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Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Amit Shah
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After the elimination of Lateef Bhatt there are no homegrown terrorists left in Kashmir Valley.

Srinagar • Sunday 22, November 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 276 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

CM Urges Graduates To Take Active Role In Nation-Building



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday called upon the graduating Class of 2026 of IILM University to actively participate in governance, public life, and nation-building, stressing that the country's demographic dividend can translate into lasting prosperity only through responsible leadership and meaningful engagement.

The Chief Minister was addressing the Convocation Ceremony as Chief Guest in New Delhi.

Addressing the graduating students, faculty members, and parents, the Chief Minister said young people must recognise their responsibility in shaping the country's institutions and future. Observing that voting is only the beginning of democratic participation and not its entirety, he said, "Voting is the entry ticket to democracy, not the entirety of the performance," and urged capable, ethical, and educated youth not to remain detached from governance and public affairs.

The Chief Minister highlighted various avenues through which young professionals can contribute to governance, including ethical entrepreneurship, data-driven public policy, grassroots-level engagement, and public service. He stressed that governance is not confined to political offices but requires participation and commitment from every section of society.

Reflecting on his experience of governing Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah emphasised that trust between citizens and the government is fundamental to development and effective administration.

Inviting young graduates to look at Jammu and Kashmir beyond • P-06

No Local Terrorist Left In Kashmir, Only Foreigners Remain: Amit Shah

Says Article 370 Abrogation Ended Separatist Sentiment Among Kashmiri Youth

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that not a single local terrorist is left in Kashmir Valley and remaining terrorists operating in the Valley are foreign nationals.

Shah while addressing a ceremony in Banderdewa, Arunachal Pradesh, referred to the recent killing of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander and the last known active local terrorist, Lateef Bhat in South Kashmir and said, "In Kulgam, Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Police neutralised the last known active Kashmiri terrorist affiliated with Lashkar-eToiba (LeT) in an encounter. With this, I can say with pride today that there is not a single local terrorist left in Kashmir Valley. All those who remain are foreign terrorists."

"Development marks a significant change in the security situation in the Valley. It's a matter of pride for us. No Kashmiri youth is currently involved in terrorist activities in the Valley," he added.

The Union Home Minister also linked the decline in locals joining terrorist ranks to the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 in August 2019. "Constitutional changes have ended separatist sentiments among Kashmiri youth," he added.



Recalling the political and security situation in the Valley during the 1990s, Shah said, "I also want to remind the people of this country about the situation in the Kashmir during the 1990s, a time when many questioned how long we would even be able to hold onto Kashmir."

He credited security personnel deployed in the region during those difficult years with maintaining India's control over the Valley.

Shah said that when Article 370 was abrogated, opposition parties had questioned the connection between the constitutional provision and terrorism. "Today, I can proudly tell the entire nation that the abrogation of Article 370 has put an end to the sentiment of separatism among the youth of Kashmir," he said—(KNO)

"DEVELOPMENT MARKS A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SECURITY situation in the Valley. It's a matter of pride for us. No Kashmiri youth is currently involved in terrorist activities in the Valley," he added.

'Winter Vacation For Nursery To Class 5 Under Consideration'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for School Education, Higher Education and Jal Shakti Shamima Firdous on Saturday said the government was considering announcing winter holidays for students from nursery to Class 5 if temperatures dropped further, keeping children's health and safety in view.

Speaking to reporters at the National Conference headquarters in Srinagar, Firdous said a decision on winter vacations for students from Classes 1 to 5 was under consideration.

"If we feel even a little that the cold will increase, then we will take a decision. We know about children; many children also fall sick. In the morning time, food infection, chest infection, etc., also happen. Keeping that in mind, we will take some decision," she said.

She said the government had already revised school timings for both government and private institutions, a decision that had received considerable appreciation. The government was now examining the possibility of announcing • P-06

Nights Set To Turn Colder

Dry Spell To Continue Across J&K Till Nov-End



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness largely dry weather conditions until the end of November, with the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecasting a fall of 1-2 degrees Celsius in minimum temperatures across the region during the coming days.

According to the MeT department's forecast, accessed, weather is expected to remain generally dry between November 21 and 30, while partly to generally cloudy conditions are likely from December 1 to 3.

The minimum temperatures are likely to decline by 1-2 degrees Celsius towards the end of November, indicating colder nights across the Kashmir Valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The department's seven-day forecast, covering November 21 to 27, also indicates dry weather across Kashmir, Jammu and the overall Union Territory, with no weather warnings issued for either division during • P-06

Alleged Rotten Meat Case

Health Min Warns Strict Action Against Those Involved

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Minister Sakeena Itoo on Saturday warned of strict action against those involved in the rotten meat case, asserting that there would be no compromise on the safety and health of people.

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir, Itoo, said the government was taking all necessary measures in accordance with the law and the concerned departments had already initiated action against those found involved in violations.

She said the licences of certain establishments had been cancelled and several other measures had also been taken as part of the action initiated by the authorities.

"Whatever action is required at the departmental level is being taken. We have made it clear that



there will be no compromise when it comes to the health of people. What we are consuming should not turn out to be poisonous for us, and anyone found involved in such practices will be dealt with strictly," she said.

The minister also acknowledged staff shortages in the Food Safety Department, saying that although the department had been functioning since 2002, it was facing a shortage of manpower, which affected its overall functioning.

Itoo said she recently reviewed the • P-06

DIPR Represents J&K At 57Th International Film Festival Of India In Goa

Secy I&B, Chanchal Kumar Visits J&K Stall; Briefed On Filming Opportunities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GOA: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, is participating in the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, representing the region and showcasing its rich cinematic heritage, diverse filming locations, emerging film ecosystem and the initiatives being undertaken by the Government to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred destination for film production.

As part of the ongoing participation, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Chanchal Kumar, today visited the Jammu & Kashmir Stall at IFFI, where he was briefed in detail about the evolving film ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir and the various initiatives undertaken by the Government to strengthen the film sector and facilitate film production in the region.



During the visit, he was apprised of the immense cinematic potential of Jammu & Kashmir, its breathtaking landscapes, diverse geographical settings, rich cultural heritage and picturesque locations, which offer significant opportunities for filmmakers, production houses and the entertainment industry.

The briefing also highlighted the Government's sustained efforts to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred filming destination through facilitation measures, institutional support and initiatives aimed at creating a conducive environment for filmmakers. Particular emphasis was laid on encouraging film productions, strengthening film-related infrastructure, • P-06

Public Interest Litigation

HC Pulls Up Authorities Over Women's Safety In Public Transport

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Flagging gaps in the enforcement of government directions meant to ensure safer travel for women commuters the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has pulled up the authorities over safety of females using public transport.



A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rahul Bharti while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), observed: "Reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities in public transport exist more on paper rather than on the roads"

The PIL filed by Advocate Monisa Manzoor Mir has raised concerns over the safety and security of women travelling in buses, matadors and other public transport vehicles without assurance of reserved seating.

The High Court noted that even the Srinagar Traffic Police Chief had expressed difficulty in enforcing the directives, stating that their implementation required executive decisions, statutory notifications or departmental directions from the competent authorities.

The High Court also took note of government directions requiring Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) and Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) to ensure strict implementation of seat reservation for women and persons with disabilities in buses, minibuses, sumos, e-rickshaws and other public service • P-06

UP Making Brahmos Missiles That Rattled Enemy During 'Op Sindoor': PM

Says 50 Crore People Have Moved Out Of Poverty Since Independence

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted Uttar Pradesh's growing role in India's defence and technology sectors, saying the state was now manufacturing BrahMos missiles deployed during 'Operation Sindoor,' while also preparing to enter semiconductor production.

Addressing an event, PM Modi, said, "A semiconductor chip manufacturing facility was being established in Uttar Pradesh, reflecting the state's expanding industrial capabilities."

He said the production of BrahMos missiles in the state was another significant development, particularly in view of their use during Operation Sindoor.



"The BrahMos missile that gave sleepless nights to the enemy during Operation Sindoor is now also being manufactured in Uttar Pradesh," PM Modi said.

Referring to concerns about possible disruptions in cooking gas supplies during the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, the Prime Minister said, "Apprehensions were raised about LPG shortages and long queues at petrol pumps but we did not allow that to happen."

He said the government has planned to expand piped natural gas (PNG) connections, setting a target of providing at least one lakh connections every day to diversify household fuel supplies. "The rollout has encountered an unexpected problem due to a shortage of plumbers. The daily number of connections has remained around 15,000 to 20,000 despite efforts to accelerate the process," PM Modi said.

He said officials have cited the lack of trained plumbers as the primary reason • P-06

NCB Busts Inter-State Drug Network In J&K

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an inter-state network involved in the illegal supply of pharmaceutical drugs from Delhi to the Kashmir Valley, arresting four people and seizing over five lakh tablets, capsules and bottles of various pharmaceutical preparations, an official said on Saturday. Buy Maps

The successful operation by NCB, Jammu Zonal Unit, in coordination with its Delhi Zonal Unit, exposed an organised network involved in diverting pharmaceutical drugs from the legitimate supply chain into illicit circulation, a spokesman of the agency said.

Acting on specific intelligence, he said the NCB Jammu intercepted a Srinagar-bound passenger bus near Mada Toll Plaza, Chenani, in Udhampur district in the early hours of November 16, leading to the seizure of seven kilogrammes of Codeine-based cough syrup (CBCS) • P-06

Ladakh Votes With Conviction

70.03% Turnout In Panchayat Elections, 52.40% In Municipal Polls

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Ladakh witnessed an overwhelming voter turnout in its first Panchayat and Municipal Council elections since the formation of the Union Territory. The young and the elderly, women and men, first-time voters, monks and people from every walk of life enthusiastically exercised their democratic right across villages and towns.



With 70.03% turnout in Panchayat elections and 52.40% in Municipal elections, the enthusiastic participation reflects the people's deep commitment to grassroots democracy and local self-governance. Truly, the people of Ladakh have celebrated democracy as a vibrant festival of the people!

The Panchayat elections covered 192 Panchayat Halqas across eight districts, comprising 192 Sarpanch positions and 1,428 Panch seats. Of these, 55 Sarpanches and 1,186 Panches were elected unopposed, while polling was conducted for the remaining 137 Sarpanch and 242 Panch seats.

The Municipal Council elections covered 38 wards, comprising 21 in Leh and 17 in Kargil. Polling was conducted in all 21 wards of Leh, while four wards in Kargil were filled unopposed and polling was held in the remaining 13 wards..

Election authorities made elaborate arrangements for the smooth • P-06

Indian Panorama 2026 Inaugurated at 57th IFFI; Jury Members Felicitated

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GOA: Indian Panorama 2026 was formally inaugurated Saturday at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa, with members of the Feature and Non-Feature Film Juries being felicitated in recognition of their contribution to curating this year's official selection.

The jury members were honoured by Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; G. Krishnakumar, Chairperson, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC); and Ashutosh Gowariker, Festival Director.

Declaring Indian Panorama 2026 open, Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, highlighted the remarkable diversity of Indian cinema since its inception. He observed that the celebration of cinema offers a meaningful opportunity to recognise how every region of the country contributes its distinct languages, cultures and stories. Congratulating the jury members for their thoughtful selections, as well as the Government of Goa and the festival team for organising the event, he expressed his wishes for continued global recognition of Indian cinema.

Addressing the gathering, G. Krishnakumar, Chairperson, NFDC, reflected on the legacy of Indian Panorama since its inception in 1978 and its role in celebrating India's cinematic diversity across languages and regions. Referring to this year's IFFI theme, Stories Without Borders, he reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to cinema and expressed gratitude to the Government of Goa and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for their continued support. He also extended a warm welcome to filmmakers and film enthusiasts attending the festival.

In his welcome address, Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker recalled his early memories of IFFI and reflected on how Indian Panorama has evolved over the decades into an important showcase of India's rich cultural and cinematic diversity. Highlighting the response to this year's selection process, he noted that the festival received 762 feature film entries and 358 non-feature film entries, taking the total to 1,120 submissions across 18 languages. The final selection spans 14 languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Kannada, Tulu, Ladakhi, Kashmiri and English, alongside web series.

