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HEADLINES

TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



P:12

From 98.6 pc in Class 12 to Asian Games: How Aashima Ahlawat struck a deal with her mother to pursue shooting

Three-Year-Old Among Five Dead in Karnah Road Accident

Karnah Gripped by Grief After Fatal Seemari Crash
DR.AB QAYOOM
HT CORRESPONDENT

KUPWARA, SEPT. 28: Five people, including a three-year-old child, were killed and seven others injured after a passenger cab skidded off the Teetwal-Simari road and plunged into a deep gorge near Simari in Karnah on Monday.

The accident triggered a rescue operation, with police personnel, rescue teams and local residents rushing to the spot. The passengers were rescued and shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tangdhar, where doctors declared five persons brought dead.

According to BMO Karnah Dr Arif Khawaja, the deceased were identified as Mohammad Idrees (32), Hamza Idrees (3), Sayeeda Begum (30) and Mohammad Shabir (55), all residents of Simari, besides Mohammad Arshad (39) of Teetwal. The injured were identified as

>>> MORE ON P02

LG Sinha Directs Best Treatment for Kupwara Accident Injured

Five Dead, Six Injured in Teetwal-Simari Road Accident



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of five

lives in a road accident on the Teetwal-Simari road in Karnah area of Kupwara and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families. "I have directed the District Administration to ensure

best possible treatment to the injured," Sinha said in a post on X, while praying for the speedy recovery of the six persons injured in the accident.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a road accident on the Teetwal-Simari road in the Karnah area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

In a post on X, Sinha conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the accident. "I have directed the District Administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Five people were killed and six others injured in the accident, according to the latest reports. The identities of the deceased and injured were not immediately available. (KNS)

Hailstorm Damage Assessment Underway in Gulmarg : Omar Abdullah

Relief to farmers to follow prescribed norms after field verification

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly that a detailed on-the-spot assessment of crop damage caused by the severe hailstorm in parts of Gulmarg Constituency is underway, with Revenue, Agriculture and Horticulture teams deputed to affected villages. Replying to a Calling Attention Notice, the Chief Minister said the September 11-12 hailstorm damaged apple orchards, maize and paddy/rice, adding that compensation and relief would be sanctioned and released strictly as per

prescribed norms after the assessment and verification reports are consolidated. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the



Revenue portfolio, today informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that a detailed on-the-spot assessment of crop damage caused by the severe hailstorm in parts of Gulmarg Constituency

>>> MORE ON P02

J&K Prepares for Nationwide 'Reform Utsav' 2026

Srinagar, Jammu to host major events showcasing governance and industrial development



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reviewed Jammu and Kashmir's preparedness for the nationwide three-month 'Reform Utsav' campaign scheduled from October to December 2026, directing departments to focus on grassroots participation and

tangible improvements in public service delivery. He called for special Gram Sabhas across all Panchayats, designation of district nodal officers and completion of preparations before October 2, while officials said major events are proposed in Srinagar and Jammu during November and

>>> MORE ON P02

Kulgam Police Verify SIM Vendor Records Amid Security Measures

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KULGAM, SEP 28: Kulgam Police are checking the records and documents of SIM card vendors across the district as part of security

measures.

The verification exercise covers the records and documentation maintained by SIM card vendors and is aimed at ensuring compliance with the prescribed procedures.

Police officials said the exercise is part of routine security measures being undertaken in the district.

Leh Police Crack Jewellery Shop Theft Case, Recover Property Worth ₹70 Lakh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, SEP 28: Leh Police have traced and solved a

major jewellery shop theft case and recovered stolen jewellery worth around 70 lakh along with cash of 4.30 lakh, while one of the accused remains at large.

According to police, a written complaint was submitted by Sunil Kumar, a resident of Rajasthan and owner of a jewellery shop at Nowshara Gali, Leh, regarding a theft from his shop during the intervening

night of August 18 and 19.

Following the complaint, FIR No. 204/2026 under Sections 305(a) and 331(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered at Police Station Leh. The investigation was entrusted to SI Dorjay Zangpo under the supervision of the SHO Police Station Leh, ASP Headquarters Leh and SSP Leh.

