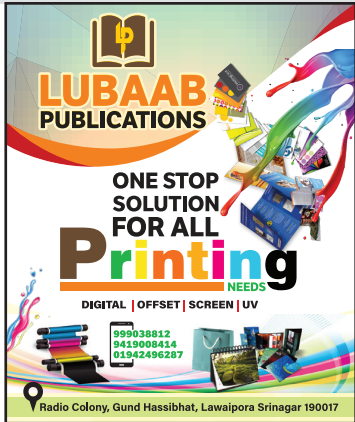


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HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



We Must Nurture Excellence And Foster Innovative Governance: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today felicitated the Winners of Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (CIPS) Awards at a ceremony in Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his heartiest congratulations to all the recipients of the prestigious award. He said the CIPS Awards acknowledge and celebrate transformative initiatives in public systems to promote rapid social and economic progress and encourage others to become agents of change.

He lauded the courage and dedication of all the awardees with which they have stepped forward in sectors like health, education, information technology, rural development and bring about a positive change in the lives of a large portion of the country's population.

"Civil servants, engineers, doctors, scientists, technocrats are administra-



tion's backbone. Their impartiality, honesty, efficiency and fearlessness are our most valuable assets. I am proud that as a team, they have worked to serve the people and contributing in nation build-

ing," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has laid a

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Two More Govt Employees Terminated For Having Terror Links



■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday terminated two government employees for terror links, invoking Article 311 (2)(c) of the Constitution.

Painstaking investigation clearly established that they were acting on behalf of terror outfits and law enforcement and intelligence agencies had collected incriminating material evidence against them.

The duo has been dismissed in the interest of the security of the state. They include Khurshid Ahmad Rather, a teacher in the School Education Department, and Siyad Ahmad Khan, an Assistant Stockman in the Sheep Husbandry Department.

Sources said Khurshid Ahmad Rather was appointed in government service in 2003 (temporary under Rehber e Talim) and got confirmed as a teacher in 2008.

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'Around 80 employees dismissed in 5 years'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has intensified its campaign to root out alleged terror links within the government machinery, leading to the dismissal of nearly 80 employees over the last five years.

Since August 2020, the Union Territory administration under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has invoked provisions of the Constitution to terminate employees accused of maintaining links with militant outfits or supporting separatist activities.

The latest action came on Friday when two government employees were dismissed from service. They were identified as Khurshid Ahmed Rather, a teacher posted in Karnah, and Siyad Ahmad Khan, serving as Assistant Stockman in the Sheep Husbandry Department, Keran.

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Forest Soil Health Cards for J&K: DG, ICFRE

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUG 22: Director General, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Kanchan Devi, today inaugurated one-day capacity building programme for the Forest Range Officers (FROs) and other frontline functionaries for Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department at Forest Information Centre, Bikram Chowk, here.

The training programme was mainly focused on increasing the capacity of forest officials on Soil Test Based Nutrient Management Practices and enrich knowledge about the forest ecosystems amongst the field functionaries.

DG, ICFRE during her presidential address, highlighted the importance of Forest Soil Health Cards with special reference to Jammu & Kashmir. She said that under the programme launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, Forest Soil Health Cards for all Territorial

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CM Omar chairs cabinet meeting in Srinagar 'Next LA session likely in September'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet met in Srinagar on Friday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The meeting, attended by five ministers, discussed administrative and developmental issues.

Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmad Dar said that key matters related to Jammu and Kashmir were discussed.

"The Assembly session was not part of the agenda. Important Administrative and developmental priorities were discussed," he said.

Officials said the cabinet discusses some land issues in Jammu, reviewed proposals related to tourism promotion, welfare measures, and governance matters, reflecting the government's focus on strengthening development initiatives



across the Union Territory.

The absence of deliberations on the Assembly session came even as speculation was rife that the government would recommend convening it in Srinagar before the winter season.

Earlier in the day, however, Minister Javed Dar had indicated that the next session is likely in the first or second week of September.

Speaking to reporters,

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Will continue our efforts for statehood restoration: CM

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday expressed disappointment over the non-fulfillment of assurances regarding the

● Turn on Page 2

Inaugurates girls' hostel at Sainik School Nagrota

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUG 22: Sainik School Nagrota marked its 56th Raising Day with a significant milestone as Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Jenab Omar Abdullah, inaugurated the newly constructed girls' hostel 'Triveni'.

On arrival, the Chief Minister was accorded a

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J&K, its youth key in 'Viksit Bharat' goal: Khadse

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Jammu and Kashmir and its youth have a huge role to play in achieving the goal of "Viksit Bharat@2047" and take the country forward, Union minister Raksha Khadse said on Friday.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that we have to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047. Jammu and Kashmir and its youth will play a huge role in realising that goal and taking the country forward," Khadse, the Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, told reporters here.

Khadse on Friday attended a wushu selection trial for next year's Asian Games in Japan at the Sher-e-Kashmir indoor stadium, in which over 200 players participated.

The minister said the Central government is making all attempts to connect the youth of J-K with sports, and provide them a good platform so that they can win medals for the country.

"The sports ministry is making attempts in this direction and I am hopeful that

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BOTTOM



Siblings From Kalantra Carve Success Story in Trout Farming

■ Khan Jahangeer

BARAMULLA, AUG 22: In the village of Kalantra Wagoora area of district Baramulla, known for its

trout fish farms, a young brother-sister duo has turned government support into a story of success and inspiration.

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J&K Govt confiscates 215 schools affiliated with Jel, FAT Jel-FAT School Committees Expired, Flagged Adversely by IA: SED Secy

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: The government Friday overthrew 215 schools that were affiliated to proscribed organisation Jamat-e-Islami (Jel) and Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT).

Secretary to government for School Education Department (SED) Ram Niwas Sharma said that the 215 Jel and FAT schools were reported adversely upon by the intelligence agencies.

According to the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma in a order said that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in February 2019 and February 2024 issued under sub-section (1) of section (3) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) declared the Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel), Jammu and Kashmir as an unlawful association

"The Intelligence Agencies (IA) have identified a number of schools which were found to be directly

or indirectly affiliated with proscribed organisation Jamat-e-Islami (Jel) and Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT)," reads the order.

Sharma in the order further stated that the validity of the managing committee of 215 such schools has expired and have been reported adversely upon by the intelligence agencies.

"In order to safeguard the academic future of the students enrolled in these schools in exercise of the powers conferred by the

Government of Jammu and Kashmir through the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Rules 2010 vide SRO 123 of 2010 read with SRO 292 of 2018 and SO 177 of 2022, it is ordered that the Managing Committee of 215 schools shall be taken over by District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner concerned who shall propose a fresh Managing Committee in due course for the concerned schools after getting these duly verified," it reads.

Rajanth Singh accuses Pak Army Chief of having "thief-like" mentality

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, AUG 22: Accusing Pakistan Army Chief of having "lottere (thief-like) mentality," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that the neighbouring country continues to live in a state of delusion.

Addressing a function here, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The Chief of the Pakistan Army, knowingly or unknowingly, has pointed towards a thief mentality, which Pakistan has been a victim of since its birth... We must break this delusion of

the Pakistani Army."

He said, "Due to 'Operation Sindoor,' such a delusion should not have arisen in their minds in the first place. But we must ensure that alongside India's prosperity, our culture, and our economic prosperity, our defence capabilities and the spirit to fight for our national honour remain equally strong. We must ensure that in our civilisation, in our nation, that fighting spirit remains alive..."