Aligning his remarks with the 57th edition's theme, Stories Without Borders,

Gowariker urged filmmakers, technicians and emerging storytellers to continue telling their stories, while encouraging audiences to watch widely and judge wisely.

The Non-Feature Film Jury comprises seven members: Himansu Sekhar Khatua (Documentary Filmmaker and Chairperson, Non-Feature Films Jury), Shankhajeet De (Documentary Filmmaker), Ragini Sona (Film Producer), Shiv Sunny (Film Journalist), Dhanesh Yadhav T. R. (Film Editor), Abhijeet Dalvi (Filmmaker), and Aarti Patel (Producer and Media Professional).

The Feature Film Jury comprises thirteen members: Madhur Bhandarkar (Chairperson, Feature Films Jury), U. Ravindhar (Cinematographer), Soham P. Shah (Filmmaker), Rahul Bhole (Director, Writer and Editor), Oinam Gautam Singh (Filmmaker), Niladri Roy (Film Editor), M. S. Prabhu (Cinematographer), K. S. Sivaraman (Cinematographer), Jayanta Goswami (Director), Bindu Chandramouli (Actress), Bharathi Pradhan (Film Critic), Dr. Ayash Arif (Veteran Actor and Writer), and Arun Gongade (Animator).

Following the felicitation ceremony, the opening films of Indian Panorama 2026 were introduced and felicitated ahead of their inaugural screenings.

In the Non-Feature category, the Ladakhi film Becoming, directed by Leena Yadav, was honoured by G. Krishnakumar, Delilah Lobo and Ashutosh Gowariker. Depicting the spiritual journey of a young boy in Ladakh that transcends time, memory and lifetimes, the film was introduced by its director, Leena Yadav, who spoke about its theme of life beyond boundaries.

In the Feature category, Dhurandhar, directed by Aditya Dhar, was represented at the ceremony by veteran actor Rakesh Bedi, who was felicitated with a memento by Chanchal Kumar and Ashutosh Gowariker. Bedi shared his experience of working with director Aditya Dhar and portraying an unconventional spy character in the film.

The ceremony concluded with the inaugural screenings of both opening films, marking the beginning of the Indian Panorama showcase at IFFI 2026.

Charar-i-Sharief comes Alive with Sufi Music, Cultural Celebrations

GMK NEWS NETWORK



BUDGAM: On the directions of Director Tourism, Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajjad, the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, organised a vibrant Sufi Festival Saturday at Tourist Bungalow, Charar-i-Sharief, celebrating the Valley's rich spiritual, cultural, and musical heritage.

The festival was graced by Basharat Mahmood, Assistant Director Tourism, Kashmir, who attended the programme and addressed the gathering. In his remarks, he highlighted the enduring role of Sufi traditions in preserving Kashmir's unique cultural identity and spiritual legacy. He further emphasised that such initiatives are vital for promoting the region's heritage, offering a dedicated platform to local artists, and strengthening the cultural tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme featured soulful Sufi musical performances by local artists, who captivated the audience with traditional Kashmiri compositions and melodious renditions accompanied by indigenous instruments. The performances offered attendees an immersive experience of the timeless musical traditions deeply rooted in Kashmir's Sufi culture.

Drawing enthusiastic participation from both local residents and visitors, the festival fostered a spirited atmosphere of community engagement and celebration. The event underscored the importance of cultural festivals in positioning Kashmir as a premier destination for spiritual and cultural tourism while safeguarding traditional art forms.

The celebration reaffirmed the timeless relevance of Kashmir's Sufi heritage and its universal message of peace, harmony, brotherhood, and communal amity - values that remain central to the Valley's cultural ethos.

The festival was a part of a broader series of winter events organised by the Directorate of Tourism across Kashmir.

The department will host several upcoming programmes, including the Caddy Tournament (November 22), Roller Skating Championship (November 26), and a Cultural Event (December 1) in Pahalgam; the Chinar Festival at Padshahi Bagh, Bijbehara (November 25); Sufi Festival at Achabal (November 28); and a Sufi Event at Sonamarg (December 3)

DC G'bal reviews functioning of WMDA

Takes Stock of Lake Conservation, Tourism Dev Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, Saturday chaired a review meeting in the Meeting Hall of Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) to assess its overall functioning, with particular focus on ongoing developmental works, conservation of Manasbal Lake and tourism infrastructure.

During the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer, WMDA, Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq Chishti, presented a detailed overview of the Authority's achievements, ongoing initiatives and future development plans, highlighting key interventions in lake conservation, environmental management, infrastructure development and tourism promotion.

The meeting reviewed various measures undertaken for the conservation of Manasbal Lake, including dredging, de-weeding, cleanliness drives, waste management and sanitation initiatives. The progress of major infrastructure projects, particularly the lakeside pedestrian pathway, parking facilities and Manasbal bypass, was also discussed.

The Authority's initiatives to promote Manasbal as a sustainable tourism destination through cultural activities, recreational facilities and adventure tourism were highlighted. The proposed sewage management system for the lake's catchment area and the need for strengthened solid waste management were also deliberated upon.

The DC emphasized the importance of balancing tourism development with ecological preservation and called for coordinated efforts among the concerned departments to ensure effective implementation of ongoing projects.

DC Anantnag presides over vibrant Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Chittergul

GMK NEWS NETWORK



ANANTNAG: As part of the public outreach initiative aimed at bringing the administration closer to the people, a mega public darbar-cum-grievance redressal camp was Saturday held at Model Higher Secondary School, Chittergul, to listen to the grievances, demands and developmental concerns of the people of Block Chittergul.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from people belonging to different villages and sections of society across the block, who put forth their issues and demands before Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

During the public darbar, participants raised a wide range of issues pertaining to road connectivity, drinking water, irrigation, healthcare, education, electricity, telecommunications, tourism, agriculture, horticulture and other essential public services. Several issues were redressed on the spot, while the DC directed the concerned departments to take prompt action on the remaining genuine demands.

The major demands raised during the programme included construction of a Shamshan Ghat, improvement of mobile network connectivity, resolution of drinking water supply issues in Patribal and Didnard, upgradation and construction of Wuzkhan Road and Ziyarat Road, provision of PHE and irrigation facilities, availability of additional ration at Cheerpora, upgradation of Government Girls Middle School Dethu, and adequate deployment of medical staff at Chittergul Hospital.

Other demands included installation of an X-ray facility at the hospital, establishment of Fire and Emergency Services facilities, organisation of agricultural and horticultural awareness camps, construction of Achabal-Chowgund Road, establishment of a laboratory at Higher Secondary School Chittergul, opening of a public library, construction of a Block Office and release of pending land compensation for PMGSY Tangmullah Road.

The people also demanded construction of a water supply tunnel from Nagbal to Sonach, upgradation of the Sub-Centre at PHC Brah, provision of banking facilities at Brah, establishment of a CSC complex, construction of a slaughterhouse at Chittergul, development of Chatabal as a tourist destination and improvement of irrigation facilities at Gamkul, besides other area-specific demands.

SDM Karnah inspects farmer ID camps, reviews registration progress

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, accompanied by Tehsildar Karnah, Saturday inspected Farmer ID generation camps across the sub-division to review the ongoing registration drive and check facilities for local farmers.

During the visit, the SDM spoke with field staff at the camps and reviewed the number of IDs generated so far. He stressed that every eligible farmer must be registered so they can easily access government welfare schemes and agriculture services.

The SDM directed officials from the Revenue and Agriculture departments to work closely together to ensure a smooth and hassle-free process for farmers. He asked them to pay special attention to remote and far-flung areas so that no eligible person is left out due to distance or poor network connectivity.

To help residents of remote villages like Jabdi which lacks mobile network coverage for online registration, a special camp has been set up at Toli with the help of local Army authorities. Residents of Jabdi have been informed to visit the Toli camp to complete their registration.

Bankers' Meeting reviews PMEGP, JKREGP Performance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: A meeting of bankers was held Saturday at the Government Conference Hall, Sopore, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Dy. CEO), Kashmir Division (KD), to review the progress and performance of the PMEGP and JKREGP schemes.

The meeting was attended by Lead District Managers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, and Directors of RSETIs from Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts. Officers from J&K Grameen Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), along with a large number of Branch Managers of J&K Bank, also participated.

During the meeting, the performance of PMEGP and JKREGP was thoroughly deliberated upon, with particular focus on pending rectifications under PMEGP.

The participating bankers were directed to ensure the clearance of all pending rectifications under PMEGP by or before November 30, 2026, positively. Emphasis was laid on timely action and effective coordination to ensure smooth implementation of the schemes.

DC Shopian visits PARESHA Girls' Home, One Stop Centre (Sakhi) for Women

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, Saturday visited PARESHA, Child Care Institution (Girls' Home), Shopian, and the One Stop Centre (Sakhi) for Women at Heemal Administrative Complex, Old DC Office, Shopian, to assess the functioning, facilities and welfare services being provided at the institutions.

During his visit to PARESHA, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the girls residing at the institution. The girls introduced themselves and shared their interests, hobbies and future aspirations. He listened to their concerns, enquired about their basic needs and encouraged them to overcome life's challenges through education, hard work and perseverance, emphasising that their circumstances should never limit their aspirations.

Accompanied by the District Social Welfare Officer, Shopian, the DC inspected the accommodation, mess, classrooms, library and other facilities. He reviewed food quality, hygiene, the menu and mess roster, and directed proper cleanliness and upkeep of the campus.

The girls requested improved sports facilities, including an outdoor gym, a small playground and a badminton court. Taking note of their demands, the DC stressed the need to strengthen sports and recreational facilities to promote their physical fitness and overall development.

During his visit to the art and craft classroom, the girls showcased their creative work. Appreciating their talent, the DC encouraged innovative activities, particularly 'Waste to Wonder' projects using cardboard, sand art and other materials. He directed the concerned art and craft teacher to enhance the quality of their work, improve classroom furnishing and organise exhibitions to provide a platform for showcasing their creativity.

DC Pulwama launches Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0

GMK NEWS NETWORK



PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, Saturday launched the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0 at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Pulwama, emphasising the need for greater awareness and active youth participation in the collective effort to make the district tobacco-free.

During the launching ceremony, District Health Officer, Pulwama, presented a detailed presentation on the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), highlighting the district's achievements and ongoing interventions aimed at curbing tobacco consumption and strengthening enforcement of tobacco control regulations.

It was informed that 72 villages have so far been declared Tobacco-Free Villages in the district, while 651 schools have achieved compliance under the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI) guidelines. It was apprised that the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 4.0, is being implemented over a period of two months, focusing on intensifying public awareness regarding the harmful effects of tobacco, strengthening Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions, declaring atleast 42 more villages tobacco-free, and ensuring stricter enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC appreciated the Health Department for its efforts and ongoing interventions under the National Tobacco Control Programme. He stressed that the campaign should translate into tangible behavioural change through coordinated efforts of the Health Department, educational institutions, local bodies and other stakeholders to achieve the goal of a tobacco-free Pulwama.

On the occasion, the DC advised students against falling prey to peer pressure, curiosity and misleading influences that may lead to tobacco and other drug consumption. He urged them to make informed choices, adopt healthy lifestyles and act as ambassadors of the tobacco-free campaign within their families, educational institutions and communities.

DLSA Srinagar settles 18,856 Cases in Special Lok Adalat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In compliance to the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Traffic Challans, other civil cases and Negotiable Instruments, Act, 1881 Cases which was held under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, thrrr benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Mohammad Ishtiyaq Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate Srinagar, along with Tasneem Kawoos City Munsiff, Srinagar asmember. 2nd bench was presided over by Junaid Imtiyaz Mir Sub-Judge Srinagar, and Iram Irtiza , 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar as member and 3rd bench was presided over by Mufti Nahida, Additional Spl. Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Panthachowk (Incharge), along with Advocate Sameena Ramzan as member.

A total number of19,204 Cases including traffic challanswere taken up by these benches for amicable settlement, out of which 18,856 Cases were settled.