>>> MORE ON P02

Barnai-Jawdora Road Project Awaits Forest Clearance : Dy CM

₹47.42-crore PMGSY project to provide all-weather connectivity to Jawdora

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary informed the



Legislative Assembly that the Government is pursuing the necessary forest and environmental clearances for early commencement of the 18.824-km Barnai-Jawdora Link Road under PMGSY, sanctioned in 2025 at a cost of 47.42 crore. He said the executing agency has

already mobilised men and machinery and a temporary diversion across the Kishanganga River has been constructed, while the proposal will be submitted on the PARIVESH portal after completion of tree enumeration, forest-land details and other required formalities.

Government today informed the Legislative Assembly that it is actively pursuing all necessary clearances and taking sustained measures to facilitate the early commencement of work on the 18.824-km Barnai-Jawdora Link Road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary in reply to a Calling Attention Notice moved by

>>> MORE ON P02

"If It Is Only Statehood, We Will Support It" : Sunil Sharma

LoP opposes references to 2000 autonomy and 2024 special-status resolutions

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the BJP would support a resolution seeking restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir if it remained confined to that issue, while opposing references to the 2000 autonomy resolution and the 2024 special-status resolution. "If the CM brings only a Statehood resolution, we will support it. Statehood is the agenda of the BJP and we are committed to it," Sharma said, adding that the party would oppose references to the pre-1953 constitutional position and launch protests across Jammu and Kashmir against those portions of the resolution.

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu



would remain an integral part of India.

Addressing reporters in Srinagar as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS), Sharma said the BJP was committed to restoration of Statehood but

>>> MORE ON P02

Boy Succumbs to Injuries After Leopard Attack in Marsary

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KUPWARA, SEP 28: A 12-year-old boy was killed after being attacked by a leopard in the Marsary area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said.

The incident occurred during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday when the leopard attacked the boy in the Marsary area.

The boy sustained serious injuries in the attack and later succumbed to his injuries. His body was subsequently recovered by locals from a nearby forest area.

The deceased has been identified as Ayan Ashraf, son of Mohammad Ashraf Mir, a resident of Zonrashi Chowkibal.

Officials said cognizance of the

>>> MORE ON P02

Govt Committed to Strengthen Health Infrastructure : Sakeena

416 Medical Officers selected; appointment orders issued for 335

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is adopting a phased and need-based approach to strengthen health care infrastructure in Bani constituency, where 50 health institutions are currently functional. She said 19 institutions are operating from rented or private buildings, while the Health Sub-Centre at Bhakoga is under execution, and added that the J&K Public Service Commission has provided the selection list of 416 Medical Officers, with

appointment orders for 335 already issued; vacancies in non-gazetted and paramedical categories have also been referred to recruiting agencies.

Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo on Monday said the government is adopting a phased and need-based approach to strengthen health infrastructure and improve healthcare delivery in Bani constituency.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Dr Rameshwar Singh in the Legislative Assembly, Itoo said 50 health institutions are presently functional in Bani constituency

>>> MORE ON P02

J&K Assembly Takes Up Ease of Doing Business Bill

Proposed law envisages time-bound approvals, deemed clearances and inspection safeguards

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday took up the



Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, which proposes a rule-based regulatory framework with time-bound approvals, a single-window system and deemed approval in specified cases. The Bill proposes in-principle approval within three working days for new enterprises

in approved industrial parks, while applications outside such parks would have a 30-working-day timeframe; it also envisages safeguards on inspections, industrial leases of up to 99 years and provisions for employment of J&K domicile candidates, while retaining mandatory environmental, forest, wildlife and pollution-control requirements.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday took up the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, proposing a new regulatory framework aimed at reducing procedural delays and making government approvals for enterprises more time-bound and predictable.

The Bill, introduced by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in his capacity as

>>> MORE ON P02

Security Forces Intensify Search Operations in Udhampur Forests



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

UDHAMPUR, SEP 28: Security forces have intensified search and surveillance operations in the forested areas of Udhampur district, with joint posts of the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group established at strategic locations along the Kathua-Udhampur border.

The heightened security measures follow Operation Sohan, conducted earlier this month in the Brattal Sohan and Khubban forest areas of Majalta, where two Jaish-e-Mohammad members were

>>> MORE ON P02

Atal Dulloo reviews progress of Census operations in snow-bound areas

Takes stock of preparedness for next phase in districts across J&K

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting of the UT Level Census Coordination Committee (UTLCCC) to review the progress of ongoing Census 2027 operations in snow-bound areas and assess preparedness for the upcoming Population Enumeration exercise in the remaining parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Secretary, Revenue; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; Director, School Education; Joint Director, Census Operations, J&K; and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive district-wise appraisal of the ongoing



enumeration exercise from the respective Deputy Commissioners, besides reviewing the administrative arrangements, logistical preparedness and interdepartmental coordination required for the smooth conduct of the subsequent phase.

