upcoming World Soft Tennis Championship to be held in China from 26 to 31 October.

The selection, made by the Amateur Soft Tennis Federation of India and recommended by the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association, marks a significant achievement for the players and reflects their consistent performances, dedication and hard work over the past several years. All three athletes have earned medals at various national level championships, bringing recognition to Jammu & Kashmir through their outstanding performances.

Adding to their achievements, Shreemai Bhatt and Madhvender Singh recently excelled at the Junior National Soft Tennis Championship held in Srinagar.



Shreemai Bhatt secured two bronze medals while Madhvender Singh Sam-

byal won one bronze medal, further strengthening their credentials at the national level.

These achievements have come under the guidance and mentorship of Indu Bhushan, whose support, training and guidance have played an important role in the players' development and success. The players' dedication, combined with consistent coaching, reflects the growing strength of soft tennis in Jammu & Kashmir.

Their selection for the World Championship is a matter of immense pride for the Khelo India Soft Tennis Centre and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Their success highlights the importance of structured training and the Khelo India initiative in nurturing young sporting talent and preparing athletes for national and international competitions.

The achievement is expected to inspire the aspiring soft tennis players across the region to work towards excellence and bring further laurels to Jammu & Kashmir on the international stage.

Rain, bad light deny MP victory as defending champions J&K escape with draw

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Defending champions Jammu and Kashmir survived a major scare to escape with a draw against Madhya Pradesh in their Ranji Trophy Group A opener after rain and bad light denied the visitors an opportunity to push for victory on the fourth and final day here on Wednesday.

Chasing a daunting target of 326 after Madhya Pradesh declared their second innings at 249 for six, Jammu and Kashmir were reeling at 88 for seven when the match ended, with the home team staring at defeat before the weather intervened.

Madhya Pradesh, who had resumed their second innings at 151 for five on Tuesday, declared at 249 for six after captain Shubham Sharma completed a magnificent unbeaten century, scoring 106 off 200 balls, with seven fours and three sixes.

After adding 75 runs with Atharva Mahajan, Sharma found an able ally in Saransh Jain, who remained unbeaten on 35 off just 33 deliveries, as the pair helped Madhya Pradesh extend their lead and set Jammu and Kashmir a challenging target.

Mahajan made a valuable contribution with 39



off 94 balls, while Aryan Pandey scored 17. Auqib Nabi was the pick of the Jammu and Kashmir bowlers, claiming three wickets for 53 runs, while Sunil Kumar took two wickets.

Madhya Pradesh's declaration left the hosts with a stiff fourth-innings chase, but their batting collapsed under pressure against a relentless bowling attack.

Avesh Khan struck early, dismissing Shubham Khajuria for a duck and Qamran Iqbal for four, while Aryan Pandey removed Shubham Pundir for four to leave Jammu and Kashmir tottering at eight for three.

Avesh then accounted for Abdul Samad, who departed without scoring, before Pandey dismissed captain Paras Dogra for four to reduce the hosts to 12 for five inside six overs.

Kanhaiya Wadhawan offered some resistance with 26 before retiring hurt, but Lone Nasir fell for 13 to leave Jammu and Kashmir struggling at 51 for six. Auqib Nabi was unbeaten on 30 when the match was called off.

Avesh returned figures of three for 30, while Pandey also claimed three wickets for 31 runs to put Madhya Pradesh firmly in control.

The result denied Madhya Pradesh a potentially significant victory, while Jammu and Kashmir will be relieved to have avoided defeat despite being outplayed in the final innings.

In other Group A matches, Vidarbha beat Puducherry by 160 runs in Nagpur, while Baroda defeated Goa by an innings and 135 runs in Panaji.

4th T20I: I definitely want to be a genuine all-rounder: Naman Dhir

IAN5

HYDERABAD: India all-rounder Naman Dhir is keen to establish himself as a genuine all-rounder but admitted that contributing with the bat remains his immediate priority, while stressing that the hosts cannot afford to be complacent despite holding a 2-1 lead in the five-match T20I series against the West Indies.