Progress of Dev Works under CAPEX Budget 2026-27 reviewed in Kupwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Ghulam Rasool Chodhary, Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of developmental works being executed under the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27.

During the meeting, the ADDC undertook a detailed department-wise and work-wise review of the ongoing projects and took stock of the progress achieved so far. He directed all concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of all approved works within the stipulated timelines.

Emphasizing the importance of quality and accountability, the ADDC stressed that all developmental works must be executed strictly in accordance with the prescribed technical specifications and quality standards. He also called for regular field inspections and effective monitoring of the projects to ensure transparency, accountability and optimal utilization of public funds.

The ADDC reviewed the progress of works across various sectors and funding components, including PRI Grants, BDC Grants, DDC Grants, Elementary and Secondary Education, Health, APDS, ABDS, SSY, UT CAPEX (Tribal), UT CAPEX (Revenue), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and MPLADS.

Sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow inaugurated at 57th IFFI

Secy, Min of I&B Chanchal Kumar urges young filmmakers to draw inspiration from their culture

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GOA: The sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT), an initiative of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting implemented by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), was inaugurated Saturday at Kala Academy, Goa, as part of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The initiative brings together 100 young creative talents from across India, providing them a platform to collaborate, showcase their skills and gain industry exposure.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, along with Shri Prabhat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Loukik Parakh, Registrar, FTII, K. K. Nirala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, G. Krishnakumar, Chairman, NFDC and Shri Gautam Bhanot, General Manager, NFDC.

Addressing the gathering, Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, stated that each participant was present because they had already made their mark, and the next 48 hours would provide them an opportunity to turn that talent into a film.

He observed that roots are drawn from culture, language and experiences, while dreams emerge from imagination, curiosity and the courage to try something new. Referring to French philosopher Joseph Joubert, he noted that imagination helps one dream, learning the craft gives those dreams direction, and roots give stories their voice.

He urged the participants to draw inspiration from their origins, without limiting the reach of their stories. A story originating from a small village in India, if narrated with honesty, can resonate with audiences across the world, he added.

He further emphasised that cinema is a collaborative art form and called upon the participants to listen to one another, trust their teammates, experiment, take creative risks and enjoy the process. He concluded by urging them to carry their roots, allow their imagination to fly, and present their stories to the world.

A key highlight of the inaugural ceremony was the formal launch of the 48-Hour Filmmaking Challenge. The Secretary ceremonially clapped the customised film slate, marking the commencement of the sixth edition of the challenge.

The 2026 cohort comprises 100 participants representing 13 filmmaking crafts, including direction, acting, cinematography, editing and subtitling, scriptwriting, playback singing, music composition, sound recording, costume design, hair and makeup, art direction, animation, visual effects (VFX), augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and voice-over and dubbing.

Conducted by the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, in collaboration with NFDC, the 48-Hour Filmmaking Challenge will see participants in 5 teams work together to conceptualise and produce short films within a 48-hour production window. The completed films will be specially screened at IFFI and evaluated by an eminent jury of film industry professionals.

Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh undertakes first district visit to Reasi

Reviews key infrastructure and development projects in Katra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In his first visit to a district after assuming charge as Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav Saturday visited District Reasi to undertake an on-ground assessment of the developmental scenario and review the progress of key infrastructure projects, with particular focus on Katra, the prominent base camp for pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

On his visit the Chief Secretary was accompanied by DC, Reasi, Kumar Abhishek; SSP Reasi; SP, Reasi and other senior officers from the District administration.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary took stock of several ongoing and proposed projects aimed at strengthening urban infrastructure, improving connectivity, augmenting public transport facilities and enhancing sanitation arrangements in Katra.

The Chief Secretary also fixed specific timelines for completion of each of the projects and directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed deadlines. He instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, to undertake close and rigorous weekly monitoring of the progress of each project and ensure that any bottlenecks impeding their execution are promptly addressed.

Cautioning the officers against delays and any compromise in the quality of works, Dr Yadav made it clear that failure to meet the stipulated timelines or adhere to prescribed quality standards would invite strict disciplinary action against the officers concerned.

The projects reviewed included the ongoing construction of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Tan Talab by the Katra Municipal Committee, aimed at strengthening scientific solid waste management and ensuring more efficient handling and processing of municipal waste.



He also reviewed the ongoing restoration works on National Highway-44, including slope protection measures being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD), which are critical for ensuring road safety, improving the resilience of this vital highway stretch and facilitating smoother movement of pilgrims and other commuters.

Taking stock of the proposed transport infrastructure, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status of the upcoming Inter-Modal Transport Station at Katra, being taken up by the Urban Development Department, besides the proposed upgradation of the Katra Bus Stand by the PWD. These projects are envisaged to improve passenger convenience, streamline traffic movement and strengthen transport facilities in view of the substantial pilgrim and tourist footfall witnessed by the town throughout the year.

The Chief Secretary also assessed the status of sanitation-related works, including the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP), underscoring the importance of strengthening sewage management and ensuring a clean, hygienic and environmentally sustainable urban environment in this high footfall area of the UT.

He further reviewed the progress of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra (DAK) Expressway, which is in its final phase of completion. The expressway is expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity, reduce travel time and provide a major impetus to pilgrimage and tourism-related economic activity by improving access to Katra.

Emphasising the strategic importance of Katra as one of Jammu & Kashmir's foremost religious tourism destinations, the Chief Secretary underscored that infrastructure development in the town must keep pace with its growing pilgrim footfall.

He observed that improved road connectivity, efficient public transport, scientific waste management, effective sewage treatment and better civic amenities are essential for ensuring a safe, comfortable and seamless experience for pilgrims and visitors in addition to the overall development of this area.

FDA continues enforcement drive, 127 inspections conducted

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, continued its enforcement drive across all the districts to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and to safeguard public health.

During the drive, 127 inspections were conducted and 39 food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis. As part of the enforcement action againsts violations of food safety, hygiene and sanitary requirements, the licenses/registrations of seven Food Business Establishments were suspended until further orders and compliance with the deficiencies observed during inspection. These include M/s Jan Sweets, Hazoori Bagh, Srinagar; Bakery Manufacturing Unit of M/s Mughal Darbar, Residency Road, Srinagar; M/s Cottage Inn Restaurant, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Madina Sunrise Poultry, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Madina Zaika Biryani, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Orbit Restaurant, New Pulwama; and M/s NFS Poultry, Mandli, Tehsil Billawar, M/s Delhi Ki Mashoor Biryani, Vijaypur, Samba, and M/s Restaurant NAZ, Vijaypur, Samba.

During the inspections, approximately 35 kg of sweets found stored under temperature-abuse conditions were destroyed on the spot to prevent their sale and consumption. In a separate action, notices were served upon six Food Business Operators engaged in the processing and sale of momos at Hawal, directing them to suspend operations until the observed sanitary and hygienic deficiencies are rectified.

The FDA, J&K, will also undertake a dedicated awareness and handholding programme for the concerned operators to facilitate compliance with prescribed food safety, hygiene and sanitation requirements.

The FDA also initiated legal proceedings against violators, including three cases under Section 56, three cases under Section 58 and three cases compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. A compounding fee of ₹3,000 was realized in the cases compounded under the Act.

As part of measures aimed at ensuring transparency, traceability and informed consumer choice, Food Business Operators (FBOs) dealing in non-vegetarian food preparations were directed to prominently display clear and accurate information regarding the type of meat used, including mutton, beef or chicken; whether the meat used is fresh or frozen; and the ingredients used in the preparation of non-vegetarian food items. The FBOs were further instructed to ensure that such information is accurately stated, prominently displayed on menus and Food Safety Display Boards, and readily accessible to consumers to enable them to make informed choices.

Weapons meant only for anti-national elements, not to threaten civilians: CRPF IG

REHAN QAYOOM



SRINAGAR: Stating that weapons carried by security personnel are meant only for dealing with anti-national elements and not to threaten civilians, Inspector General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Srinagar Sector Pawan Kumar Sharma on Saturday said that the force is carrying out its duties effectively across Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the fourth edition of the CRPF T20 Cricket Cup in Srinagar, Sharma, said, "Security forces are working together effectively in Kulgam and gradually achieving success."

"Our weapons are solely for safety. Having weapons does not mean anything else. Weapons are only for anti-national elements," he added.

On the Kulgam situation, Sharma said, "Whatever work we need to do in Kulgam, we are doing it. Working together effectively with the Army, the civil police and all our intelligence agencies, our force is carrying out the work that needs to be done wherever required. Gradually, we are achieving a lot of success."

Meanwhile, IG Sharma said the CRPF would continue strengthening its engagement with local youth through sports and other civic action programmes.

He said the force has been organising cricket and football tournaments under its Civic Action Programme for the past four years to build stronger ties with young people.

This year, the CRPF received more than 130 entries and selected 16 teams for the week-long cricket tournament, he said, adding that public participation and cooperation have been encouraging.

Sharma said a similar football tournament would be organised in the first week of December, with four teams each from Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts participating.

He also urged young people to keep learning and create opportunities rather than depend solely on seeking jobs, emphasising sustained engagement with the younger generation—(KNO)

J&K Bank opens branch at Pallanwala in Jammu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Bringing banking services closer to residents and businesses in Pallanwala and adjoining areas near the Indo-Pak border, J&K Bank today opened a branch at Thanger Chowk.

MLA Chhamb Satish Sharma inaugurated the branch in the presence of General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, Deputy General Manager Chandrika Parihar, Cluster Head Nidhi Jamwal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Satish Sharma amid a gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens and local traders.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Satish Sharma complimented the Bank's leadership for expanding its reach and lauded the Bank's contribution to the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed hope that the new branch would make everyday banking more convenient for residents and improve access to credit for local traders, farmers and aspiring entrepreneurs.

He also urged the Bank to expand its branch network in rural areas so that more households, farmers and small businesses can access banking and credit facilities closer to home.

General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta said the commissioning of the branch reflected the Bank's focus on extending its network to locations where physical presence can make a tangible difference in the lives of people of the area.

He said the branch would cater to the sensitive area's banking and financial needs, with an emphasis on responsive service and guidance to help customers choose facilities suited to their needs.

J&K Govt approves ₹7.97 crore tourism resort at Kesri Hills in Rajouri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accorded administrative approval for the construction and establishment of a tourism resort at Kesri Hills in Budhal area of Rajouri district at an estimated cost of ₹7.97 crore.

The proposed tourism resort is aimed at strengthening tourism infrastructure in the Pir Panjal region and unlocking the tourism potential of the area, known for its scenic landscapes and rich natural and cultural heritage.

The initiative is expected to give a boost to tourism-related activities, create livelihood and employment opportunities for local residents, and provide visitors with improved facilities to explore the natural beauty of the region.

The project marks another step of the J&K Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah towards promoting lesser-explored tourist destinations and expanding the tourism footprint of Jammu and Kashmir beyond established tourist circuits.

Sagar holds public darbar at Nawa-e-Subah

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR : The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference General Secretary and Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar Saturday held a public darbar at the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subah, where various delegations, citizens, party leaders, and workers met him to apprise him of public issues and grievances.

Delegations highlighted concerns regarding electricity, the Revenue Department and other long-pending matters. Sagar listened to the issues and assured citizens that all genuine concerns would be brought to the notice of the relevant authorities for speedy redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, Sagar noted that despite the constraints of the UT system, the popular government led by the CM Omar Abdullah is working tirelessly for public welfare. He expressed hope that Jammu and Kashmir would soon regain statehood, enabling more effective governance.

Senior party functionaries, including Provincial President Showkat Ahmad Mir, MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, MLA Lal Chowk Ahsan Pardesi, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, Srinagar District President Peer Afaq Ahmad and YNC Provincial President Mir Mushtaq were also present.