Reviewing the progress in snow-bound areas, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to expedite the completion of the remaining Enumeration Blocks (EBs), ensuring that the exercise is concluded well

before the sunset date set for the exercise.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, comprehensive coverage and strict adherence to prescribed timelines, while calling for close coordination between the district administrations and census authorities to address any operational bottlenecks.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed preparedness for the upcoming enumeration exercise in non-snow-bound areas of the UT. He directed

the concerned Divisional and District Administrations to put in place all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements well in advance, drawing upon the experience gained during the ongoing operations in snow-bound regions.

A detailed presentation on the progress achieved and upcoming activities was made by Joint Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh.

The meeting was informed that enumeration operations are presently underway across 95 designated charges spread over 16 snow-bound districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Of the 4,597 Enumeration Blocks identified in these areas, 3,814 have already been completed, registering an overall achievement of 82.97 percent. Four districts, namely Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Pulwama, have achieved 100 percent completion, while Kishtwar has recorded 98.84 percent progress, followed by Reasi at 94.49 percent

and Udhampur at 91.69 percent.

Regarding financial arrangements, the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R. Alice Vaz apprised the meeting that the Department has released 49.20 crore to the respective districts to meet expenditure on IT infrastructure, fuel, contingencies, honorariums and training allowances for field functionaries.

The Committee was further apprised that intensive training of nodal officers, charge officers, supervisors and enumerators deployed for Special Charges in snow-bound areas had been completed in two phases across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions earlier this month.

Reviewing preparations for the compilation of the District Census Handbook (DCHB), the Chief Secretary was informed that training of all concerned field functionaries had been completed between September 14 and 27, 2026.

DC Budgam, Director Kashmir Campus take stock of Infrastructure Progress at University of Jammu's Kashmir Campus

■ HT News Network



BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Along with Director Kashmir Campus, Dr Guneet Singh

today undertook a detailed inspection of the Kashmir Campus of the University of Jammu at Rakh Aarath, Bemina, to take stock of the latest progress on various infrastructure works and assess the readiness of the campus for operationalisation.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of major components of the campus infrastructure and interacted with the officers and executing agencies regarding the pace of work, pending activities and issues requiring immediate attention.

The Deputy Commissioner called for a coordinated and result-oriented approach by all concerned agencies, directing them to remove bottlenecks and ensure uninterrupted execution of the remaining works. He stressed that field-level monitoring and regular coordination among departments must be maintained to achieve the desired progress within the set timelines.

Particular attention was given to essential services required for making the campus operational. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of power connectivity and directed the concerned agency to complete the pending work associated with the HT line on priority.

The status of water supply arrangements was also reviewed, with directions to the PHE authorities to take necessary measures for providing water connectivity to the campus at the earliest.

The DC further assessed the progress of the approach road and other site-development works, directing the concerned executing agency to accelerate construction and ensure proper accessibility to the campus.

He also inspected the boundary wall, protective fencing and prefabricated facilities established at the site and directed that the remaining works be taken up in a systematic manner while adhering strictly to prescribed quality specifications.

Emphasising the importance of the project for strengthening higher-education infrastructure in the district, the Deputy Commissioner directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and submit regular progress updates so that outstanding works are completed expeditiously.

He reiterated that the administration would continue to monitor the progress of the campus works closely and facilitate resolution of issues requiring inter-departmental intervention.

Senior officers and representatives of the University of Jammu, Joint Director Planning Budgam, Tehsildar Budgam, Executive Engineers from R&B, PHE and PDD

and other concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the inspection.

Rana reviews progress of Jal Shakti Schemes in Doda, Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 28: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today convened a meeting of officers of the Jal Shakti Department from Doda and Bhaderwah at the Civil Secretariat here to review the progress of ongoing water supply schemes and development works in the areas. The Minister took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of various ongoing schemes and sought a comprehensive assessment of the works at different stages of execution. He also took stock of the issues and bottlenecks affecting the pace of implementation. He stressed the need for timely resolution of such matters through coordinated efforts.