Speaking ahead of the fourth T20I, Dhir acknowledged the threat posed by the visitors in the shortest format and said India would need to maintain the same intensity that helped them secure a 14-run victory in the previous match at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

"West Indies obviously are a very dangerous team, especially in this format. The learning would be that you can't be complacent at any stage of the series.



Yes, we are 2-1 up, but we'll still play the game with the same intensity," Dhir said.

The 26-year-old has made a valuable contribution with the ball in the series, emerging as India's leading wicket-taker with five scalps. Interestingly, each of his wickets has come after he conceded a six, a statistic the all-rounder hopes to change

in the upcoming contest.

"I hope this time I won't concede a six before getting a wicket. I didn't know that I am the highest wicket-taker till now in this series. I have a lot of learnings. I've been talking to Gautam (Gambhir) sir and every other coach. So they are talking to me about a few aspects of bowling," he said.

Dhir also underlined

his ambition to develop into a genuine all-rounder, though he would prefer to make a bigger impact with the bat at this stage of his career.

"No, I definitely want to be a genuine all-rounder, but at the time I prefer that I should score more with the bat. I had the opportunity in the last game. But, yeah, I'm happy that we ended up on the winning side," he added.

India head into the fourth T20I with the aim of consolidating their lead following their defense of a total of 223, which saw them beat the West Indies by 14 runs in Indore. The vital 69 runs that Abhishek Sharma scored off just 30 balls set the platform for India's total, though a slowdown in the second half left the home side with a difficult task ahead.

The visitors were in a good position throughout

their chase, after Shimron Hetmyer scored 43 and Kamil Pooran reached 42. Yet Arshdeep Singh's three-wicket stand and Dhir's two wickets enabled India to regain control and kept the West Indies within 209, all while Shamar Springer scored 35 runs without losing a wicket off only 11 deliveries towards the end.

The victory was India's first while batting first in the white-ball series and gave them a crucial 2-1 lead ahead of the Hyderabad encounter.

Dhir also expressed confidence about playing at the venue, pointing to the dimensions of the ground compared to Indore, where India secured their previous win.

"If you see the g of Indore, it was pretty smaller than that. So I'm a little more confident than in Indore from the last game," he said.

IAN5

NEW DELHI: India captain Shreyas Iyer has reached a career-high fourth position in the latest ICC T20I rankings for batters after moving up three places following his impressive start to the five-match home series against the West Indies.

Iyer smashed his maiden T20I century in the series opener in Lucknow, earning a significant rise in the latest rankings. His ascent to fourth place means India now have three players inside the top four, with Ishan Kishan leading the list and Abhishek Sharma occupying second position. Pakistan captain Sahibzada Farhan sits third after achieving a career-best rating following an impressive performance against Sri Lanka.

Other batters making progress in the T20I rankings include Sri Lanka's



Kusal Mendis, who climbed three places to 23rd, West Indies' Sherfane Rutherford, who rose 13 spots to share 24th position, and India's Sanju Samson, who moved up four places to equal 27th.

Pakistan youngster Maaz Sadaqat also made a significant jump, rising from outside the top 100 to 45th following his performances in the three-match series against Sri Lanka.

In the bowling chart, the West Indies player Roston Chase climbed 24 places to

23rd following his performances against India. He also gained two spots to reach third in the T20I all-rounders' rankings.

Pakistan's Salman Mirza rose nine places to 14th in the T20I bowling rankings, while teammate Saim Ayub climbed eight spots to 54th.

There was also significant movement in the Test rankings following Australia's 214-run victory over South Africa in the opening match of their three-Test series at Kingsmead in Durban.

Fenesta Open: Top stars Chukka, Siwach, Sathesh and Gahlot knocked out on day of upsets

IAN5

NEW DELHI: It turned out to be a tough day for the seeded players as a number of top stars fell to lower-ranked opponents in the third round of singles in the under-16 section of the 31st Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The second-seeded Lakshya Chukka was among those falling by the wayside as he was defeated by Haryana's Harsh Marwaha 6-2, 6-4 in the boys' U-16 event.