Beyond Languages and Borders

Indian Panorama Celebrates the Diversity of Indian Cinema at 57th IFFI

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GOA: From the southernmost regions to the Northeast, Indian cinema draws its strength from a remarkable diversity of stories, cultures and creative expressions. Yet, beyond regional identities and cinematic styles, it is the shared human emotions that connect these stories with audiences across the country. Reflecting this diversity, the Indian Panorama 2026 Feature Film Jury, chaired by filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, shared his experience of selecting 25 films from 404 entries at a press conference held at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

Reflecting on the selection process, Madhur Bhandarkar said the jury encountered films spanning several genres and arrived at its decisions collectively. He described the experience as enriching, noting that film festivals offer opportunities to learn and gain new perspectives. Expressing confidence in the final selection, he said the jury was satisfied with the films chosen. He particularly recalled some Marathi, Ladakhi and Malayalam films that left a strong impression on the jury, describing them as mesmerising.

Emphasising the importance of originality and representation, senior columnist and jury member Bharathi Pradhan said the panel looked for films that retained their original ideas while bringing together perspectives from across the country. She expressed satisfaction that the selection had achieved pan-Indian representation. She also noted that the criteria for selecting films in the Mainstream Cinema section differed from those applied to the Indian Panorama Feature Film section.

For actor and jury member Bindu Chandramouli, watching films from different parts of the country was akin to experiencing international cinema. Despite the differences in languages, styles and genres, she observed a common thread of underlying emotions connecting the films. Encouraging audiences to explore cinema beyond their linguistic preferences, she urged Telugu viewers to remain open to films from different languages and appreciate diverse storytelling styles.

Cinematographer and jury member M. S. Prabhu described the experience as a virtual tour of India, reflecting the country's unity in diversity. As the jury watched films from different regions, connections between their stories and emotions became increasingly evident. He also appreciated the work of new directors, observing that the selection process itself had been a valuable learning experience.

Day 3 of World Heritage Week

Ex-Servicemen, Elderly citizens undertake Heritage Tour

GMK NEWS NETWORK



SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing week-long celebrations of World Heritage Week (November 19–25, 2026), the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir Division, organized a special heritage excursion and exhibition visit Saturday for a delegation of Ex-Servicemen and Elderly Citizens across prominent protected monuments and heritage sites of Srinagar District.

The tour featured guided visits to the historic Mughal Hamam, Nishat Garden, and other protected heritage monuments in Srinagar. Departmental officials accompanied the delegation throughout the tour, briefing the veterans and senior citizens on the architectural brilliance, historical significance, and ongoing conservation and restoration measures undertaken to safeguard Kashmir's tangible cultural legacy.

Following the monument visits, the delegation arrived at the Exhibition Hall and Art Gallery, Shergarhi Complex (Old Secretariat), Srinagar, where they were warmly welcomed by the Administrative Officer of the Department and the Assistant Director, Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums (Kashmir Division).

During the interactive session at the venue, the officers apprised the visiting veterans and senior citizens about the objective and significance of the Week-Long Heritage Exhibition, showcasing rare historic manuscripts, archival records, treaties, and significant historical documents preserved for posterity. The delegation also witnessed a Live Calligraphy Demonstration, where skilled calligraphers displayed diverse traditional styles and artistic techniques, drawing deep appreciation from the guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the departmental officers highlighted that involving senior citizens and ex-servicemen in heritage outreach dialogue, honors their lifetime of service, and strengthens collective community toward preserving Jammu & Kashmir's rich historical and cultural heritage.

The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums invites students, scholars, and the general public to visit the ongoing exhibition and live calligraphy sessions at Shergarhi Complex, open daily from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM till November 25, 2026.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Children First, Always

The government's move to consider winter vacations for students from nursery to Class 5 is welcome, but the decision should not be delayed. Kashmir's harsh winter makes early morning school attendance difficult, particularly for small children who are more vulnerable to cold-related illnesses. Parents know the difficulties their children face when they have to leave home in freezing temperatures, often before daylight.

The Education Minister has rightly acknowledged concerns about cough, fever and throat and chest infections among young students. But concern must translate into timely action. There is little sense in keeping young children in classrooms when the weather outside makes their journey to school uncomfortable and potentially harmful. A few days of academic adjustment will not hurt anyone, but compromising children's health certainly can.

The minister's remarks on private schools also touch upon an issue that has troubled parents for years. Complaints about donations, additional charges and unnecessary textbooks are not new. Every academic session, parents find themselves struggling with demands that often go beyond the prescribed fee structure. For many families, educating their children has become an increasingly expensive responsibility.

Private schools are free to introduce additional learning material and offer supplementary education. But there is a clear difference between recommending extra books and forcing parents to purchase them. The same applies to donations and other unauthorised collections. No institution should be allowed to turn education into a business of extracting money from parents under different pretexts.

The government has said that strict action will follow wherever violations are found. That is reassuring, but parents have heard such assurances before. What they need is enforcement, not announcements. The Education Department must ensure that complaints are addressed promptly and that schools violating official directions are held accountable.

Ultimately, both issues are about putting children and their families first. Young students should not be exposed to unnecessary health risks in the name of academic discipline, nor should their parents be burdened with unjustified expenses. Education is a responsibility, not a commercial bargain. The government must ensure that schools remain places of learning and care, rather than sources of anxiety for children and their parents.

Good Morning Kashmir

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B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001
Printed at:
Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar
Published From:
Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023
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Step Towards Equality

Greater Access For Women In Rural, Remote Areas



ADFAR MUSHTAQ



Women have an important role to play in supporting both their families and their communities. They do housekeeping, farm chores, run small businesses, and take care of their children. In spite of their contribution, many women are still unable to access basic services like healthcare, employment, transportation, and digital technology, as well as education, in rural and remote places. Access to these essentials is part of the important steps towards gender equality and inclusive development.

Education & Equal Opportunities

Education is the first step towards an independent future for many girls in the villages. They feel they need to finish their education, go to work and make choices for themselves. But the route is not always smooth. Schools and colleges can be distant and it can be difficult to attend due to the lack of safe and affordable transport. Some girls are also unable to continue their schooling as a result of financial constraints and negative social norms.

Women gain confidence, knowledge of their rights and the option to make informed choices through access to education. Government departments and the community should collaborate to enhance educational facilities, offer scholarships and ensure that girls can be transported safely. No girl should be denied the opportunity to learn based on her financial situation or the place where she lives.

Access to Healthcare

Another key issue for women in rural areas is health care. Some are forced to walk long distances to access a hospital or get the advice of a qualified doctor. Access to healthcare during pregnancy and childbirth may be delayed and create a risk to the health of the mother and/or the child.

etter Local Health Centres, regular health check-ups, deploying trained health workers and mobile medical services can help with these challenges. Women require correct and accessible information on nutrition and sanitary needs, reproductive health and mental health. Women can receive timely medical counseling and treatment, if needed, by using the right facilities to ensure their health is maintained.

They feel they need to finish their education, go to work and make choices for themselves. But the route is not always smooth. Schools and colleges can be distant and it can be difficult to attend due to the lack of safe and affordable transport.

Livelihoods and economic independence

Women play an important role in rural agriculture, livestock care, and home management and farm-related enterprises. Many of these activities are uncompensated or under-compensated. While many women have skills and entrepreneurial talents, they may not have access to vocational training, cheap credit, markets and professional advice.

Small and women's self-help groups, financial support and opportunities to sell products can help women to develop their skills into sustainable livelihoods. A woman should be able to access the tools necessary to do anything she wants: start up a tailoring shop, sell handcrafted goods, enhance farming or launch a small business.

Financial autonomy can also enhance a woman's role in family decision-making. Earning an income and gaining more control over finances opens more opportunities for women to contribute to their families and communities.

Solutions to the Digital Divide

Digital access is becoming a growing part of the education process, the job market and everyday life. The internet can provide rural women with access to online learning, employment, government services, health information and markets for their products. But the price of devices, unreliable internet connections, and lack of computer skills still pose challenges.

Digital literacy programmes can be utilized to equip women with the skills needed to operate a smartphone, access online services, make digital transactions and advertise their business on social media. Improved connectivity and affordable internet is also crucial factor. Women should be able to access and use technology with confidence and safety, without having to suffer the consequences of their geographical isolation.

Safety, Mobility and Social Support

Women's access to opportunities is also dependent on their ability to travel safely. Their movement may be limited by unsafe roads, lack of public transport, poor road infrastructure, and poor lighting and street conditions. Better transport and safer public spaces can enable women to complete their education, go to their medical appointments or work.

It is also the responsibility of families and communities to promote girls' aspirations. Their interests and abilities should be considered when making decisions about education, careers and personal development, not their gender stereotype.

Equality can't be brought about by improving infrastructure alone. There is a need to change social attitudes as well. Girls' views should be encouraged; they should be included in decisions and given the opportunity to do more than they are expected. Men and boys are equally important in combating discrimination and promoting women's rights.

A Shared Responsibility

This requires a multi-sectoral collaboration between governments, education, health care systems, NGOs and communities to promote access for women to essential services. Policies and welfare programmes have the potential to make a difference if they are targeted at the women who need them most.

Equally, the services need to be affordable, accessible and effective. A health centre would be of little value if women cannot access it. Without access to markets and/or financial support, the training cannot do what it was designed to do. Likewise, if women are unable to access a reliable internet connection, and not skilful enough in its use, they cannot benefit from digital services.

The development efforts need to be directed towards overcoming practical impediments which hinder women's access to opportunities available.

It is time for a different approach to girls' futures: one based on their abilities, interests and aspirations and not on their address or their family's financial status. She should be able to learn, work, make decisions and live her life with dignity. The limits of her ambitions should not be set by her circumstances.

Providing basic services is not enough to provide access for females in rural and remote areas. It involves eliminating obstacles to their decision-making and allowing them to engage in social and economic life without any limitations. Girls' education means mothers' access to health care and women's access to income means families and communities benefit.

A society can't be inclusive if there are avoidable barriers preventing a large proportion of the population from accessing development. It is important to ensure that there are equal opportunities for the rural women, as it is fair, and it is an investment to the future. Real progress will be accomplished when a woman's opportunities are based on her capacity and not her location.

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Drug Addiction

Are We Listening Before We Judge?



HUSAIB SHAHZAD



The growing drug menace in Kashmir is no longer an issue that can be ignored or treated merely as a law-and-order problem. It is a serious social concern that threatens our younger generation, families and the future of our society. While we frequently discuss drug trafficking, police action and government initiatives, there is another side of this problem that deserves equal attention: the circumstances that lead individuals towards drug addiction.

During my time in court, I came across several individuals involved in drug use. What caught my attention was that behind many of these cases, there appeared to be a personal struggle, depression, unemployment, family problems or other difficult circumstances. I realised that understanding addiction requires looking beyond the individual and examining the circumstances surrounding their life. Some individuals even shared that they were initially offered drugs for free. Gradually, what began as an experiment turned into a habit and eventually developed into addiction.

This made me reflect on an important question: Are we, as a society, also responsible to some extent? Have we ever genuinely tried to understand why someone starts using drugs? Have we ever approached such a person and simply asked, "Brother, is everything alright? Are you going through something? What made you take this path?" I remember an incident that left a lasting impression on me. One day, I was sitting in my orchard when I heard the sound of grass moving nearby. When I went closer, I noticed a person. I gently called out to him and said, "Brother, don't run. I just want to talk to you. You must have had dreams and aspirations once. What happened? What brought you to this stage?" His response genuinely surprised me. He told me that he had initially started taking drugs for fun when he was studying in the eighth standard. Nobody stopped him, questioned him or tried to understand what was happening.

Gradually, it became a habit. I suggested that he seek medical help, but he expressed his fear that even there, he might become a subject of public discussion and humiliation. That conversation left me with a question that I still think about: Have we become so busy judging people that we have forgotten to ask them what went wrong in their lives?

Parents play an important role in preventing drug addiction. However, parenting should not be limited to providing education, financial support and material comforts. Children also need emotional support, proper guidance, attention and an environment where they can openly discuss their problems. Sometimes, parents remain unaware of the difficulties their children are experiencing. Changes in behaviour, unhealthy friendships, emotional distress and early exposure to harmful substances may go unnoticed.