Rana directed the officers to prepare comprehensive



Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the proposed works, incorporating all necessary technical, financial and field requirements. He emphasised that DPRs should be prepared after proper site assessment and in accordance with the actual requirements of the concerned areas to ensure efficient execution, minimise revisions and avoid delays at later stages. He called for close monitoring of ongoing works and directed the field officers to undertake regular inspections to ensure adherence to approved

specifications, quality standards and timelines. He stressed that the available resources must be utilised judiciously and that the works should be executed with due regard to the long-term sustainability of the water supply infrastructure. The Minister underscored the importance of strengthening drinking water infrastructure in Doda and Bhaderwah, particularly in view of the difficult terrain and the requirements of people living in far-flung and hilly areas. He directed the officers to maintain

DC Srinagar chairs District Road Safety Committee meeting

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the road safety scenario in the District.

The DC assessed measures being taken by various Departments for prevention of road accidents and ensuring safer mobility for commuters and pedestrians, besides improving assistance to accident victims.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner held detailed discussions on road safety concerns requiring immediate attention, measures to improve roads and allied safety infrastructure, corrective measures for identified accident-prone black spots



and pedestrian safety, besides timely emergency medical response, post-crash care and expeditious settlement of assistance and compensation claims for road accident victims, with the objective of reducing road accidents and fatalities and ensuring safer road conditions for all road users.

On the occasion, the DC emphasised the need for greater outreach to road accident victims and their families so that eligible victims can avail the assistance

available under the PM Rahat (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme under which, every eligible road accident victim on any category of road will be entitled to cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh

per victim, for period of seven days from the date of accident. He directed the concerned ARTO to ensure that information regarding the scheme reaches accident victims and eligible beneficiaries in a timely manner.

The DC also stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination among all concerned agencies to strengthen road safety measures and ensure timely implementation of necessary corrective interventions to minimise the risk of road accidents.

Satish Sharma meets delegations, exhorts departments to address public issues on priority

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, September 28: Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today held a series of meetings with various delegations, during which issues concerning youth, sports, transport, food and public distribution, information technology, science and technology, employment and public services were raised.

The delegations, representing different groups, associations and sections of the public, apprised the Minister of their specific issues and sought his intervention for resolution of the same.

During the interactions, the representatives highlighted concerns related to sports infrastructure and facilities, opportunities for youth, employment and livelihood avenues, transport services, delivery of public services and other matters requiring government attention.

While responding to the issues raised by the delegations, the Minister assured them that all their genuine concerns would be examined on priority and appropriate



action would be taken to sort out the same.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to examine the issues falling within their respective jurisdictions and take necessary action wherever required.

Issues concerning youth development and sports figured prominently during the interactions.

The Minister reiterated the Government's focus on providing young people with better opportunities to participate in sports, develop their skills and pursue avenues for employment and entrepreneurship. He emphasised that strengthening sports infrastructure, improving access to sporting facilities and supporting emerging talent are

important components of youth empowerment.

Several issues relating to transport facilities and public service delivery were also brought before the Minister.

Satish Sharma directed the concerned authorities to examine the matters raised by the delegations and ensure that issues within the departmental framework are processed appropriately.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of Information Technology and Science & Technology in improving the governance, enhancing service delivery and creating new opportunities for the younger generation. He said that technology-driven solutions can help make government services more accessible, efficient and transparent, while also opening new avenues for innovation, entrepreneurship and employment.

He maintained that his departments would continue to engage with the stakeholders and work towards strengthening youth-oriented initiatives, sports infrastructure, transport services, public distribution and consumer-related services, technology-driven governance and scientific innovations.

DC Kulgam reviews Action Plans for Youth Empowerment

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a meeting to review the department-wise Action Plans for Youth Empowerment for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 at the Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the proposed activities and programmes of various departments aimed at ensuring sustained, meaningful and structured engagement of youth across the district.

The DC stressed the need for maximum outreach and a diverse range of youth-oriented programmes, with focus on skill development, entrepreneurship, sports and recreation, innovation, culture, community participation and other areas of relevance to young people.

He directed the concerned departments to schedule programmes to equip youth with skills, enhance their awareness about Government schemes and employment opportunities, and facilitate their participation in various developmental initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner called for close inter-departmental coordination and directed the departments to schedule



a maximum number of meaningful activities and awareness programmes for year 2026-27 and 2027-28, ensuring wider participation of youth.