"It's a big win for me, and I played really well, especially in the second set," Marwaha said after his win. "In the second set, mostly because my opponent was not mentally focused, so that helped me out a lot. I didn't have to work that hard in the second set. I'm ready for my quarters. It's against my doubles partner, Vivaan Mirdha. We have played a lot and know each other's games very well," he added.

Third-seeded Paranjay Siwach also exited the boys' U-16 draw, losing to No. 12 seed Monodip Dey of West Bengal 6-4, 6-4. However, Ribhav Saroha,



who won the boys' U-18 title last week, remained on course for a double crown. He defeated No. 13 seed Gyansh Manchanda 6-2, 6-4 to reach the boys' U-16 quarterfinals, where he will face unseeded P. Nallagundla. Nallagundla advanced with a 6-1, 6-2 win over No. 16 seed Anay Pandey.

"The first set was pretty good," Saroha said. "I was able to hold my serves pretty well, and I was able to break a serve twice in the first set. Then I started feeling some pain in my shoulder, and I was struggling a bit on my serves. I wasn't able to fully go with the pace on my serves. But my opponent played a really good match, and I played well too. I'm really happy that I'm playing into the quarterfinals because last week also here I was

really confident."

A day after top seed Deepthi Venkatesan was upset, second-seeded Tanussri Sathesh also bowed out of the girls' U-16 event. Sathesh lost to Karnataka's Pooja Nagaraj 7-5, 6-1 in the round of 16.

"I felt really good playing against her," Nagaraj said. "She is a great player. In the second set, I think I locked in and played. I'll just go in for my next match and give my best and play my game."

Third-seeded Aaradhya Meena, No. 5 seed Akshita Anthil and No. 7 seed Ranjanna Sangram were among those who advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the girls' U-14 event, top seed Sarena Gahlot also fell to an upset, losing to Maharashtra's Rishita Yadav 6-4, 7-6 (7-3). No. 4 seed P. Vattaprambil was

also eliminated, while second-seeded Siddhi Pandey and third-seeded Zoha Qureshi secured straight-set victories to reach the quarterfinals.

Top seed Aarav Chalanil led the way in the boys' U-14 draw, defeating No. 13 seed Jegan Senthil 6-1, 6-2 to advance to the quarterfinals. The top five seeds in the draw all reached the last eight.

Results: Boys' U-16 Singles Third Round (Round of 16): Ribhav Saroha [1] def. Gyansh Manchanda [13] 6-2, 6-4

Harsh Marwaha def. Lakshya Chukka [2] 6-4, 6-1 Monodip Dey [12] def. Paranjay Siwach [3] 6-4, 6-4 Yaj Malik [6] def. Kaushtubh Singh [14] 6-4, 6-1 Kushagra Arora def. Jeevith Sathish [7] 6-2, 6-0 Vivaan Mirdha [8] def. V Gunampally 6-3, 6-1 P Nallagundla def. Anay Pandey [16] 6-1, 6-2

Yashwin Dahiya def. Aaryan Kirtane 6-2, 6-1 Girls' U-16 Singles Third Round (Round of 16): Pooja Nagaraj def. T Sathesh [2] 7-5, 6-1 Aaradhya Meena [3] def. I Kannan [12] 6-0, 6-2 Akshita Antil [5] def. Vrandika Rajput [11] 7-5, 5-7, 6-1

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MOVIES

SCHEDULE

15 OCTOBER 2026

THURSDAY

DRISHYAM : THE CONCLUSION

UA 16+

HINDI

10:45 AM | 01:45 PM

04:45 PM | 07:45 PM

THE VVAAN

UA 16+

HINDI

11:05 AM

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

HINDI

04:00 PM

OTHER MOMMY (A)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

01:55 PM

THE SOCIAL RECKONING (A)

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