Parents should make an effort to understand their children's social environment, listen to their concerns and maintain open communication. A child should never feel that sharing a personal problem with strangers is easier than discussing it with their own parents. At the same time, it would be unfair to hold parents solely responsible for every case of addiction. Peer pressure, unemployment, depression, social isolation and several other circumstances may contribute to substance use. This is why the issue requires collective attention.

From a legal perspective, India has a specific framework under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, to deal with offences involving narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Those involved in drug trafficking and the illegal supply of narcotic substances must face appropriate legal consequences. However, we must also recognise the difference between individuals involved in drug trafficking and those struggling with substance dependence. The latter need medical assistance, counselling, rehabilitation and an opportunity to rebuild their lives.

Social humiliation and rejection should not become additional obstacles to recovery. Our educational institutions, healthcare professionals, community organisations and government authorities must work together. Awareness programmes should not remain limited to occasional speeches and slogans. They must encourage meaningful conversations and early intervention.

I strongly believe that whenever something goes wrong in society, we should not always look for someone else to blame. We must also examine our own responsibilities, our silence and our negligence. How often do we ask a struggling young person what they are going through? How often do we offer guidance before a problem becomes serious? And how often do we reject someone without even understanding their circumstances?

Drug addiction is not a problem that can be solved through police action alone. It requires responsible parenting, effective law enforcement, accessible rehabilitation and a society willing to understand rather than simply condemn. Sometimes, a simple conversation, timely guidance or a little concern can make a difference in someone's life. Perhaps before asking why our youth are falling into drugs, we should ask ourselves whether we have done enough to prevent them from reaching that stage.

Our youth need opportunities, guidance and support. They deserve a society that protects them from exploitation and helps those who have already fallen into addiction find a way back. Saving our younger generation is not the responsibility of one institution or one individual. It is a responsibility we all share.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Mathematics Hidden In Nature

Is There A Secret Formula Behind The Universe?

From The Spiral Of A Sunflower To The Structure Of The Cosmos, Mathematics Reveals Extraordinary Patterns—But Is There Really One Number That Explains Everything?



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

A sunflower has never attended a mathematics class. It has never opened a textbook, studied geometry or solved an equation. Yet, look carefully at its golden face, and you may discover something astonishing. Its seeds form two families of interlocking spirals, sometimes numbering 34 in one direction and 55 in the other. These are not arbitrary numbers. They belong to a remarkable mathematical sequence that has fascinated scholars for centuries.

How does a flower, without intelligence or mathematical training, produce such an arrangement? Is nature secretly calculating? Or have we stumbled upon a mathematical principle that governs the universe?

These questions lead us into one of the most fascinating relationships between mathematics and the natural world. They also raise a deeper issue: how do we distinguish genuine scientific discovery from the temptation to find a magical formula behind everything? The answer is more beautiful—and more intellectually satisfying—than the popular myths suggest.

A Sequence That Seems Almost Too Simple

Consider the following numbers: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89… There is nothing particularly impressive about them at first glance. Each number is simply the sum of the two preceding numbers. One plus one gives two; one plus two gives three; two plus three gives five; and the process continues indefinitely.

This is the celebrated Fibonacci sequence. Its remarkable property emerges when we divide each number by the one preceding it. Eight divided by five gives 1.6. Thirteen divided by eight gives 1.625. Twenty-one divided by thirteen gives approximately 1.615. As we move further along the sequence, these ratios approach a fixed value: 1.6180339887… Mathematicians call this the Golden Ratio, represented by the Greek letter phi (φ). Its exact value is $(1 + \sqrt{5})/2$.

What makes this number special is not merely its decimal expansion but its extraordinary mathematical relationships. For instance, subtracting one from the Golden Ratio produces its reciprocal. This simple identity lies behind several elegant geometrical constructions and relationships involving growth and proportion. Yet the real fascination begins when we step outside the classroom.

When Mathematics Meets a Sunflower

Examine the centre of a sunflower, a pinecone or certain other plants. Their repeated structures often form beautifully organized arrangements. In many sunflowers, the numbers of visible spirals in opposite directions are consecutive Fibonacci numbers. The relationship is especially striking because the plant does not deliberately calculate these numbers. Instead, the pattern emerges through biological growth. A particularly important quantity is the Golden Angle, approximately 137.5 degrees.

Imagine placing successive points around a circle. Each new point is positioned about 137.5 degrees from the preceding one. Continue this process while allowing the points to move outward, and a remarkable arrangement develops. Because this angle avoids simple repeated alignment, the points spread around the centre instead of repeatedly occupying the same radial positions. Under suitable conditions, such arrangements can produce the spiral families familiar in sunflower heads. This does not mean that every sunflower follows an identical mathematical blueprint. Nor does it establish that the Golden Angle is universally optimal for every biological function. Plant development involves complicated interactions among growth, geometry, hormones and physical forces. The mathematics describes an important recurring pattern. Biology helps explain how that pattern emerges. That distinction is essential.

An Ancient Indian Connection

There is another fascinating dimension to this story, particularly for Indian readers. Although the sequence carries the name of the Italian mathematician Leonardo of Pisa, popularly known as Fibonacci, related mathematical ideas had appeared in India centuries earlier.

Indian scholars, including Virahanka, Gopala and Hemachandra, investigated combinations of long and short syllables in poetic metre. In counting the possible arrangements, they encountered the same recurrence principle: the number of possibilities at one stage could be obtained by adding the numbers from the preceding two stages. Here mathematics was not emerging from the arrangement of flower seeds but from the rhythm and structure of language.

This historical connection reminds us that mathematics is not the exclusive inheritance of one civilization. Its development has been enriched by different intellectual traditions, sometimes approaching the same mathematical structure through entirely different questions. A sequence associated with poetic composition can also help explain patterns in plant growth. That is a far more remarkable intellectual achievement than simply attaching a mysterious number to an attractive picture.

The Spiral That Captures Our Imagination

One of the most recognizable illustrations of the Golden Ratio is the golden spiral. Arrange squares whose side lengths



follow consecutive Fibonacci numbers, and draw a quarter-circle inside each square. The resulting curve approximates a special logarithmic spiral associated with the Golden Ratio. Its expanding form is visually compelling. Similar-looking spirals appear in seashells, storms and spiral galaxies. This resemblance has encouraged the popular claim that the Golden Ratio is the secret mathematical code of the universe. But here we must pause.

Similarity in appearance is not proof of mathematical identity.

Many seashells grow in approximately logarithmic spirals, but their growth ratios need not equal the Golden Ratio. Hurricanes develop spiral structures through atmospheric circulation, pressure differences and the Earth's rotation. Spiral galaxies acquire their forms through gravitational dynamics and other complex physical processes. These phenomena may share certain mathematical characteristics without obeying one identical equation or numerical proportion. Even the familiar spiral drawn through Fibonacci squares is an approximation rather than an exact golden logarithmic spiral. This distinction does not diminish the beauty of mathematics. It demonstrates the importance of mathematical precision.

Nature Is Mathematical, but It Is Not Magical

Social media frequently presents the Golden Ratio as the ultimate explanation of beauty, architecture, human anatomy and even the structure of the cosmos. Some videos place golden spirals over famous buildings, human faces, seashells or astronomical images and announce that the same hidden proportion has been discovered everywhere. Such demonstrations may be visually impressive. Scientifically, however, they require much stronger evidence. A spiral drawn over a photograph proves very little unless its dimensions and relationship to the underlying structure are independently measured. The appearance of 1.618 in a selected ratio does not establish a universal law. Nature does not possess a single compulsory proportion that every object must follow. Nevertheless, the persistence of mathematical patterns remains extraordinary.

Symmetry, branching, waves, spirals, fractals and repeated numerical relationships emerge in different natural systems. Sometimes they arise because of similar geometric constraints. Sometimes they result from particular physical laws or biological mechanisms. Occasionally, the resemblance is simply coincidental.

The task of science is to discover which explanation is correct. And this is where mathematics becomes truly powerful. Mathematics does not merely identify beautiful patterns; it allows us to test whether those patterns have a genuine underlying explanation.

Why Do Simple Rules Produce Such Complex Beauty?

Perhaps the most profound lesson of the Fibonacci sequence is that complexity does not always require complicated instructions. A rule as simple as adding two preceding numbers can generate a sequence with rich mathematical properties. Similarly, local interactions among growing plant structures can produce remarkably organized global patterns without any central directing intelligence. This principle extends far beyond the Golden Ratio.

Snowflakes acquire elaborate geometrical forms through the physical processes governing ice-crystal growth. River networks develop branching structures as water moves across landscapes. Patterns of waves arise from mathematical relationships involving energy, motion and interacting forces. In each case, comparatively simple physical principles can contribute to complicated and often beautiful outcomes. The universe need not be governed by one magical number for mathematics to reveal its extraordinary order.

Indeed, the existence of many mathematical structures, each relevant under particular conditions, is considerably more impressive than the claim that everything can be reduced to 1.618.

A Lesson Our Mathematics Classrooms Must Learn

There is an educational message here that deserves serious attention, particularly in India, where mathematics is too often reduced to examination preparation. Students memorize formulas, practise procedures and learn to produce correct answers. Yet many leave school without discovering why mathematics is intellectually exciting. A student may know how to calculate the value of a ratio but may never have examined the spiral arrangement of sunflower seeds. Another may solve an equation correctly without understanding how mathematical models help scientists study natural phenomena. This separation between mathematics and experience deprives education of its greatest opportunity.

Imagine a classroom where students begin with a sunflower rather than a formula. They count spirals, identify numerical patterns, test ratios and investigate why certain arrangements occur. They would discover that mathematics is not merely something written on a blackboard. It is a way of asking questions about reality. Equally important, they should learn to challenge exaggerated claims. If a photograph supposedly demonstrates the Golden Ratio, students should ask: What exactly was measured? How close is the result? Could another proportion fit equally well? Such questions cultivate reasoning, skepticism and intellectual independence. These are precisely the qualities education should develop.

The Real Secret Is More Profound

Is there, then, a secret mathematical formula behind the universe? If by that we mean a single number that determines every shape, every storm, every organism and every galaxy, the scientific answer is no. No credible evidence establishes the Golden Ratio as such a universal formula. But if we mean that the natural world contains discoverable relationships that mathematics can express, test and sometimes predict, the answer is an emphatic yes.

The greatest achievement of mathematics is not that it turns nature into a collection of numerical curiosities. It is that it allows the human mind to investigate phenomena far beyond ordinary intuition. Through mathematics, we can describe planetary motion, understand the behaviour of waves, investigate biological growth and explore the structure of matter. The Fibonacci sequence offers one beautiful window into that larger intellectual world. Its elegance should inspire curiosity, not unquestioning belief. Its appearance in nature should encourage investigation, not mathematical superstition.

A sunflower may never solve an equation, but its growth can reveal mathematical relationships that generations of researchers continue to investigate. And perhaps that is the most astonishing lesson of all. The universe does not need to hide one secret number to be mathematically beautiful. Its deeper wonder lies in the fact that a world of immense complexity can, in so many different ways, be understood through the extraordinary power of mathematics.

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Quad: A New Axis Of Power Balance?



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The Indo-Pacific region has become a center of global politics, where maritime security, trade interests, strategic competition, and the global balance of power are intertwined. China's growing military activity, maritime disputes, trade dependence, and the race for control of critical technologies have made the region strategically sensitive.

At this time, the Quad, a quadrilateral cooperation group comprising India, the United States, Japan, and Australia, has emerged as an important pillar of India's Indo-Pacific strategy. Its significance is not limited to mutual cooperation among the four countries, but also to the creation of a regional order that prioritizes freedom, respect for rules, economic security, and collective development. India's Indo-Pacific policy aims not to project power by becoming part of any military bloc, but to maintain balance, stability, and cooperation in the region. The Quad provides India with an opportunity to strengthen its maritime, economic, and technological capabilities.

The Indian Ocean is India's economic lifeline. The country's trade, energy supplies, and international connectivity depend on sea routes. The security of the Strait of Malacca, the Strait of



Hormuz, and major trade routes in the Indian Ocean is directly linked to India's economic interests. Any tension, disruption, or maritime insecurity in these areas could impact the Indian economy. Through the Quad, cooperation can be enhanced in maritime surveillance, information sharing, anti-piracy prevention, and safe navigation.