He said, "Just a few days ago, we placed a new order with HAL to manufacture 97 Tejas fighter planes at a

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PM Modi slams Opposition over corruption

■ HT News Network

KOLKATA, AUG 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused the opposition INDIA bloc, including the TMC, of shielding corruption and resisting legislative moves aimed at ensuring probity in public life.

Addressing a rally here, Modi made indirect references to the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, introduced in Parliament earlier this week, which seeks to bar prime ministers, chief ministers, and ministers from holding office if they remain in jail for 30 days or more.

Citing the provisions of the proposed law, the PM said, "We decided to bring in a law that provides for dismissing a corrupt chief minister, or even the prime minister, if he or she spends 30 days in jail. But when we brought in a stringent law, the TMC,

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DC Srinagar reviews progress of enrolments under major financial inclusion schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: To review the progress of enrolments under major financial inclusion and social security schemes being executed through banks and financial institutions in the district, a comprehensive review meeting was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, DC took a department wise review of the progress under various Financial Inclusion schemes including distribution of RuPay Debit Cards under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

On the occasion, DC directed stakeholder departments to collaborate proactively, ensuring swift achievement of targets so that the benefit is extended to all the eligible beneficiaries for financial inclusion in the district. He stressed committed efforts by all line departments and banks to register



all left out eligible citizens.

He emphasized the need for all concerned departments and banks to build public confidence in financial inclusion schemes, and highlighted the importance of these initiatives in providing financial support, particularly to marginalized sections, by offering life and accidental insurance coverage.

DC urged the concerned departments and banks to infuse confidence in the public regarding financial inclusion schemes and ensure all highlighted the importance of these schemes in providing financial support to citizens, especially those from marginalized sections by offering life and accidental insurance coverage.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad; PO ICDS, Bureeda Majeed, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, DSWO, DMO, Assistant Labour Commissioner, LDM (Banks), Chief Sanitation Officer (SMC), and other concerned Officers.

DC Srinagar visits Khanqah-e-Naqashband Sahib; finalizes annual Urs arrangements

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Friday, visited the Khanqah-e-Naqashband Sahib in Khwaja Bazar area in Shahr-e-Khaas locality of the district to review the preparations for the upcoming annual Urs observance.

On the occasion, DC took stock of the facilities being put in place to ensure smooth observance of the annual religious occasion at the Shrine. He held a detailed meeting with shrine administration and officers from various line departments to discuss and finalize arrangements. DC reviewed the arrangements, concerning supply of water and electricity, sanitation and cleanliness measures, medical facilities, transport & parking facilities.

DC directed the officers of the line departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are diligently put in place to facilitate a peaceful and smooth observance of the Urs.

He also directed the concerned to ensure adequate supply of water at the shrine for devotees. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around the shrine and instructed the SMC authorities to take necessary measures for sanitation, besides making all street lights functional in the area.

Similarly, PDD Engineers were directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply in the area during the Urs days. Health authorities were asked to ensure adequate arrangements for medical facilities at the shrine during the Urs days.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDCL, City Drainage, City Roads, KPDCL, Tehsildar Khanyar, Chief Sanitation Officer, Medical Superintendent Gousia Hospital, Senior Officers of Police & Traffic departments, AD FCS&CA, representatives from Khanqah-e-Naqashband Sahib and other concerned.

Angel's Cultural Academy Honored with National Youth Excellence Award 2025 at Jammu University

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Renowned NGO Angel's Cultural Academy has been conferred the prestigious National Youth Excellence Award 2025 in the field of Art, Culture, and Social Service during the 3-Day National Youth Exchange Program cum National Youth Excellence Award Ceremony 2025, held at Jammu University on 20 August 2025.

The grand event was organized by the well-known NGO Live for Others – Being Helpful Foundation, and saw participation from outstanding youth leaders across the country. More than 15 awardees were selected from



various states, recognizing their remarkable contributions in different fields. From the Kashmir division, Dr. Tariq Ahmad Shera, Founder and President of Angel's Cultural Academy, proudly received the award from Former DGP, J&K Shri S.P Vaid (IPS) & other prominent dignitaries. Known for his unwavering dedication to promoting cultural values and empowering the youth of Kashmir, Dr. Shera has created numerous opportunities for emerging artists and social activists through his organization.

Dr. Shera has previously been honored with several awards at both national and international levels, further establishing his reputation as a cultural ambassador and youth icon. His recognition at this event highlights the impactful work being done in the Kashmir Valley to preserve heritage and inspire the next generation.

The event not only celebrated achievements but also served as a platform for cultural exchange, dialogue, and youth empowerment.

Kashmir's Ehsaas Foundation & Callisto Art partner with World Talent in online international art competition

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR AUG 22: Amidst a world that continues to be divided by politics, borders, and challenges, the Valley of Kashmir provided an unlikely stage for a global celebration of art. Callisto Art & Culture's 2nd International Online Art Competition in partnership with Ehsaas Foundation NGO Kashmir provided a space where more than a hundred artists from across nine countries came together and transformed the virtual platform into an obstacle-less gallery of imagination.

The event was conceived by Kashmiri visual artist Zahoor Kashmiri, founder of Callisto Art & Culture, who has always worked towards establishing avenues for cultural exchange and appreciation of art. "This competition has opened doors for participants from across the globe, providing Kashmiri artists with a chance to showcase their excellence at the international platform," Zahoor asserted. "The best way to achieve your target is never to lose hope—keep trying, and success will follow." The partnership with Ehsaas Foundation NGO Kashmir, which is celebrated for Sufi ideas, cultural empowerment, and social welfare, spiritualized and socialized the competition. Vice Chairman Burhan Nazir thanked the jury and the participants and said that the competition reflected Kashmir's desire to grow as a center of cultural diplomacy.

The panel for the jury comprised great names from across the globe. Prof. Zargar Zahoor, former Dean of Fine Arts at Jamia Millia Islamia, characterized the competition as being a harmonious mix of style and technique. Turkish artist Dr.

Ceyhun Konak toasted the multi-cultural energy of the paintings, and Mexican painter Carlos Miguel Ramirez dubbed it "a virtual window into the cultures of the world." Peruvian Daniel Gallegos Esquivias supplemented by stating that the event forged significant global connections at a time when people can't really go anywhere. Locally, University of Kashmir Cultural Officer Shahid Ali Khan clarified that efforts such as these maintain creativity alive while mainstream institutions remain closed.

Kashmir was also sufficiently represented among highlighted artists. Mehak Mubeen exhibited Homeward and Sacred Threshold, while Syed Mursaleen exhibited Flux I & II. Dr. Zargar Adil Ahmad exhibited Impressions I & II, while Mudasar Rehman Dar exhibited his contemplative Peace Series. Asif Iqbal Khan presented Untitled and Surah Iklas, and Riyan Rafiq presented Islamic calligraphy. Suhaib Ahmad Hakeem, presenting two untitled paintings, Nourreen, Enduring Patience and Divine Unity, Mir Andleeb, When Eyes Can't Hold It Anymore and Salaam, Irtiza Bazaz, The Eye of Dreams and Whispers of the Universe, Irtiza Sharief, Inside the Eyes and Eye Gaze, and Inju Hussain, Islamic calligraphy on canvas, were other Kashmiri artists.

Indian submissions from outside the state of Kashmir were impressive as well. Md Anirul Islam submitted Holy Bird-II and Tranquility-III, Karan Sharma submitted Khwahisho Ki Khidkiyan and Rozi Roti. Ya Hayy Ya Qayyum and Kaaba were submitted by Shabnam Rajpoot, Surehal-Fatiha submitted by Shrireen Naaz and Astrolabe in Islam, and Sonjaye Maurya submitted Unity in Diversity and Universe.