He further emphasized that the proposed activities should be realistic, outcome-oriented and properly planned, with regular monitoring and documentation to ensure effective implementation and wider outreach.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Altaf Ahmad Khan; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; CEO, Fayaz Ahmad Mir; CMO, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Parrey; DIO, Showkat Hussain Ganie; CHO, CAO, DSWO, DYSSO, representatives of Degree Colleges and ITIs and other officers of concerned departments.



DC Anantnag reviews progress of SBM (G) Approves alternate Locational Plan to facilitate smooth execution of approved works

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 28: In order to review the implementation and progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) in the district, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) on SBM (G) at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Anantnag.

The meeting held a detailed review of various components of SBM (G), with particular focus on the status of works at different stages, including tendering, allotment and execution.

The Committee took a comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved so far and discussed measures to ensure timely implementation of the programme across the district.

During the meeting, the Committee was informed that more than 2,480 SBM (G) works have been taken up, out of which around 2,430 works have been tendered and more than 2,000 works are presently under execution.

The meeting also reviewed the Locational Plan under SBM (G) and deliberated upon measures for its effective implementation. The Committee considered the need for suitable locations for various sanitation-related works



and accorded approval to the alternate Locational Plan to facilitate smooth execution of the approved works.

The issue of fixation of Door-to-Door user charges was also discussed in detail,

with the Committee deliberating on measures to strengthen the sustainability and effectiveness of sanitation and waste-management services at the grassroots level. The Deputy Commissioner

directed the concerned officers to ensure timely execution and completion of all SBM (G) works while maintaining close and regular monitoring of progress at the field level. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders and strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines and quality standards for effective implementation of the programme.

The DC further called for identification and removal of bottlenecks affecting the pace of execution and directed the officers to take proactive measures so that the ongoing works are completed well ahead of the stipulated timelines.

He emphasized that effective implementation of SBM (G) requires sustained field-level supervision, inter-departmental coordination and timely resolution of issues so as to achieve the intended sanitation and cleanliness outcomes in rural areas of the district.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Wing (REW) Anantnag, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Anantnag, and all Block Development Officers (BDOs) of the district, besides other concerned officials.

DC, SSP Kupwara visit Seemari, Console Bereaved Families

Authorities ensured swift rescue and treatment for injured

HT News Network

KUPWARA, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse and SSP Kupwara, Syed Al-Tahir Gilani today visited Seemari in Karnah Sub-Division, where a tragic road accident claimed five lives and left several others injured.

Following the accident, the District Administration and Kupwara police launched a swift rescue operation, comprising teams from the civil administration, police, Indian Army and emergency services. All passengers were evacuated and rushed to SDH Tangdhar, where five were declared brought dead.

After medico-legal formalities, the bodies were handed over to their families for last rites. Six injured passengers were stabilized and referred to GMC Handwara. Senior officers from district administration and police visited GMC Handwara to monitor the situation.

During the visit, the DC and the SSP inspected



the accident site, took stock of the situation and met the bereaved families. They expressed deep grief, extended heartfelt condolences and assured the families of all possible support from the district administration.

Central Prabhari Officer reviews developmental progress of Aspirational Block Achgoza Review focuses on ongoing projects, key indicators

HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 28: Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) for the Aspirational Blocks Programme, Bhupinder Kumar, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental initiatives and government schemes in Aspirational Block Achgoza, Pulwama, at the Circuit House, Pulwama. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, SSP Pulwama, Sahil Sarangal, ADDC Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, ADC Pulwama, Mohd Ashraf Sheikh, ACD, CPO, CEO, CMO and other senior district and sectoral officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Health, Education, Social Development, Jal Shakti and other concerned departments. A detailed presentation was made before the Chair on the developmental progress of the block, projects under implementation and various departmental interventions. The status of key indicators under the Aspirational Blocks Programme and Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 was also reviewed.

The departments of Agriculture, Health, Education, and PHE, among others, presented their progress and briefed the Chair about the



schemes and initiatives being implemented in the block.

It was informed that several government schemes and developmental projects are already in progress. The Chair emphasised the need to identify and bridge the remaining gaps through effective convergence, coordinated efforts and timely implementation.