Another important aspect of the Quad is regional power balance. Disputes in the South China Sea, tensions over maritime boundaries, and unilateral actions increase security concerns for smaller countries. India supports a system in which all countries are free to exercise their rights in accordance with international rules. The Quad provides a collective voice to this vision. Through it, India can advocate for regional peace, maritime freedom, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. This is also an opportunity to maintain balance amid China's growing influence, but India's policy should remain based on restraint and diplomacy rather than confrontation.

The Quad also plays a vital role in economic security. Global crises, wars, and pandemics have made it clear that supply chains overly dependent on a few countries can weaken economies. Diversifying the supply of pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, rare minerals, energy, and technological equipment is no longer an economic imperative, but a national security necessity. Quad cooperation can provide India with opportunities to expand its role in investment, manufacturing, new technologies, and global trade. This will help India develop not just as a market, but as a reliable hub of production and innovation.

Technological cooperation is a key pillar of the Quad's future strength. Joint efforts in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, telecommunications, clean energy, and digital infrastructure can enhance India's capabilities. Today, cyberattacks, communications disruptions, and the security of undersea communications cables are also part of national security. If India develops its research capabilities, technological self-reliance, and domestic industry through cooperation in these areas, this partnership will benefit its long-term interests. The humanitarian aspect of the Quad is no less important. The spirit of cooperation in disaster relief and humanitarian assistance following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami laid the foundation for this group. Today, climate change, cyclones, maritime accidents, pandemics, and natural disasters are common challenges facing the entire region.

Cooperation among Quad countries in providing relief materials, medical assistance, rescue operations, and rapid coordination during disasters can save many lives. India, given its geographical location, experience, and humanitarian assistance capabilities, can play an effective role in this region. Furthermore, the Quad helps deepen India's ties with ASEAN countries by strengthening India's Look East Policy. Yet, the Quad's path is not easy. The national interests and strategic priorities of the four countries do not always align. India places the highest importance on its independent foreign policy and strategic autonomy. It does not want to limit its decision-making to the influence of any single power. On the other hand, member countries' approaches to China also differ. Economic relations with China, regional trade, and diplomatic exigencies motivate many countries to adopt a balanced approach. This is why building a common consensus within the Quad and translating it into effective action can be challenging.

Another challenge is that the Quad is not a formal military alliance. Its decisions are not binding, and there are limited clear implementation mechanisms for cooperation. If meetings, declarations, and joint statements do not translate into concrete results, its credibility could be compromised. Furthermore, China's hostile response and the sensitivities of regional countries could limit the Quad's expansion and influence. Therefore, India must ensure that the Quad does not project the image of a confrontational grouping, but rather respects the development, security, and independent decision-making of regional countries.

The path forward for India is clear. The Quad should deliver results in practical areas such as maritime security, disaster management, technical cooperation, economic partnerships, and strengthening supply chains. While respecting the central role of ASEAN, the needs of smaller and developing countries should also be prioritized. The value of cooperation should be determined not by mere displays of power, but by the positive changes it brings to the lives of regional countries.

The Quad is both an opportunity and a diplomatic test for India. India must maintain an independent foreign policy while strengthening its maritime power, economic capabilities, and technological advancement. Its true success lies not in aligning with any bloc, but in establishing regional peace and balance while protecting its national interests. If the Quad becomes a vehicle for cooperation, trust, and shared development, it can become the foundation of stability in the Indo-Pacific region. India's role should be that of a country maintaining this balance, not merely a participant in any competition. This will be the hallmark of India's strategic maturity and global leadership.

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

DISCLAIMER: IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

CM Urges Graduates

its tourism potential, he encouraged them to engage with the region as investors, educators, and innovators.

"When young professionals from Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai collaborate with young minds from Srinagar and Jammu, we strengthen the fabric of the nation," he said.

The Chief Minister also shared five guiding principles with the graduating students, emphasising the importance of listening before leading, creating opportunities for others, exercising strategic patience, maintaining uncompromising integrity, and nurturing lifelong curiosity. He urged the graduates to view their degrees not merely as academic achievements, but as a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to society and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

During the convocation, IILM University conferred honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees (Honoris Causa) upon three distinguished personalities—former Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Tata Motors Limited Ravi Kant, eminent educationist Dasho Arun Kapur, and Dr. V. L. Indira Dutt—alongside awarding doctoral degrees, Dr. Kulwant Rai Gold Medals, and certificates of merit to graduating scholars across various disciplines.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Nihar Amoncar delivered the Welcome Address, Chancellor P. Dwarakanath formally declared the Convocation open and addressed the gathering, and Chairperson Malvika Rai felicitated the Chief Guest.

'Winter Vacation

holidays for younger students.

On complaints regarding additional charges by private schools, the minister said the government had prohibited schools from imposing extra fees or compelling students to purchase prescribed books.

"Any extra fee, whether for books themselves — you have to buy this book — we have banned that. In the past days, we passed that order. And whatever extra fee there is, for extra books or on any pretext, we have passed an order that no school, whether private or government, this will not continue from now onwards. We have given complete instructions. If from any place, anyone complains, we will take action against them," she said.

Clarifying the government's position on textbooks, Firdous said private schools could use recommended books and provide additional educational material, but could not compel students to purchase extra books.

"They can teach them in a modern way, through net, or they can take one book and teach them sitting in the classroom. But they cannot force them to take extra books," she said.

The minister said people from farflung areas as well as Srinagar had visited her to express their appreciation and raise various public grievances concerning employment, drinking water, education, transfers, schools and infrastructure.Buy Maps

Responding to questions about pending files, funding, Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and other employees' issues, Firdous said the government was committed to addressing them.

"Work is the same, that is what we are sitting here for. We have not come here to sit with folded hands. Work will be done, Insha Allah. No one will have any complaint," she said. (GNS)

Dry Spell To

the period.

According to the weather bulletin, maximum temperatures during the past 24 hours remained 1-3 degrees Celsius above normal at several places in Kashmir division, while they were 1-4 degrees above normal at many places in Jammu division.

Kupwara recorded the highest maximum temperature in Kashmir division at 18 degrees Celsius, while Kathua was the warmest place in Jammu division at 27 degrees Celsius.

The minimum night temperatures also remained 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal at many places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

Pahalgam and Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir division at 0.4 degrees Celsius each, while Bhaderwah registered the lowest night temperature in Jammu division at 3.6 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius, against the normal of 0.7 degrees, while Qazigund settled at 2.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara at 0.8 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded 3.1 degrees Celsius.

Among other automatic weather stations, Shopian recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, Pulwama minus 0.5 degrees Celsius and Srinagar minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

The department said weather remained dry across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours till 8:30 am on Saturday, with no rainfall or snowfall recorded at the reporting stations.

The department has not issued any weather warning for Kashmir or Jammu divisions for the next seven days, with the warning-impact outlook remaining nil throughout the forecast period.

The MeT department has advised people to keep track of subsequent weather updates as temperatures are expected to fall towards the closing days of November—(KNO)

Health Min Warns

department's performance and functioning and that steps were being taken to address the staffing-related issues and strengthen its enforcement mechanism.

The health minister said the exposure of cases such as the alleged rotten meat scandal was also an indication that the department had been carrying out inspections and making efforts to ensure accountability.

"Such cases are coming to the fore because the department is working and efforts are being made to make the system accountable. We have to ensure that people get safe and quality food items, and there can be no leniency in matters concerning public health," she said.

Regarding the registration of FIRs and arrests of those allegedly involved, the minister said the Food Safety Department had already communicated with the police, as further legal action in these matters fell within the police domain.

"Whatever was required to be done by our department has been done, and we have also written to the police regarding the registration of FIRs and arrests. We hope the police will take necessary action against those involved," she said.

Itoo appealed to the public to remain vigilant and immediately inform the concerned authorities if they noticed the sale of suspicious, spoiled or unsafe food items.

She said Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across districts had also been directed to keep a close watch on such activities and ensure immediate intervention whenever complaints or reports of food safety violations were received.

The administration, she said, had been instructed to respond promptly to such complaints and take necessary action to prevent the sale and distribution of unsafe food products.

"Protecting public health remains a priority," the minister said, adding that strict measures would continue against anyone found compromising food safety norms—(KNO)

DIPR Represents

promoting local talent and creating opportunities for artists, technicians, filmmakers and other professionals associated with the creative industry.

Secretary I&B was also briefed about the potential of leveraging cinema as an effective instrument for tourism promotion, cultural preservation, employment generation and economic development. The discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between the Government, film industry stakeholders, production houses and local creative professionals to further expand the region's presence on the national and international cinematic landscape.

The Jammu & Kashmir Stall serves as an important platform to showcase the region's cinematic possibilities, promote its diverse filming destinations and engage with filmmakers, producers, industry representatives and other stakeholders attending the prestigious festival.

Through its participation at IFFI, DIPR is seeking to highlight Jammu & Kashmir's potential beyond its scenic appeal, positioning the region as an emerging hub for film production, creative expression and cinematic enterprise.

The participation also reflects the Government's broader vision of harnessing the film and entertainment industry to promote tourism, generate employment, encourage local talent and create new avenues of economic activity in Jammu & Kashmir.

HC Pulls Up

vehicles.

The directions, also require weekly compliance and enforcement reports to be submitted to the Transport Commissioner. The High Court observed that compliance reports sought through its August 10 order were still awaited from the Transport Commissioner, J&K Legal Services Authority, Transport Department and Traffic Police.

Allowing more time to the respondents to submit compliance details, the High Court said it reserves the discretion to issue further directions to make the PIL more effective and ensure a sense of safety and security for women commuters. The matter has been listed for further hearing on December 23, 2026—(KNO)

UP Making

for the slow progress.

PM Modi also questioned predictions of a major cooking gas crisis, saying the feared disruption never happened.

Turning to concerns about artificial intelligence and its potential impact on employment, he said technological advancements would not eliminate opportunities for people equipped with relevant skills.

"AI will do this, AI will do that, AI will take away this person's job or that person's job. But understand this point of mine very clearly: no one can take away the job of a person who possesses skill," he said.

On poverty reduction, PM Modi described the lifting of 50 crore people out of poverty since Independence as one of India's major achievements. He said access to essential facilities and efforts to strengthen the economic position of poorer sections were important to the country's ambition of becoming a developed nation.

PM Modi said the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' would depend significantly on improving the living standards and opportunities available to disadvantaged sections.

The Prime Minister also announced that India would host the WorldSkills Asia competition in 2027, with Greater Noida selected as the venue. He said participants from across Asia and other parts of the world would attend the event.

Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's infrastructure expansion, PM Modi said the state had developed an extensive expressway network and was increasingly earning recognition for its road connectivity.

"The people of Uttar Pradesh proudly say that Uttar Pradesh is the 'Expressway Pradesh'," he said—(KNO)

NCB Busts

from a resident of Bhaderwah in Doda district.

NCB Jammu registered a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and the follow-up investigation in the Kashmir Valley led to the apprehension of the suspected principal recipient, a resident of Anantnag district, he said.

He further said the NCB Jammu and NCB Delhi, pursuing the supply links in Delhi, apprehended two more persons and recovered 356 bottles of CBCS on November 18.

The spokesman said further enquiries led to a clandestine godown operating from rented premises in Shahdara, Delhi.

Searches on November 18 and 19 yielded more than Five Lakh tablets, capsules and bottles of pharmaceutical preparations containing tramadol hydrochloride, alprazolam, nitrazepam and codeine, he said.

In line with the network-centric enforcement approach of the vision document on Narcotics Control, the NCB is tracing the seized CBCS back through the supply chain to establish where and how it was diverted and who facilitated the diversion, the spokesman said.

He said investigators are pursuing leads on upstream suppliers and downstream distributors and examining the financial links that sustain the network.

"The objective is to stop replenishment at source and dismantle the distribution and financing arrangements that enable the network to operate," the NCB said, appealing to citizens to share credible information on drug trafficking and diversion confidentially through the national narcotics helpline MANAS (1933), in support of 'Nasha Mukt Bharat'.