Jamal Ahmed Shamsuddoha exhibited Aytal Kursi and Dua, Surah Al-Baqarah, Jaspreet Mohan Singh exhibited Divine Lights and The Visionary, M. Akram Khan exhibited Nature I & II, and Neeraj Raina exhibited The Bull I & II. The series was succeeded by Shahed Pasha (King with his Soldiers, Lav Kush), Sualeha Khan (Serenity, Pond), Sumaid Pal Singh Baksh (The Departure, The Veil), and Zuhair Wahid (Throne Verse, Echoes of an Infinite).

We received a colorful series of works from Malaysia. Hairul Mas-

ri Nokhil exhibited Perpetuity & Towards Immortality and Home of Clowder. Eda Tan Sew Lan presented Loving Couple and Strive, while Ain Yusuf presented Fruits at Ease and Lotus Symphony. Nur Aniyah binti Anuar presented Tradition in Motion and Ngajat and Datun Julud, while Qaisarah Zainal wowed with Where the Light Found Me and Roads of Adaptation. Rozanah bt Ahmat presented Line and Beauty I & II.

Sri Lanka's Chandani Jayathilaka showed Women I & II, and Sarath Gunasiri Perera showed Freedom

Search I & II. Indonesia's Tsabita Saifana took center stage with My Safe Place, My Warzone and Frogs and Lily Pads. Bangladesh was represented by Shah Raihan Sani, who showed The Kalimah and Ishq. Egypt's Safaa Afifi showed untitled acrylic paintings, and from Pakistan, Maryam Kaleem Paracha showed two untitled acrylic paintings. The variety of themes and styles imbued the competition with its own character. There were those who used cultural heritage, like Islamic calligraphy from India's Kashmir and Bangladesh. Some used contemporary concerns and individual experience, as indicated by Indonesia's My Safe Place, My Warzone or India's Unity in Diversity. From the deployment of the traditional media like charcoal and acrylic to digital experiments, the competition was turned into a kaleidoscope of worldwide artistic practice.

Curator Tasaduq Hussain elaborated the premise behind the campaign: "When Covid had closed art schools and galleries, the artists felt left out. This competition, under the patronage of Ehsaas Foundation, kept the spark of imagination alive and earned them accolades on an international level."

The 2nd International Online Art Competition was thus not just about ranking or popularity. It was about hope, inclusivity, and determination. For Kashmir, it was also about re-positioning itself to the world in the space of creativity and not conflict.

As Zahoor Kashmiri succinctly framed it: "By art, we express ourselves, but better, we connect humanness. Having Ehsaas Foundation as our sponsor, this competition was a genuine celebration of global creativity."

Equal Representation Sought for Christian Leadership in Politics

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: A strong appeal has been made for greater representation of the Christian community in political leadership, both in Jammu & Kashmir and across India.

In a statement, community voice Nisha Samuel urged the

country's leadership, including the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K and the Chief Minister, to consider nominating at least one Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Christian community.

"Christians in Jammu & Kashmir, like in other parts of India, actively

participate in elections, mobilize voters, and support political movements. Yet, when it comes to nominations, tickets, or government posts, their leadership is often overlooked," she said.

Samuel emphasized that representation is not about privilege but about justice



and equal opportunity. "Our voices must be included in decision-making and governance. If given fair chances, Christian leaders will serve with the same honesty and commitment as leaders from other communities," she added.

Highlighting the contribution of Christians in public

life, she stressed that India's unity and diversity should be reflected in its political leadership as well.

Her appeal comes as part of a broader call to ensure minorities, including Christians, are given equal dignity, space, and responsibility in shaping the nation's future.

HT EDITORIAL

Ensure Sanat Nagar flyover is completed within latest deadline

The other day deputy chief minister Surinder Kumar Chaudhary who also happens to be the works minister visited the Sanat Nagar flyover and took a review of the work going on at the flyover. The minister took a serious note of the slackness in the work and directed for the completion of the project by November 15, 2025. The flyover has already missed many deadlines and the new deadline has been set as November 15.

The works minister expressed concern over the huge payment made to the contractor even though the work is going on at a tardy pace. Out of the total payment of Rs. 29 crores the contractor has been paid Rs. 23 crores. This means that the contractor has already received almost 80 percent of the payment even though the work is not completed to the extent of 50 percent. The slow pace of work has complicated the woes of the people living in multiple areas of up-town Srinagar.

The work on the Sanat Nagar flyover has been going for years now and going by the slow pace of work one fears that it may take yet another year for the executing contractor to complete the project. Once the project was commissioned it was said that the work would be completed in not more than one year. This promise has not been kept and the work on the project is going on. As on date one can see that just a few labourers and other professionals working at the site of the project.

The works minister during his visit threatened to blacklist the contractor in case he did not complete the work by the new deadline. This move has been hailed by the people in general and more so by those who are facing hardships in reaching their destinations due to the work on the flyover. However, at the same time it must be ensured that the progress of work is reviewed on a regular basis so that the project is completed on time now.

The work on the Sanat Nagar flyover has been hit by many roadblocks with the significant one being the presence of the transmission lines as the Rawalpura grid station falls in its vicinity. The lines had to be shifted but not before a lot of effort and trouble to the masses who receive the power from the Rawalpura grid station. This process should have been done earlier but it was taken up at a later stage.

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Quantam Age



Jawaid Iqbal

We stand upon the very cusp of an epochal metamorphosis — an age that scholars and visionaries have christened the Quantum Age. No longer are we mere custodians of classical determinism; rather, we now trespass into the enigmatic dominion where particles pirouette betwixt superposition and entanglement, and where uncertainty is not a hindrance but the primordial grammar of reality itself.

The potentialities enshrined within this quantum paradigm are prodigious, bordering upon the unfathomable. Computation, once shackled by binary limitations, now

Yet, alongside such resplendent promises lurk formidable tribulations. The very inscrutability of quantum mechanics renders its practical harnessing a labyrinthine odyssey. Decoherence — that relentless dissolution of quantum states into classical noise — stands as an omnipresent nemesis. Ethical dilemmas, too, arise: Who shall wield these titanic engines of intelligence? Shall quantum supremacy be an emancipator of humanity or the sceptre of domination clutched by a privileged few?

portends an exponential transcendence wherein qubits may orchestrate calculations with a velocity and profundity that render our erstwhile machines archaic relics. Communication, through the spectral thread of quantum entanglement, presages a world impervious to espionage, heralding an inviolable sanctum of information exchange. Medicine itself may

be transfigured, as molecular simulations in quantum architectures reveal hitherto inaccessible therapies, perhaps even eradicating ailments long deemed inextorable.

Yet, alongside such resplendent promises lurk formidable tribulations. The very inscrutability of quantum mechanics renders its practical harnessing a labyrinthine odyssey.

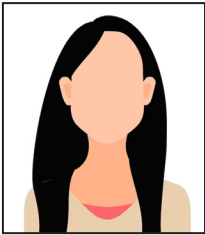
Decoherence — that relentless dissolution of quantum states into classical noise — stands as an omnipresent nemesis. Ethical dilemmas, too, arise: Who shall wield these titanic engines of intelligence? Shall quantum supremacy be an emancipator of humanity or the sceptre of domination clutched by a privileged few?

Therefore, the Quantum Age is neither an unmitigated utopia nor an inexorable dystopia. It is a crucible — a testing ground for human sagacity, responsibility, and moral fortitude. If wisdom guides our hands, the quantum dawn may illuminate civilization with knowledge, equity, and progress. But should avarice prevail, its shadows may eclipse the very ideals we aspire to safeguard.