The meeting also discussed key demands and proposed developmental works for Achgoza, including a Public Library and Sports Complex, a building for the AYUSH Hospital, a Shopping Block for SHGs/MFP activities and a Meeting Hall at the BDO Office, Achgoza. The status of projects already under process was also presented before the Chair.

The Aspirational Blocks Programme, being implemented under the framework of NITI Aayog, aims to accelerate development in identified blocks through convergence of government schemes, improved service delivery and focused interventions across key sectors. The review also focused on ensuring that progress under various indicators translates into visible and measurable improvements in the quality of life of the people.

Emphasis was also laid on strengthening inter-departmental convergence and field-level monitoring, with officers asked to closely track the progress of ongoing interventions and address gaps affecting the achievement

DC Budgam reviews progress under Mission YUVA

Directs Time-Bound Action on pending Bank Cases, Training, Udyam Jagriti and ONDC targets

HT News Network



BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a Review Meeting-cum-SBDU/DLIC Meeting to assess progress under Mission YUVA and review implementation of various targets in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, Joint Director Planning, GM DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer, Principal Polytechnic Nagam, Superintendents of ITI Budgam and Charar-i-Sharif, Lead District Manager and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of pending bank cases, hybrid training, capacity building, Udyam Jagriti, Hackathon, ONDC onboarding and Completion/WIP reporting.

Taking note of pending cases with banks, he directed the concerned banks to undertake thorough scrutiny and ensure timely sanction and disbursement on priority. He directed immediate enrolment of all disbursed cases pending under Hybrid Training and stressed close follow-up for timely completion.

Under Udyam Jagriti, the Deputy Commissioner directed coverage of all SHG members and awareness programmes in uncovered Panchayats. He also directed College Principals, Placement Coordinators and IIC Coordinators to intensify participation in the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 Hackathon.

On capacity building, the DC directed expeditious enrolment of eligible beneficiaries, with DLIC-approved and disbursed cases to be taken up on priority. He stressed that there should be no delay between approval and training enrolment.

Under ONDC, the Deputy Commissioner directed accelerated onboarding of products and called for timely submission of Completion/WIP Reports for all disbursed cases.

DC Kulgam reviews works under District Capex Directs for speeding up execution of development works

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a review meeting to assess the status of estimation, tendering, allotment and execution of works approved under District Capex Budget Pan for year 2026-27.

During the meeting, department-wise status was reviewed in detail including works where estimation is pending, works where estimation done but NIT not floated, ongoing works and their physical progress.

Sector-wise review including that of Education, RDD, Sports, R&B, Power, Health and works of other departments were also reviewed. He also reviewed the physical progress of ongoing works and directed officers to accelerate pace, maintain quality parameters and ensure regular monitoring of work progress.

The DC directed for immediate submission of estimates of pending approved works in some departments



so that administrative approvals and technical sanctions are accorded in time. He further directed for expediting the tendering process, finalizing allotments and ensuring early take-up of works at ground level to ensure maximum working season is utilized.

All Executive Engineers and sectoral officers were directed to personally monitor works, resolve bottlenecks on spot,

ensure inter-departmental coordination and submit daily progress.

The meeting was attended by DPO, Zaheer Ahmad Kaifi; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; SE, R&B, Fayaz Ahmad; CPO, Malik Suheel; Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE & PDD, CEO, CMO, DIO, DSWO, BDOs, AEEs, DYSSO, AD Plannings and other officers and officials.

DDAC Bandipora holds Drug Awareness, CPLI Session at Garoora School

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 28: In a significant

initiative aimed at strengthening drug prevention among school-going children, the District De-Addiction Centre (DDAC), Bandipora, in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora, organised an awareness and Community Based Peer-Led Intervention (CPLI) session at Government Boys High School, Garoora, under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan of NAPDDR. The session focused on creating awareness about substance abuse, strengthening refusal

skills among adolescents and sensitising teachers about their role in early identification and prevention. Project Coordinator, DDAC Bandipora, Umar Islam, delivered a session on the role of teachers in drug demand reduction and services available at DDAC Bandipora.

Explaining the "1 TRY" concept, the Project Coordinator cautioned the students against experimenting with drugs even once, highlighting how curiosity can gradually develop into habit

and addiction. He briefed participants about DDAC services, including free OPD and IPD treatment, individual, group and family counselling and follow-up care. Outreach Worker, DDAC Bandipora, sensitised participants about factors contributing to substance abuse, particularly peer pressure and negative company, and encouraged students to develop the confidence to say "No" to drugs. An interactive CPLI session was conducted by Supervisor.