70.03% Turnout

conduct of polling across Ladakh's geographically dispersed areas. In Zanskar, helicopter services were deployed to airlift polling teams to three remote and road-inaccessible polling stations, enabling the conduct of elections in some of the most isolated settlements.

Polling personnel, security agencies and officials of various departments worked in close coordination to facilitate the electoral process, including the transportation of election materials, deployment of polling teams and provision of necessary facilities at polling stations.

The elections mark an important step towards the constitution of elected Panchayats and Municipal Councils across Ladakh. These institutions will provide representative platforms for addressing local development priorities, civic amenities and public services.

The people of Ladakh have expressed their conviction through the ballot. The overwhelming participation in the first local-body elections since the formation of the Union Territory marks a significant milestone in Ladakh's democratic journey, laying a strong foundation for democratic decentralisation, representative institutions, participatory governance and accountable local self-government





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Beyond the Screen

IFFI 2026 Brings India's Cinematic Legacy to Printed Page

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GOA: Cinema captures the imagination of generations, reflecting society, preserving memories and shaping cultural identities. Beyond the moving images on screen, books play an equally important role in documenting the ideas, creative processes and journeys that shape the cinematic landscape. Recognising this significance, the Publications Division released two books at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026, celebrating different dimensions of India's cinematic heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, emphasised the importance of documenting the creative journeys behind films and preserving India's rich cinematic heritage for posterity. He observed that cinema is not merely a medium of entertainment but also a reflection of society, the spirit of different generations and evolving ideas. "Films tell us a story. Books on cinema help us understand how these stories came to life," he said, highlighting how publications offer valuable insights into the experiences of filmmakers, the evolution of cinematic techniques and the ideas that have shaped Indian cinema.

The two books released on the occasion were Cinema: Vividh Aayam, compiled by Rajendra Bhatt, and Awtar Kaul: The (In)Complete Story, authored by Vinod Kaul. While the former brings together important writings and perspectives on cinema, making them accessible to Hindi readers, the latter documents the life and unfinished creative legacy of filmmaker Awtar Kaul.

Referring to Cinema: Vividh Aayam, Chanchal Kumar appreciated the collection of writings by filmmakers and scholars, offering insights into celebrated films, filmmaking and world cinema. He particularly appreciated the effort to make these works accessible to Hindi readers. Speaking about Awtar Kaul: The (In) Complete Story, he recalled the legacy of filmmaker Awtar Kaul, whose only film, 27 Down (1974), became a landmark of Indian New Wave cinema.

Congratulating the Publications Division, Rajendra Bhatt, Vinod Kaul and all those associated with the publications, the Secretary expressed hope that the books would inspire students, filmmakers and cinema enthusiasts to explore India's cinematic heritage more deeply.

Kanchan Prasad, Director General, Publications Division, highlighted the Division's longstanding association with cinema and its role in documenting India's cultural and creative heritage. Observing that while cinema captures moments in time, books ensure that these moments are preserved, she spoke about the Division's efforts to document creative journeys, preserve stories and celebrate the contributions of those who have shaped India's cultural identity.

Rajendra Bhatt elaborated on the editorial journey behind Cinema: Vividh Aayam, explaining how the Publications Division took forward the initiative of bringing important writings on cinema to Hindi readers.

The session was moderated by Smita Vats Sharma, Director General, Press Information Bureau, in the presence of Prabhat, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Dr. K. K. Nirala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Awtar Kaul: The (In) Complete Story: Authored in English by Vinod Kaul, the book chronicles the life and unfinished legacy of filmmaker Awtar Kaul through letters, photographs, memories and conversations. His only film, 27 Down (1974), became a milestone of Indian New Wave cinema and won the National Film Award. The award was announced on the very day he tragically drowned in Mumbai at the age of 34 while attempting to save a friend.

Cinema: Vividh Aayam: Compiled in Hindi by Rajendra Bhatt, this anthology brings together adapted articles and dialogues from FTII's magazine Lensight. It offers insights into film history, cinematography, world cinema and the creative processes behind filmmaking, bringing diverse perspectives on cinema to a wider Hindi readership.

PG, senior resident doctors' stir intensifies; more hospitals to join from Nov 23

JAHANGEER GANAIE



SRINAGAR: The agitation by postgraduate (PG) and senior resident doctors demanding enhancement of stipends, parity with other States and Union Territories and implementation of maternity leave benefits intensified across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with more medical institutions expected to join the protest from November 23.

The protest entered its second consecutive day at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and third day at GMC Jammu, while doctors from other institutions extended support. The protesting doctors are seeking revision of their monthly stipends, alleging significant disparity between the remuneration offered to resident doctors in Jammu and Kashmir and several other parts of the country.

AIMSA representatives, including Chief Advisors and PG residents Dr Muyeen Ahsan, Dr Sushant and Dr Mohammad Hussain from GMC Srinagar, participated in the protest, while Dr Abhimanyu Manhas, Dr Abhishek Mittal, Dr Sanah Javaid and Dr K.R. Jaipal from GMC Jammu and Dr Rajat Mishra and Dr Owais Khan from GMC Baramulla extended solidarity.

Dr Manhas, Vice President of the RDA GMC Jammu, reiterated the decision to suspend routine ward duties, OPD services and elective operation theatre lists as part of the agitation.

AIMSA President J&K Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, cautioned authorities against any attempt to intimidate or take retaliatory action against protesting doctors, maintaining that demands concerning fair remuneration, maternity benefits and professional welfare were legitimate and should not be equated with indiscipline.

Dr Ravi, a DNB resident at JLNM Hospital Rainawari, said DNB residents were receiving Rs 48,000 per month and would join the protest from November 23. Dr Yamin, a PG resident at District Hospital Pulwama, announced that doctors in district hospitals would also join from that date.

Amid the growing agitation, several Government Medical Colleges issued communications to resident doctors emphasising the need to maintain academic schedules and patient-care services.

GMC Srinagar's Postgraduate Department of Anatomy directed postgraduate scholars and senior residents to ensure teaching and academic activities were not affected, asking them to conduct scheduled classes, practical sessions and seminars as per timetable and make alternative arrangements if unable to perform duties.

GMC Baramulla issued a circular prohibiting postgraduate students, DNB candidates and senior residents from participating in strikes, referring to undertakings submitted at the time of admission and warning that violations could invite action under applicable rules.

GMC Anantnag issued a circular referring to the Essential Services Maintenance Act, stating healthcare services fall under essential services and disruptions affecting public health could invite disciplinary consequences. Referring to the NMC's Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, it stated that leave exceeding the permissible limit would lead to an equivalent extension of the training period. It also cited the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, cautioning that professional misconduct could be referred to the Medical Council. On stipend enhancement, the administration said the matter fell within the jurisdiction of the Administrative Department.

Meanwhile, AIMSA and the RDA criticised the directives, arguing that the concerns raised by resident doctors require meaningful engagement rather than administrative pressure. Dr Momin Khan questioned the approach adopted by institutions, maintaining that doctors were seeking fair stipend structures and maternity leave benefits rather than special concessions.

The associations urged the government to initiate dialogue with protesting doctors to prevent further escalation, appealing to the J&K Government, Health and Medical Education Department and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to hold discussions and formulate a time-bound mechanism for resolving their demands, while stressing that patients should not suffer due to the standoff—(KNO)

100 girl trekkers embark on 5-day Pahalgam Trekking Camp from Kulgam

Initiative aims to promote adventure sports, leadership among young girls



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, Saturday flagged off a group of over 100 young girl trekkers from the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, for a five-day trekking camp at Pahalgam, organised by the Youth Services and Sports Department, Kulgam.

The initiative is aimed at encouraging young girls to explore adventure sports, develop physical endurance and build confidence through outdoor activities. The camp will provide participants an opportunity to strengthen team spirit and develop a sense of discipline and self-reliance.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC appreciated the Youth Services and Sports Department for organising the programme and creating avenues for youth engagement through sports and adventure activities. He encouraged the participants to make the most of the camp and remain actively involved in sports and other constructive pursuits, while keeping away from social evils and negative influences.

He emphasised that such initiatives play an important role in promoting a healthy lifestyle and nurturing discipline, confidence, teamwork and a positive outlook among young people.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by ACR Kulgam, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Narinder Pal Singh, and other departmental officials.

JKEDI Pulwama concludes two MDP under RAMP

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, in collaboration with NRLM, successfully concluded two Management Development Programmes (MDP-13 and MDP-14) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at Aglar Drubgam, Pulwama.



The program trained the women entrepreneurs, providing them with structured, high-quality training aimed at enhancing their entrepreneurial skills and strengthening their business capabilities.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by the presence of Arif Khan, Reviewer; Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama; Sajad Ahmad Mir, Trainer and Showkat Rasool, Trainer.

While interacting with the participants, the dignitaries and faculty members highly appreciated JKEDI's efforts in organizing such impactful capacity-building programmes in the far-flung areas of Pulwama district. They commended the enthusiasm and active participation of the women entrepreneurs and encouraged them to utilize the acquired knowledge and skills to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises.

Raiyees Manzoor emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting entrepreneurship and empowering women at the grassroots level, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

Participants expressed heartfelt gratitude to the course team and JKEDI for their dedicated guidance and support in successfully organizing these programmes.

DC Budgam visits Transit Accommodation Sheikhpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, Saturday visited Transit Accommodation Sheikhpora, and took stock of various public issues, infrastructure requirements and the availability of basic civic amenities for residents.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local residents and listened to their demands and grievances regarding the availability and improvement of essential facilities.

He also reviewed the existing infrastructure and discussed measures to address the issues highlighted by the residents.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the requirements pertaining to the repair and renovation of old buildings, resolution of seepage and leakage issues, renovation of the children's park, improvement of kitchen facilities at the Community Hall, proper functioning of drainage systems and septic tanks, and strengthening of sanitation arrangements.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure adequate manpower for sanitation and regular garbage collection to maintain cleanliness in the locality. He also passed directions for macadamisation of internal roads, landscaping and beautification of the area, and the creation of additional recreational spaces.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Block Development Officer (BDO) to prepare and submit an estimate for the development of an additional park, including lawn development and tiling works.

The Rural Development Department was also instructed to carry out beautification works and lawn development in the Colony.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti to explore options for creation of additional direct tap water supply for the residents.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION, GANDERBAL

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SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: 36 of 2026-27 (e-Tendering)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Aggregate Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S No.	Name of Work	AAA	Advertisement Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Sindh Nallah- Flood Protection work on R/S at Duderhama near bus adda at RD 81.5 to RD 81.76km (Fresh for eNIT NO: 30 of 2026-27 S No: 01)	SE Hyd Circle Sgr/ GBL Order No: 40 of 2026-27 Dt: 22.09.2026	48.630	2500	1,46,000/-	150 Days	AAY/ BEE	MH 4711 UT CAPEX

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary
Provision. Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	21-11-2026 04:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	21-11-2026 04:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	21-11-2026 04:00 P.M
04	Bid submission Date End	26-11-2026 04:00 P.M
05	Bid opening Date	27-11-2026 11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 27.11.2026 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferrable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal from any scheduled or nationalized bank, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. However, the Treasury Challan and Earnest Money of those bidders who had participated in the previous eNIT NO 23 of 2026-27 shall also remain valid for this eNIT Only. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
5) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.
6) The documents to be uploaded by all the bidders shall be verified from the issuing authority before accepting the technical bid. If any document uploaded by the prospective bidder is found to be fabricated/forged/fraud, the bidder shall be outrightly rejected and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against such bidder which shall include but not limited to:

A) Debarment of the bidder for at least two years.
B} encashment of the Earnest money deposit.
C} criminal proceedings.
D} Cancellation of Pre Contract Negotiations of all other works where such bidder is lowest or under consideration bids.