In summation, let it be inscribed upon the tablets of our collective conscience that the Quantum Age is not merely an era to be entered, but a covenant to be honored — where humanity must harmonize potential with prudence, and power with principle.

Is It Possible for Plants to Think?

Investigating the Entertaining Field of Plant Neurobiology



Shameema Nazir

Ever ponder whether plants are capable of thought? According to current scientific findings, plants are significantly more clever and receptive than previously thought, even though they may not have brains like humans or animals. Welcome to the enigmatic and rapidly expanding subject of plant neurobiology, where plants are acknowledged as dynamic animals with the ability to sense, communicate, remember, and possibly even make decisions, rather than as passive green creatures. Even though they can't run, shout, or move, plants aren't ignorant.

In actuality, plants are always aware of their environment. They can perceive touch, wetness, light, gravity, temperature, and even chemical cues from other living things. One essential component of intelligence is the capacity to perceive and react to environmental cues.

I used to be amazed and curious about why the Touch-me-not (Mimosa pudica) plant shrank its leaves whenever I touched it as a child?

The time-tested "touch-me-not" trick! What you witnessed was a seismonastic response, which is a fast movement of plants. A light touch causes quick chemical and electrical signals in Mimosa pudica that cause the tiny "motor" cells to release water, causing the petiole to droop and the leaflets to fold in a matter of seconds. In 1926 J. C. Bose (1900s–1920s) Showed plants generate and transmit electrical impulses in His book "The Nervous Mechanism of Plants". He worked with Mimosa Pudica and showed plants take this action to safeguard In addition to making leaves appear smaller and less appetizing, sudden folding can shock or dislodge insects and lessen the likelihood of additional damage. Recent research links these quick movements to electrical and Ca2+ signals that strengthen defenses against herbivores.

Everybody has probably wondered why sunflowers constantly bend their shoots toward the light at some point in their lives and wondered how plants accomplish this?

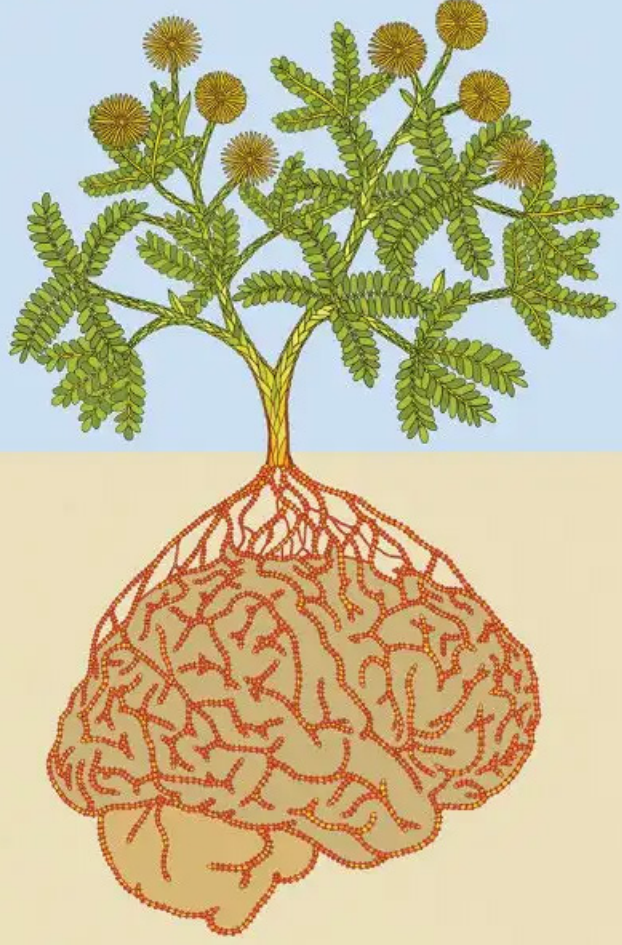
Since light is the main source of energy for photosynthesis, sunflowers point their shoots in the direction of the sun. They can generate more energy and collect more light by changing their orientation. Young sunflower plants that trace the sun across the sky during the day a phenomenon known as heliotropism show this the most. On the other hand, mature sunflower heads typically face east all the time. This process is mediated by plant hormones mainly Auxins that control cell elongation. It was shown by Charles and Francis Darwin that the coleoptile tip senses light and signals the base to bend.

In 1913, Boysen-Jensen indicated that a chemical substance later determined to be auxin was the signal. Photoreceptors detect light, particularly phototropins, which are sensitive to blue light. Growth hormone auxin redistributes to the shaded side of the shoot when light strikes one side of it. The stem bends toward the light because of the stimulation of cell elongation caused by the higher auxin concentration on the shaded side.

Have any of you ever wondered how plants sense gravity?

Plants sense gravity by using a process known

In 1913, Boysen-Jensen indicated that a chemical substance later determined to be auxin was the signal. Photoreceptors detect light, particularly phototropins, which are sensitive to blue light. Growth hormone auxin redistributes to the shaded side of the shoot when light strikes one side of it. The stem bends toward the light because of the stimulation of cell elongation caused by the higher auxin concentration on the shaded side



as gravitropism (or geotropism). Positive gravitropism causes roots to grow downward, whereas negative gravitropism causes shoots to grow upward. This reaction guarantees that they are properly oriented to acquire resources (water, minerals, and light). Specialized cells and organelles allow plants to sense gravity. In the root cap and shoot endodermis, statocytes gravity-sensing cells contain dense, starch-filled plastids called statoliths. Tilting a plant causes its statoliths to tilt due to gravity, which in turn activates mechanosensitive ion channels and causes auxin redistribution. Differential cell bending and elongation result from this. Removing gravity changes auxin transport and decreases statolith sedimentation, according to NASA and ESA experiments (Driess-Ecole et al., Plant Science, 2008).

Since plants cannot see or hear, have you ever wondered how one plant can detect the presence of another plant?

The main ways that plants identify their neighbors are by light signals, volatile compounds, and root exudates. Plants notice variations in the ratio of red light (R) to far-red light (FR). In the presence of another plant, it absorbs red light for photosynthesis and reflects more far-red light. The plant uses phytochrome pigments to identify this changed R:FR ratio. In response, the detecting plant outgrows rivals for sunlight by lengthening its stem (a behavior known as shade avoidance syndrome). When the R:FR ratio is low, Arabidopsis thaliana and many other crops lengthen their stems to indicate the presence of neighbors. Photoreceptor signaling networks in plants' reactions to shade (Annual Review of Plant Biology), Casal JJ (2012). This study clarifies how phytochromes control auxins and other growth hormones in low R:FR environments.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are used for detection.

As messages, plants emit and sense volatile compounds. In wild tobacco and sagebrush, wounded plants release volatile organic compounds (VOCs),

such as methyl jasmonate, which are detected by neighboring plants and trigger their own defense genes. In sagebrush, Karban et al. (2003) showed that plant-to-plant communication is mediated by volatile organic compounds.

Chemical Signals and Root Exudates in Soil through their roots, neighbors are able to detect the compounds that plants release into the soil. Allelopathic compounds emitted by barnyard grass are detected by rice plants, which then modify root growth accordingly. Allelopathic root signaling was examined by Bais HP et al. (2006) in the Annual Review of Plant Biology.

Plants lack a brain and neurons, which make up their central nervous system. They are still capable of complicated reaction and information processing, though. Because of this, scientists are now investigating the possibility that plants have a distributed intelligence system that is mostly concentrated in their vascular tissues and roots.