National Mid-Term CME of IACAM concludes in Srinagar, deliberates on child mental health, ethics and law

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: The 4th National Mid-Term CME of the Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (IACAM) concluded in Srinagar on Sunday after three days of discussions on the ethical, legal and clinical dimensions of child and adolescent mental healthcare.

Held from September 25 to 27, the CME was organised by IACAM in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Psychiatric Society (JKPS). The programme, themed "Children, Ethics and Laws", brought together psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, legal professionals, researchers and other mental-health practitioners from across the country.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean Government Medical College, Srinagar, who attended the conference as Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Shah highlighted the expansion of mental-health

services in Kashmir and acknowledged the sustained efforts of professionals working in the field.

Dr Savita Malhotra, Life President of IACAM, stressed the need to train and deploy more mental-health professionals to meet the growing psychological and developmental needs of children and adolescents.

Dr Vivek Agarwal, President, IACAM, and Dr Rachana Bhargava, General Secretary, IACAM, underlined the importance of integrating ethical and legal considerations into child and adolescent mental-health practice. They emphasised that such an approach is essential for ensuring responsible, rights-based and child-centred care.

The scientific programme examined the relationship between mental healthcare, child rights and the legal framework governing children and young people. Sessions addressed ethical dilemmas in clinical practice, legal issues involving children, mental-health assessments, child protection, developmental concerns and



the responsibilities of professionals working with young people.

The CME featured lectures, interactive workshops, panel discussions and academic exchanges. Across the sessions, speakers emphasised that children should be recognised not only as recipients of care

but also as individuals with rights, voices, vulnerabilities and evolving capacities.

The programme included contributions from several distinguished experts and academicians, including Dr Shekhar Seshadri, whose work in child and adolescent mental health, ethics and child rights has influenced

professional practice and training in the field. Clinicians, academicians and experts from diverse disciplines also participated in the scientific deliberations.

A Panel Discussion on 'From chalkboards to chatbots' deliberated on the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and chatbots in education and human interaction. The speakers discussed the potential of AI to support more equitable and individualised learning while also examining concerns relating to critical thinking, creativity, human interaction and the changing nature of communication and social relationships.

The discussion noted that AI is emerging as a significant technological development with far-reaching implications for education and society. Speakers emphasised the need to engage with the technology responsibly, while ensuring that human creativity, critical thinking, social interaction and independent learning remain central to education and human development.

The organisers called for evidence-based, ethical, compassionate and rights-

based mental healthcare for children and adolescents. They noted that addressing child and adolescent mental health as a public-health priority would require sustained cooperation among professionals, families, schools, healthcare institutions, policymakers and legal authorities.

The conference also highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's growing role in academic and professional engagement in mental health and strengthened links between practitioners in the region and colleagues from across India.

The gathering concluded with a renewed commitment to developing accessible, ethical and child-centred mental-health systems that place the dignity, voice and best interests of every child at the centre of clinical practice, policy and law. The gathering concluded with a renewed commitment to developing accessible, ethical and child-centred mental-health systems that place the dignity, voice and best interests of every child at the centre of clinical practice, policy and law.



SKUAST-K RBIC unveils flagship startup programs CGM NABARD reviews progress, VC chairs foundation BoD Meet

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28: In a major push to accelerate grassroots entrepreneurship across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, Rural Business Incubation Centre (RBIC) at SKUAST-Kashmir on Monday launched five flagship startup support programs and unveiled its official digital portal at the university's Shalimar Campus.

The launch took place on the occasion of a high-level NABARD delegation visit led by Dr BR Premi, Chief General Manager (RMSMED), NABARD Mumbai, which was planned for the Board of Directors (BoD) meet of the SKUAST Kashmir RBIC Foundation, a Section 8 non-profit company operationalising the NABARD-supported incubation initiative at the university.

The event was presided over by SKUAST-K Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, with Dr Premi attending as the Guest of Honour.