7) The earnest money shall be forfeited if: -

a) Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.
c) The successful bidder fails to submit the requisite performance security and additional performance security within the prescribed time frame.
d) The bidder is found to have violated the code of integrity.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the GFR-2017, Manual for procurement of works 2022 with upto date amendments, PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

NO: IFCD/GBL/ 9235-84
Dated: 21.11.2026
DIPK-7901-26
DT: 21/11/2026

(Er. Nasir Ahmad Wani)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation and Flood Control
Division Ganderbal

CRPF T20 Cricket Cup 2026 kicks off in Srinagar, record 129 registrations



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The much-anticipated CRPF T20 Cricket Cup 2026 began with a grand opening ceremony at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar, with 16 teams set to compete in 31 matches over six days in a league-cum-knockout format from November 16 to 21.

Sandeep Khirwar, SDG, J&K Zone CRPF, inaugurated the event as Chief Guest, accompanied by Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG Srinagar Sector; Vineet Brijlal, IG Kashmir Ops Sector; other senior CRPF officers, dignitaries and representatives from JKCA, Kashmir University, TCI MAX Cement, Ujala Hospital, Le Delice and SK Unmatched Bat Company.

In his inaugural address, the SDG, J&K Zone CRPF, said the event reflects the CRPF's ongoing efforts to connect with Kashmir's youth through sports. "Kashmir has immense cricketing potential," he said, emphasizing the importance of engaging Kashmiri youth through sports and providing opportunities for young talent to shine. Highlighting the security environment in Kashmir, he assured that security forces are working together to maintain stability in the region.

Matches will be played at Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium (Ground A and B), Kashmir University (Ground A and B) and SP College, Srinagar. The winner and runners-up will receive cash prizes of Rs 2,00,000 and Rs 1,75,000 respectively, along with trophies and several sports gears. Matches are being live-streamed on social media, with live scores on the CricHeroes app and updates broadcast on 93.5 Red FM.

Notably, the CRPF Cup, which began in 2023, has fast become a flagship initiative blending sports with social outreach. This year saw a record 129 team registrations, of which 12 were shortlisted through a transparent draw, while four teams — one each from JKCA and Kashmir University and the winner and runners-up of the 3rd Edition CRPF Cup 2025 — were invited.

The 3rd Edition CRPF Football Cup is also being organized for Kashmiri youth shortly, officials said.

ROARING TO GLORY

J&K's Young Football Lions Storm to 3rd Place at 70th SGFI National School Games

GMK SPORTS DESK



SRINAGAR: In a resounding display of skill, grit and sporting excellence, the J&K Under-14 Boys Football team has brought immense laurels to the Union Territory by securing a podium finish claiming 3rd Place at the prestigious 70th SGFI National School Games 2026 held at Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. The championship was organised by the District Education Officer, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh, under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI).

Throughout the tournament, the young footballers from J&K demonstrated exceptional teamwork and dominance on the pitch, cruising through the league and knockout stages with commanding victories before defeating Chhattisgarh 4–0 in the third-place playoff. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication, hard work and sporting spirit of the young athletes, backed by the tireless guidance of Team Coach Rohit Kumar Gupta (PET, Jammu) and Team Manager Showkat Hussain (PET, Budgam).

Match-by-Match Journey at Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh

League Matches

In their opening league match played on November 12, 2026, J&K asserted complete dominance while defeating Vidya Bharati 7–0, with Enamul scoring three goals, Bakhtawar netting two, and Usman and Sarmad adding one goal each for the J&K team.

Continuing their winning momentum on November 13, J&K outclassed Telangana 6–1, where Bakhtawar starred with a brilliant hat-trick of three goals, while Usman, Sarmad and Faheem chipped in with one goal each.

In their final league fixture

JK played out a tightly contested 0–0 draw against Bihar to advance cleanly into the knockout rounds.

Knockout Stages

Entering the Pre-Quarter Final on November 15, 2026, J&K showcased clinical finishing while defeating CISCE 4–0, as Bakhtawar struck twice, while Usman and Movin scored one goal each.

In the Quarter-Final clash J&K delivered a commanding performance to defeat hosts Madhya Pradesh 6–1, powered by three goals from Usman, two goals from Bakhtawar & one goal from Sarmad.

Later on November 16, 2026, in the Semi-Final, JK fought valiantly before going down 0–3 against a strong Jharkhand side.

Bouncing back with tremendous resilience in the Third-Place Playoff on November 17, 2026, Jammu & Kashmir registered an emphatic 4–0 victory over Chhattisgarh to secure 3rd Place in the championship, with Usman and Aadhum scoring two goals each.

Congratulating the contingent on this stellar accomplishment, Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports, J&K, lauded the players and support staff for raising the bar of school sports in the region:

"Heartiest congratulations to our young Under-14 footballers, Coach Rohit Kumar Gupta, Manager Showkat Hussain and the entire supporting staff for this extraordinary achievement at the 70th National School Games in Chhatarpur. Securing a national podium finish against top teams from across the country is a clear example of their discipline, determination & sporting spirit. They have made the entire J&K proud. I am confident that this stellar performance will inspire our contingents to shine even brighter across all other disciplines in the ongoing National School Games."

Meanwhile the 70th National School Games are currently underway across various venues in the country and J&K is playing a pivotal role as a host as well. Currently, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, is successfully hosting the 70th National School Games in Cricket and Fencing in Jammu.

Recently JK successfully hosted and concluded the 70th National School Games in Taekwondo and Wushu at Ganderbal Kashmir, where the home contingent delivered a historic performance by emerging as the Overall Champions in both disciplines.

Jack Edwards, India-born Nikhil Chaudhary star as Australia beat England in 1st T20I

IANS



MELBOURNE: India-born all-rounder Nikhil Chaudhary and Jack Edwards starred as Australia registered a three-wicket win over England in the first T20I at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne on Saturday.

Chaudhary, a Delhi-born, scored his first international fifty in just his fourth outing for Australia as his 38-ball 66 and Edwards unbeaten 25 took the Aussies home in a tense 188-run chase. Chaudhary had earlier starred with the ball too as he took two wickets and helped to keep England to 187. With this, the hosts have taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The Indian-born was also adjudged the Player of the Match for his strong all-round show.

England came into the T20I series on the back of a fresh ODI series win over the Aussies. Captain Harry Brook made the Aussies pay for several drop catches as he scored 65 from 28 balls. Tom Banton also came good with 39 from 22 deliveries, while Jordan Cox took the visitors to a decent total.

In the second innings, the Aussies lost returning Jake Fraser-McGurk on one. Captain Mitchell Marsh (37) and debutant wicketkeeper batter Sam Harper (32) provided a decent start, but the Aussies were 53/2 after 6 overs.

This was when Chaudhary came to the party and hit 66 from 38 balls with two sixes and six fours to lead Australia's reply. Although he was dismissed in the 18th over, the hosts got over the line, thanks to some strong hitting by bowling all-rounder Edwards as the Aussies are 1-0 up.

Chaudhary is a Delhi-born Australian cricketer who got stranded in Queensland in March 2020 and chose to live there. He was spotted in Queensland club cricket and later played for Hobart Hurricanes in the 2023 Big Bash League. He earned a contract with Tasmania in Sheffield Shield and scored a hundred against New South Wales.

Chaudhary received a maiden call-up for Australia's T20I series against Bangladesh earlier in June. He made his T20I debut in Chattogram and now has a match-winning fifty to celebrate.

During the England T20I, Chaudhary was pretty effective with the ball as well. The leg-spinner took 2-21 in his four overs as he applied the brakes on the English side, which was going well in the first innings. His strikes included the prized scalp of England captain Harry Brook and all-rounder Sam Curran. Edwards also picked a couple of wickets in his four overs for 27 runs.

With the bat, Chaudhary held one end up as wickets were flowing around him. Chaudhary came out when the team was 53/2 in 6 overs and had mini-stands with captain Mitchell Marsh and Tim David. He put 43 runs for the third wicket with Marsh and then 48 for the fourth with David before the Aussies lost their way.

From 148/4, the hosts went down to 168/7 as Edwards stood tall in the end. The new Chennai Super Kings member made an unbeaten 25 from 11 balls to steer his side home in the end with one ball to go and three wickets in hand. He got the job done on the second-to-last ball of the match, carving a four through the off side off Sam Curran with the field up.

Brief scores:

England 187/9 in 20 overs (Harry Brook 65, Jordan Cox 27; Nikhil Chaudhary 2-21, Jack Edwards 2-7) lose to Australia 191/7 in 19.5 overs (Nikhil Chaudhary 66, Mitchell Marsh 37; Will Jacks 2-29, Adil Rashid 1-30) by three wickets.

'My aim has always been to help the team reach a good score': India A's Kushagra after century against Nepal

IANS



NEW DELHI: India A wicketkeeper-batter Kumar Kushagra said his primary focus has always been on contributing to the team's success rather than individual milestones, emphasising that putting the side in a winning position remains his biggest priority.

Kushagra made the most of his opportunity with a brilliant 117 off 102 deliveries against Nepal in the Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament, helping India A recover from an early collapse and post a massive 332/9 in their opening Group B encounter in Doha on Friday. India A went on to register a thumping 306-run victory after bowling out Nepal for just 26.

The 21-year-old shared a match-defining 206-run fourth-wicket partnership with skipper Tilak Varma, who also scored a century, as the duo rescued India A after they were reduced to 42/3 in the 11th over.

Speaking about his approach towards batting and his responsibilities in the team, Kushagra stressed that individual performances take a backseat when it comes to the team's larger objective.

"Of course, my first aim is that whether I score or not, my team should reach a good score. This situation can come at any time, whether you are playing at number five or number one. My aim has always been that my team should win, and I will do whatever I can to achieve that," Kushagra said in a video released by the BCCI.

Reflecting on his partnership with Tilak, Kushagra said the two understood the importance of building an association after the early wickets and focused on adapting to the conditions in Doha.

"It was a great partnership between me and Tilak. At the same point, the wickets fell, and it was very important for our team to put together a good partnership. Whatever effort I had to put in, whatever humidity I had to bear, and despite the jet lag, I had to give 100 per cent of my potential," he said. Kushagra added that the batters initially concentrated on rotating the strike before looking to play attacking strokes, as the pitch offered some assistance to the spinners.

"We decided that when we went in, we would play singles first. Later, when we had a very good sight of the ball, we would go for strokes. We were not expecting the total to go beyond 300. We were thinking of something around 260 or 270," he said.

1st Test: Shubman Gill becomes first Indian to 3000 WTC runs, Rishabh Pant follows suit

IANS



WELLINGTON: India Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill achieved a significant milestone as he became the nation's first player to complete 3000 runs in World Test Championship history.

Gill achieved the feat during the first Test of the two-match series against New Zealand at Basin Reserve here on Saturday as he smashed a strong 98. Swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant followed suit as he became the second Indian to achieve the milestone during the same innings as the Indian batters put up a strong batting display on Day 3 of the opening Test.

Gill, coming into the Test, had 2917 runs in 76 innings in the Test Championship, which began in 2019. Pant, however, had 2948 runs to his name.

The Indian skipper was the first to complete 3000 WTC runs as he got there with a six off Glenn Phillips in the 115th over during the third session on the moving day. He needed 83 runs to get to the milestone and went on to smash 98, although he missed out on a well-deserving hundred by two runs.

The skipper was cleaned up by Jacob Duffy on the third-last ball of the day to miss the milestone.

Pant became the second Indian to complete his 3000 runs in WTC history, achieving the mark a little after Gill. Coming into the Wellington Test, the wicketkeeper needed 52 runs to get to the mark, and he achieved it with a four in the 123rd over, which also brought up his 22nd Test half-century. He is also the first wicketkeeper in the world to complete 3000 WTC runs.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also took note of the duo's milestone. "Two contrasting styles, one elite club. Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant became the first two Indians respectively to cross the 3000-run mark in the ICC World Test Championship," BCCI wrote on X.

The Indian batters made merry of the suitable batting conditions. While Gill was dismissed on 98, Pant went back unbeaten on 55 from 62 balls, with night-watchman Anshul Kamboj - who negated the final two balls - unbeaten on nought.

Earlier, KL Rahul smashed 136 to become the first Indian opener to hit Test centuries in all SENA nations (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia) as he continued his love affair in challenging countries.