Knowing how plants behave changes the way we think about the green world. The ability of plants to feel, remember, and react intelligently calls into question our moral and environmental obligations. It also creates opportunities for environmental preservation, sustainable agriculture, and potentially future technologies that draw inspiration from plant intelligence.

So, are plants capable of thought? They see, remember, respond, and communicate in ways that are startlingly sophisticated, though perhaps not in the same manner as animals. Despite being a relatively new field of study, plant neurobiology is already demonstrating that plants are significantly more alive, conscious, and active than we previously thought.

Shameema Nazir Sporadic writer pattan baramulla . She has recently completed integrated botany from cluster university srinagar. Views expressed in this write up are my personal. kushboonazir5@gmail.com

DC Budgam Chairs DLIC Meeting, 150 Cases Approved Under Mission YUVA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 22: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission YUVA was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex. The meeting was convened to evaluate and approve venture project applications submitted through Small Business Development Units (SBDUs). During the proceedings, 150 fresh cases, duly verified by SBDUs, were placed before the committee for consideration and all were approved for financial assistance and

handholding support under Mission YUVA. Each application underwent detailed scrutiny to assess eligibility, business viability, and socio-economic background of the applicants.

As per official data, 1939 applications have been submitted in Budgam under Mission YUVA. Out of these, 782 applications have been verified by SBDUs, while 508 applications stand approved by DLIC. Furthermore, 140 applications have been sanctioned by banks, and 55 applications have already been disbursed.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasised that Mission YUVA is not just a financial assistance program but a holistic



ty youth empowerment initiative aimed at creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. He said the district adminis-

tration is committed to nurturing young entrepreneurs, encouraging innovation, and ensuring that the youth of

Budgam contribute meaningfully to the local economy.

DC directed all line departments, banks, and implement-

ing agencies to work in close coordination and ensure time-bound sanctioning, disbursement, and continuous mentoring of beneficiaries. He stressed that every approved project should be monitored to ensure its sustainability and long-term impact.

He also instructed the officers to complete the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) without delay so that applications move seamlessly through the approval chain. "No application should remain pending at the SBDU level for more than 15 days. We must maintain efficiency, accountability, and transparency in the entire process," Dr. Bilal directed.

ed. DC further said that the district administration's focus is on uplifting underprivileged and marginalized youth by equipping them with the right support system. He underscored that youth-led entrepreneurship is a vital driver of socio-economic growth and assured that the district administration will extend all possible help to budding entrepreneurs. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Budgam, General Manager DIC, Deputy Director Employment, District Social Welfare Officer, DDM NABARD, Lead District Manager, District Nodal Officer, and representatives from JKEDI, besides other concerned officers.

DC Samba reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana registration

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, AUG 22: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a review meeting at the District Administrative Complex, to assess the progress of registrations under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The meeting reaffirmed the district administration's commitment towards public welfare, clean energy and transparent governance.

Addressing the officers, the DC emphasized the importance of maximizing the scheme's reach by conducting intensive awareness campaigns at the grassroots level. She directed all concerned officers and vendors to adopt a proactive, door-to-door approach to inform people about the benefits of the scheme, including significantly reduced electricity bills through subsidized rooftop solar



installations.

Ms. Sudan urged officials to work in close coordination with all stakeholders to ensure seamless and transparent implementation. She further directed that targets be achieved in a time-bound manner, while ensuring every eligible household is covered under the scheme.

"The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a transformative step towards energy security and household savings. It is the responsibility of the administration to ensure that no eligible family is left behind," the DC remarked.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Samba, Champa Devi Thakur; Chief Planning Officer Samba, Kasturi Lal; XEN PDD, Er. Javed Hussain Akhtar; sectoral officers; representatives of concerned departments and empanelled vendors.

DC Kupwara distributes Property Cards under SVAMITVA flagship scheme

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, AUG 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today distributed Property Cards among beneficiaries of tehsil Lalpora under the Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA)

scheme, during a function held at the DC Office Complex.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that SVAMITVA is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched in 2021, aimed at bringing transparency in land records, empowering villagers with legal ownership, and enabling them to leverage their property

for bank loans and other financial benefits. He added that the initiative will not only help reduce land disputes but also pave the way for planned development in rural areas.

DC congratulated the beneficiaries and urged them to make productive use of the Property Cards for their socio-economic upliftment. He

also directed the Revenue department to expedite the process so that all eligible beneficiaries of the district are covered under the scheme at the earliest.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, informed that more than 250 Aabadi Deh villages of the

district have been covered under drone survey. He further said that the Revenue department will ensure that Property Cards will be distributed among the beneficiaries across the district after proper verification of land records.

Tehsildars and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

DLSA Ganderbal & TLSC Gbl organizes awareness program on 'Consumer Protection and Legal Remedies'

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, AUG 22: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal in coordination with the Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Ganderbal organized awareness program on 'Consumer Protection and Legal Remedies' today at Qamaria Model Educational Institute, Ganderbal.

The event aimed to empower students with a comprehensive understanding of consumer rights and provide insights into seeking legal recourse in cases of exploitation. Furthermore, program highlighted the pivotal role of Legal Services Authorities in offering assistance, guidance, and support to consumers in consumer-related matters.

The event was organised under the leadership of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal. Burjeena Hameed, Assistant



Legal Aid Defense Counsel (ALADC), delivered a detailed speech on the importance of consumer protection in safeguarding people from unfair trade practices, defective goods, and deficient services.

She highlighted the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, including the establishment of Consumer Commissions at various levels. She stated that consumer protection is a vital

aspect of any society, ensuring that individuals can make purchases and engage in services with confidence that their rights are safeguarded.

She emphasized that the legal remedies available through consumer forums are designed to protect consumers from exploitation and unfair practices, ultimately empowering them with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.

DC Jammu reviews functioning of School Education Department Stresses on strengthening basic school infrastructure

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUG 22: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas today reviewed the functioning of the School Education Department in district Jammu here at a meeting held in the district Office.

Chief Education Officer Jammu Ajeet Sharma presented a comprehensive profile of School Education scenario in the district through a detailed presentation.

The Deputy Commissioner laid special emphasis on strengthening basic school infrastructure, stating that quality education is directly linked to the availability of proper physical facilities. He directed immediate focus on construction of adequate classrooms to meet enrolment needs, provision of separate toilets for boys and girls in all schools, development of playgrounds for the holistic growth of children and strengthening and repair of existing school buildings to ensure safe learning environments.



The Deputy Commissioner instructed all Zonal Education Officers to conduct a thorough assessment and submit detailed reports of infrastructure requirements in their respective zones within two weeks.

The discussions on NEP 2020 centred on the theme "School: Building Block" with sub-themes of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Teachers' Continuous Professional Development and infrastructure.

The Stakeholders were provided with a structured format

to record their suggestions and directed to submit their inputs on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and Continuous Professional Development within two days.

The meeting also deliberated on preparations for the upcoming 5th Chief Secretary Conference scheduled in October 2025. Chief Education Officer Ajeet Sharma apprised the meeting about the progress of developmental works, the current status of schools and the conference agenda, which

focuses on the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

The meeting witnessed participation from principals, teachers and education experts, who shared their views and concerns.

The Deputy Commissioner and Chief Education Officer assured that all suggestions would be considered while finalising district-level recommendations for the Chief Secretary Conference.

The meeting was attended

by Assistant Commissioner, Anmol Rathore; Joint Director SCERT Jammu, Sindhu Kapoor; Chief Planning Officer, Ajay Pal Singh; Chief Education Officer, Ajeet Sharma; DEPO Jammu, BD Sharma; principals of higher secondary schools of district Jammu, Zonal Education Officers of all educational zones of Jammu district, principals and representatives of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas, representatives from private schools, education experts and parents.

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DDC Budgam chairs District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 22: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired the District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) meeting and issued a series of directions to concerned departments for achieving complete Aadhaar saturation in the district.

DDC directed POICDS to ensure that Aadhaar numbers of all children in the 0-5 age group are updated at Anganwadi centres without delay.

He instructed the CEO Budgam to organise mega Aadhaar enrolment and updation camps in all Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges, so that no student is left out.

He further directed all SDMs to closely monitor Aadhaar enrolment drives in their respective jurisdictions and ensure that 100% students in both schools and colleges are Aadhaar enrolled and updated.

DDC ordered that SDMs and CEO Budgam shall act as nodal officers for this purpose and take responsibility for achieving saturation targets.

He also directed BDOs in rural areas and EOs in urban areas to hold mass Aadhaar enrolment camps at block and municipal levels.

Dr Bilal stressed that during these camps, Date of Birth (DOB) certificates must be issued on the spot to facilitate enrolment of left-out children and residents.

He further instructed that



Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU) at 5 and 15 years of age must be ensured through aware-

ness drives in schools, with teachers mobilised for the purpose. School Education department was asked to match student records with Aadhaar details including name, DoB, phone number and email, which is crucial for Board and competitive examinations.

DDC directed that all applications of 18+ residents on the State Aadhaar Portal must be verified within 30 days, and training be provided to officials for efficient handling.

He asked departments to identify suitable government premises and high-footfall locations for establishing new Aadhaar enrolment centres or organising special camps.

Dr Bilal stressed on the need to encourage residents who have not updated their Aadhaar in

the last 10 years to validate their demographic details and update Proof of Identity (POI) and Proof of Address (POA) documents.

He also called for promotion of the mAadhaar mobile app for verification.

DDCsaid that all departments must work in close coordination and in a time-bound manner so that Budgam achieves 100% Aadhaar saturation. He stressed that Aadhaar linkage is crucial not only for effective service delivery but also for enabling students and residents to benefit from government schemes, scholarships and other essential services.

Besides, ADC Budgam, CEO Budgam, all SDMS, ACD, DySP HQs, all Tehsildars, all EOs and representatives of UIDAI were present in the meeting.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of works executed by RDD, performance of NRLM-SHG

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, AUG 22: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of works of Rural Development Department (RDD) and NRLM-Self-help Groups (SHGs) in the district.

After in depth review of RDD&PRI department, DC directed the officers to gear up the pace of work and ensure completion of all the ongoing works within the stipulated time frame. He directed the concerned BDOs to improve their performance under MGNREGA which is very crucial for generation of income to the common people especially poor ones in rural economy.

On the occasion, ACD through a detailed Power-Point presentation briefed the chair about the progress and achievements of the Rural Development Department in the district. He informed that the department has 109290 job card holders, 154030 active works, besides, the department has generated 48 lakh man days last year.

The department has achieved 66.39% commensuration to 17.92 lakh Person Days (PD) out of the targeted 27 lakh PDs for the ongoing financial year. Reviewing PMAY-G, it was informed that 10067 cases out of the total sanctioned 10896 cases have been paid the financial assistance fully for construction of the low budget house. Under PMAY-G 2.0, surveys of 42897 households have been done in all 26 blocks of the district out of which 19463 households have been verified.

Regarding the District CAPEX Budget, 2005 works have been approved under ADF, ABDS, APDS and SSY. Discussions were also held on the progress of CDF works, MPLADS.

Under the SBM scheme, it was informed that the tendering of the works is 83%. The emphasis was made on the functioning of assets created. The door-to-door collection mechanism was also reviewed in detail. DC directed the BDOs for effective utilization of assets under SBM with a daily routine of collection of Solid waste.

He directed revenue authorities for early resolution of land availability for Panchyat Ghars, FSM, DEEWATS etc.

ADDC Kupwara, Mufti Fareed-u-Din; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kupwara, Muzaffar Ahmad; CPO, Parvaiz Ahmad; BDOs, AEES, AEs and other concerned officials attended the meeting along with District and Block Program Managers (DPM/BPM) of NRLM together with the various Branch managers of different banks.

Workshop on RTI, Citizen-Centric Governance Held in Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: The Central Information Commission (CIC) in collaboration with the J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD) today organized a comprehensive workshop on "Right to Information (RTI) and Citizen-Centric Governance" at Srinagar. The event aimed to strengthen transparency, accountability, and participatory governance in the Union Territory.

Keynote Address by Chief Information Commissioner

Delivering the keynote address, Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Heeralal Samariya shed light on the evolving role of the RTI Act in empowering citizens and promoting good governance. He ac-

knowledgeed the challenges faced by both CIC and public authorities in implementing the Act, particularly in ensuring timely and accurate dissemination of information.

Samariya stressed: The vital role of Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) in making the RTI Act accessible and effective.

The need for proactive disclosure by public authorities to reduce unnecessary RTI applications.

Regular transparency audits as a tool to assess compliance levels and enhance the culture of accountability in governance.

He encouraged officials to adopt a citizen-first approach, underlining that RTI is not merely a legal mechanism but a democratic instrument for participatory gov-

ernance.

Broad Participation and Delegations

The workshop was attended by nearly 250 officers, including FAAs, CPIOs, heads of departments, and senior officials from diverse public authorities. The participants engaged in interactive sessions, raising queries and sharing their field experiences in handling RTI applications.

Samariya personally responded to several concerns, offering practical guidance on best practices, timelines, and conflict resolution in RTI processes. The session also included case-based discussions, enabling participants to learn from real-life experiences of information seekers and providers.

Institutional Contributions
Rehana Batool, Director IM-

PARD, highlighted the institute's pivotal role in building capacities of government officials, noting that training in RTI is central to improving service delivery and trust in institutions.

Dr. Jahan Ara Jabeen presented a detailed overview of the status of RTI implementation in Jammu and Kashmir, pointing out both achievements and areas where more proactive measures are required.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat coordinated the workshop on behalf of CIC, ensuring smooth conduct of the sessions.

Appreciation and Collaborative Spirit

The workshop was widely appreciated by participants, who acknowledged the collaborative effort between CIC and IMPARD in bringing officers together on

one platform for dialogue and skill enhancement. Many participants emphasized that such training sessions are crucial for updating knowledge, ensuring uniformity in RTI practices, and reinforcing accountability in governance.

The Registrar, CIC, extended gratitude to Director IMPARD and officers of the General Administration Department (GAD) for their unwavering support in organizing the programme successfully.

Long-Term Perspective

The event forms part of IMPARD's ongoing two-decade-long initiative of building institutional capacity in Jammu and Kashmir. By conducting such workshops, IMPARD and CIC aim to foster a culture of transparency and strengthen citizen-centric governance frameworks across departments.

CEO, ERA reviews World Bank funded JTFRP



■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), J&KERA, Shreya Singhal, today chaired a meeting to review the progress on World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project being executed by J&KERA.

Chief Executive Officer, J&KERA was apprised that 197 sub-projects, out of the total of 213 sub-projects taken up under the World Bank funded Jhe-

lum Tawi flood Recovery Project, have already been completed while as work on remaining sub-projects is under execution. The Chief Executive Officer, J&KERA interacted with the officers of the various PIUs (project implementation units) which are executing various components of the World Bank funded JTFRP.

CEO, ERA directed all the PIU's (Project Implementation Units) to ensure completion of all works with-

in the stipulated timelines.

The meeting was attended by MD, JKMSCL, Chief Accounts Officer, JTFRP, Project Manager, J&KERA, Jammu/Kashmir, S.E (PWD) (R&B), Baramulla, S.E, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Executive Engineer, (PWD) (R&B) North, Executive Engineer, (PWD) (R&B) South, Deputy Project Managers of J&KERA and officers of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, PWD (R&B) Central, North and South.

IIM Jammu celebrates 10 years of academic excellence, innovation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu marked a decade of its existence with a grand inaugural ceremony held at its Jagti Campus.

The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries including Shantmanu, Financial Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, UT of J&K, who delivered the inaugural address as chief guest. Amitava Chatterjee, Managing Director and CEO of J&K Bank, was the guest of honor.

The ceremony began with a traditional Saraswati Vandana and lamp lighting, setting the tone for a celebration of IIM Jammu's journey of excellence. The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the institute's 10-year logo by Shantmanu, symbolizing IIM Jammu's commitment to innovation and transformation.

In his welcome address, Director Professor B.S. Sahay reflected on the institute's decade-long journey and its vision for the future.

Deans Jabir Ali and Nitin Upadhyay shared insights into IIM Jammu's academic and research initiatives, highlighting its position as a premier management institution.



A panel discussion on "Role of Educational Institutions in the Growth and Development of UT of Jammu and Kashmir" was moderated by Shantmanu, featuring eminent panelists from prominent institutions.

The discussion emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in fostering innovation, talent development and sustainable growth in the region.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Professor Shyam Narayan.

NSD Srinagar's 20-Day Theatre Workshop Concludes with Play "Socho To Vyadhi"

■ By Jameel Ansari

SRINAGAR, AUG 22: A 20 day theatre workshop with school children of Kashmir organized by National School of Drama, TIE Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with Spring Buds Educational Institute, Ompora, Budgam concluded today at Tagore Hall, Srinagar with a mesmerising presentation of play "Socho To Vyadi" by the participants of the workshop which was designed and directed by Shri Pabitra Rabha.

The workshop was based on theatre pedagogy to explore the different area of self-proficiency of the child participants and enhance their psychological development, physical development and life skills.

Principal Secy. To Govt., Department of Culture J&K (UT) Shri Brij Mohan Sharma (IFS) attended as Chief Guest, Mr. Adheel Saleem

(JKAS), Addl. Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages as Guest of Honour & Mr. Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, Chairman, Spring Buds Educational Institute graced the occasion as Special guest.

The Ceremony initiated with the welcome address of Director In-charge Mr. Dipankar Paul, NSD TIE Centre, Srinagar Mr. Dipankar Paul, who welcomed all the guests present on the occasion and complimented the participating children for going through the workshop thereby exploring and enhancing personality & life development skills.

Welcome address was followed by the felicitation of all the guests by Mr. Dipankar Paul & Mr. Gulzar Ganaie, Co-ordinator, NSD TIE Centre, Srinagar.

Speaking as the chief guest Mr. Brij Mohan Sharma said that theatre as an art form is embedded in our history and culture. He appreciated the



contribution of the National School of Drama in popularizing theatre in J&K.

The spell bound performance of the children kept the audience glued to the end of the play.

After the presentation certificates were distributed to the participating children in presence of august guests and a huge audiences.

Well known theatre luminaries present on the occasion including Bashir Bhawani, M. Amin Bhat, Shafi Qureshi, Altaf Hussain, Arshad Mushtaq etc. also graced the occasion with their presence.

The training sessions were led by NSD experts Mr. pabitra Rabha (Concept, Design & Direction), Mr. Dipu Rabha (Music), Ms. Tsering Lhamo (Costume) & Mr. Susheel Kant Mishra (Technical support)

In the conclusion Mr. Dipankar Paul expressed the vote of thanks to all present on the occasion.



Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Naib Tehsildar,
Achabal, Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that an application has been submitted by Mir Ashfaq Yousuf and Gohar Yousuf, sons of Mohammad Yousuf Mir, residents of Kuwarigam, Achabal, Anantnag, before the office of Naib Tehsildar, Achabal, for issuance of Backward Certificate.

Family Details:

1. Mohammad Yousuf Mir, S/o Mohammad Sultan Mir, Age 70 yrs, Retired Employee
2. Hajra Begum, W/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir, Age 65 yrs, Housewife
3. Rumi Jan, D/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir, Age 32 yrs, Daughter, Student
4. Mir Ashfaq Yousuf, S/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir, Age 31 yrs, Son, SPO
5. Gohar Yousuf, S/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir, Age 25 yrs, Son, Student
6. Yasmeena, D/o Mohammad Yousuf Mir, Age ... yrs, Daughter, Housewife

Any person having objection to the issuance of the said certificate may file the same in the office of Naib Tehsildar, Achabal within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

After the said period, no objections shall be entertained and the certificate will be issued accordingly.

By Order
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

Public Notice

I, Showkat Ahmad Lone, S/o Mohd. Shaban Lone, R/o Laripora, Pahalgam, Tehsil Pahalgam, District Anantnag, inform the public that my father Mohd. Shaban Lone expired on 27-05-2021 at home.

His death was not registered earlier. I am now applying for the death certificate with the Registrar, M.C. Pahalgam.

Any person having objection may contact the undersigned/ Registrar within 7 days of this notice, failing which no objection will be entertained.

Sd/- Showkat Ahmad Lone
R/o Laripora, Pahalgam, Anantnag

Public Notice

I, Rafiya Jan D/o Manzoor Ahmad Reshi, resident of Harud Tooru, Kawarigam, Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir – 192201, do hereby declare that my correct Date of Birth is 10-11-1994 as per the records of Govt. Middle School, Kawarigam (Zone Shangus).

In my Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 3635), my Date of Birth has been wrongly mentioned as 03-02-1995.

Therefore, it is notified that my correct Date of Birth is 10-11-1994, and the same may be considered for all official purposes.

Sd/-
(Rafiya Jan)

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of DILSHADA BANO W/O PEERZADA MEHRAJ UD DIN (Deceased) R/O DHINDIMA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that PEERZADA MEHRAJ UD DIN S/O PEERZADA HASSAM UD DIN has passed away on 24/07/2025 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1.... DILSHADA BANO wife 51 years House wife widow
- 2....PEERZADA MOHAMMAD SAQLAIN son 25 years student unmarried
- 3... KAMRAN MEHRAJ son 23 years student unmarried
- 4...ZAINAB MEHRAJ daughter 17 years student unmarried

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name BASHIR AHMAD WANI S/O GH MOHD WANI R/O WARIPORA BALA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 012040011053 wants to be registered on name WANI MEDICAL POINT .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....BASHIR AHMAD WANI
S/O GH MOHD WANI
R/O WARIPORA BALA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of RAJA BEGUM W/O LATE AB GANI BHAT R/O DANDMOH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GH NABI BHAT F/O AB GANI BHAT has passed away on 03/2/1995 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... RAJA BEGUM 55 years sister House wife
- 2....RAFIQA BEGUM 60 years //
- 3... SALEEMA 48 years // H/WIFE

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of RAJA BEGUM W/O LATE AB GANI BHAT R/O DANDMOH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GH NABI BHAT F/O AB GANI BHAT has passed away on 03/2/1995 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... RAJA BEGUM 55 years sister House wife
- 2....RAFIQA BEGUM 60 years //
- 3... SALEEMA 48 years // H/WIFE

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of BASHIR AHMAD GANIE S/O ABDUL KHALIQ GANIE R/O DANDMOH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ABDUL REHAM GANIE S/O AB KHALIQ GANIE has passed away on 28/4/1998 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... BASHIR AHMAD 55 years Brother chokedar
- 2....AB RADHID 60 years brother labour
- 3... Mst HAJRA 40 years // H/WIFE
4. ...RAJA BEGUM 35 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of GH MOHAMMAD PARRAY S/O AB REHMAN PARRAY R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN for the issuance of Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this connection a detailed report was sought from patwari halqa concerned which reveals that the applicants family consists of 05 members and the annual income of the applicant family from all sources consist of Rs ..70000 Moreover family structure of that applicant is as under

- 1... MUGLI BEGUM 71 years wife House wife married
- 2....SUHAIL AHMAD 33 years son student unmarried
- 3....SHAISTA BANO 22 years daughter //
- 4....MARYAM JAAN 19 years daughter

It is further submitted that GH MOHAMMAD PARRAY S/O AB REHMAN is labour by profession and is sole earning in the said family .The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of SUHAIL AHMAD PARRAY for marriage assistance

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

HT - NEWS / ADVT

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of BAKHTI BEGUM W/O late GH MOHD MIR R/O KAKOTHAL for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GH MOHD MIR S/O AB REHMAN MIR has passed away on 31/7/2022 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... BAKHTI BEGUM 45 years head Housewife
- 2....ULFAT 25 years daughter H/W job
- 3...DANISH AHMAD 23 years SON labour
4. ...MEHWISH 17 years daughter student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER AWANTIPORA
FOREST DIVISION AWANTIPORA

e-NIT No: 11 of 2025-26 S.No. 01, 02 & 03 | Dated: 21.08.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from registered, reputed, and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:

Particulars of Work	Adv. Cost	Bid Security (EMD) in Rs
1. Construction of Water Harvesting Structure at Zewan, Range Pampore, Awantipora Forest Division	3.56 Lac	Rs 7132/-
2. Construction of Water Harvesting Structure at 24/N Narastan, Range Tral, Awantipora Forest Division	3.60 Lac	Rs 7200/-
3. Construction of Water Harvesting Structure at 26/P Pastuna, Range Tral, Awantipora Forest Division	3.60 Lac	Rs 7200/-

Class of contractor: "D" Class PWD Contractor

Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 200/=

Time of Completion: 45 Calendar Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

Publishing Date:-	22.08.2025 from 10.00 AM
Download Start Date :	22.08.2025 from 1.00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	22.08.2025 from 1.00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	01.09.2025 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	02.09.2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir South Circle Bijbehara.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened online at any convenient date & time after complete evaluation of technical bids

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer, Awantipora Forest Division.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 60 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e. EMD (CDR/FDR), Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2025-26, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Affidavit cum Undertaking (Notarized), Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labor Registration Certificate issued by Labor Department after issuance of award of contract.
- Successful Bidder L1 shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before Award of Contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the scale as per PWD Manual Chapter 20 Clause 26.4 shall apply.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- Bidder is advised to visit and examine the site, its surroundings and familiarize himself with the existing facilities and environment, and collect all other information which he may require for preparing and submitting the bid and entering into the Contract. Claims and objections due to ignorance of existing conditions or inadequacy of information will not be considered after submission of the bid and during implementation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No: DFO/Awp/Plg/2025-26/56-61 | Dated: 21.08.2025

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer,
Awantipora Forest Division, Awantipora

DIPK: 5414/25 | Dated: 22-08-2025



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Rahane Steps Down As Mumbai's Ranji Trophy Captain

■ **ESPNcricinfo**

NEWDELHI: Ajinkya Rahane has given up the captaincy of the Mumbai Ranji Trophy team ahead of the 2025-26 domestic season, saying he believes "it's the right time to groom a new leader". In a communication to the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), Rahane, now 37, said he wants to continue as a player for the team.

"Captaining and winning championships with the Mumbai team has been an absolute honour," Rahane wrote in a social media post. "With a new domestic season ahead, I believe it's the right time to groom a new leader. And hence I've decided not to continue in the captaincy role. I remain fully committed to giving my best as a player and will continue my journey with MCA to help us win more trophies. Looking forward to the season."

Rahane helped Mumbai break a nine-year drought by leading them to their 42nd Ranji Trophy title in 2023-24. While his red-ball form over the past two years has been patchy (467 runs in 27 innings with just one century), he was more fluent in the shorter formats. At the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in December last year, when he played under Shreyas Iyer, Rahane was the Player of the Tournament for his chart-topping 469 runs in a title-winning season.

Rahane was most recently in charge of Kolkata Knight Riders at IPL 2025, for whom

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he was the highest scorer with 390 runs in 14 innings at a strike rate of 147.27. The team had a mediocre season, though, finishing eighth with just five wins.

In July, Rahane said he still possessed the "hunger and passion" for the game and for red-ball cricket, stating he even carried his trainers and cricket gear while on holiday in London to begin preparations for the upcoming domestic season.

"I still want to play Test cricket," Rahane had told Nasser Hussain and Michael Atherton in an interview with Sky Sports. "I'm really passionate about playing Test cricket. I'm enjoying my cricket at the moment. For me, it's all about focusing on the controllable things. Frankly, I tried to have conversations with the selectors, but [there are] things as a player I cannot control. I got no response. "As a player, all I can do is keep playing cricket, keep enjoying the game, and give my best each and every time. I love playing Test cricket, love playing red-ball [cricket], it's a passion. The love for the game keeps me going."

Mumbai are currently preparing for the upcoming season by playing the B. C. K. Invitational Tournament in Chennai, with a young squad led by 18-year-old Ayush Mhatre. Mumbai allrounder Shardul Thakur, a key member of their 2024-25 Ranji campaign, was named captain of West Zone for the season-opening Duleep Trophy.



FOOTBALL NIGHT TOURNAMENT



Keshav Maharaj rises to No. 1 in men's ODI bowling rankings

■ **ESPNcricinfo**

CAIRNS: South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj has displaced Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana as the No. 1 men's ODI bowler, following his five-for in the first ODI against Australia in Cairns.

Maharaj, who last held the spot in November 2023, returned to the top after gaining two places to move ahead of Theekshana (second) and India spinner Kuldeep Yadav (third). The 35-year-old picked up career-best ODI figures of 5 for 33 which gave South Africa a 98-run win and a 1-0 series lead.

Among the South African batters, Aiden Markram moved four spots up to No. 21 and Temba Bavuma five spots to No. 23 following their respective half-centuries in the first ODI.

Following the recently concluded ODI series against Pakistan, West In-



dies captain Shai Hope jumped two spots to No. 9 on the batters' list. Hope

finished as the top run-scorer in the series with 207 runs, helping West Indies win the series 2-1. His teammate Jayden Seales moved 15 places up to 18th in the bowling rankings following his ten wickets in the series. Following the T20Is between Australia and South Africa preceding the ODIs, fast bowler Nathan Ellis entered the top ten among bowlers, moving three places up to No. 9. Ellis picked up 3 for 31 in the third T20I to help Australia seal the T20Is 2-1. Josh Hazlewood, who picked up the most wickets for Australia in the series, rose two spots to 18th.

South Africa's hard-hitting batter Dewald Brevis jumped nine spots to equal 12th on the list for T20I batters following his superb efforts in the series. Brevis scored 125 not out off 56 in the first T20I and followed it up with 53 off 26 in the second.

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