The five newly unveiled programs are structured to support innovators



across every stage of the venture lifecycle. These comprise the Grassroots Pre-Incubation Program (GRIP) to scout and validate field-level concepts; RBIC Hackathon 1.0 to mobilize youth toward solving regional farm bottlenecks; and a comprehensive Mentorship and Acceleration Program to ready early-stage enterprises for investment and commercial scale. To safeguard and market indigenous innovations, the centre also rolled out "Idea to

Asset: Protect Your Innovation"—an intellectual property support program—alongside "Brand Edge," dedicated to product packaging, storytelling, and market positioning.

The dignitaries also launched the official RBIC interactive website, designed as a single-window platform for incubation applications, mentor engagement, IP assistance, and startup-investor linkages.

Marking a key deliverable in institutional outcomes, certificates

were distributed among the recently selected Cohort-1 incubatees for structured incubation and venture acceleration.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor highlighted the varsity's ongoing transition into an entrepreneurial hub solving indigenous challenges. "For decades, we relied primarily on imported research and technological models from abroad. Our time has arrived to contribute back to global knowledge and domestic innovation. Living in India, we are best placed to solve our own problems. RBIC ensures that our youth and researchers receive the institutional backing and commercial runway to build self-reliant enterprises," he said.

Prior to the launch ceremony, Dr Premi held a bilateral interaction with the Vice Chancellor and interaction with RBIC staff, followed by the Meeting of the Foundation's Board of Directors and an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). The visiting delegation later toured the RBIC incubation facility

to inspect operational infrastructure, working prototypes, and lab-to-market pipelines.

Addressing the gathering, Dr BR Premi, commended RBIC for establishing a vibrant grassroots incubation engine at a short span of time. "It was a wonderful experience for me to observe people expressing their ideas here and I congratulate RBIC for that. In a small period of one year, this incubation centre has created good impact with the support of the university," he said. The ceremony was also attended by Secretary Kissan Board, Nuzhat Gull, who lauded the innovators and SKUAST-K for advancing farm-level technologies. The senior NABARD delegation included Vikas Mittal, General Manager and Officer-in-Charge, J&K Regional Office; Surinder Singh, DGM Srinagar; and Kanav Sharma, AGM (RMSMED, Mumbai).

Registrar, SKUAST-K, Prof Azmat Alam Khan along with university officers and Heads of Divisions, was also present at the occasion.

Environment Building Programme on Inclusive Education organised by CEO Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 28: The Office of the Chief Education Officer, Shopian, organised an Environment Building Programme under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha, Inclusive Education Component, with the objective of sensitising teachers, parents and other community stakeholders towards the educational needs, rights and inclusion of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) enrolled in various schools of District Shopian.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Education Officer, Shopian, said that inclusive education is not merely an administrative or institutional responsibility but a collective social commitment to ensure dignity, equality and equal educational opportunities for every child. He emphasised that no child should feel excluded, neglected or disadvantaged because of disability or any other special educational need. He stressed that the true measure of an inclusive school is not merely the presence of a child with special needs in the classroom, but the extent to which that child is able to participate, learn, communicate, develop confidence and feel an equal and valued member of the school community.

He further highlighted the need for schools to progressively strengthen their infrastructure and accessibility facilities and ensure that teachers are adequately sensitised and equipped with appropriate pedagogical strategies to address the individual learning requirements of CWSN. He called upon teachers to adopt a compassionate and child-centred approach, recognising that every child has unique abilities, strengths and potential.

The CEO also underscored the pivotal role of parents and the community in promoting inclusive education. He stated that sustained collaboration between schools and parents is essential for identifying the needs of children at an early stage, providing timely support and ensuring continuity between home and school-



based interventions.

Emphasising the importance of changing societal attitudes, the Chief Education Officer called for collective efforts to move beyond sympathy towards acceptance, empowerment and meaningful participation of children with special needs. He observed that an inclusive education system ultimately contributes towards building a more sensitive, equitable and compassionate society.

The CEO further reiterated that the Education Department, Shopian, remains committed to strengthening the Inclusive Education Component of Samagra Shiksha and to ensuring that every child, irrespective of individual differences or disabilities, receives an opportunity to learn in a safe, supportive and enabling environment.

The Deputy Chief Education Officer, in his inaugural address, highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive, supportive and barrier-free educational environment where children with special needs can learn, participate and thrive alongside their peers.

The Dy. CEO emphasised that meaningful inclusion requires appropriate infrastructure, accessibility facilities and adequately trained human resources capable of responding to the diverse educational needs of children with special needs. He further stressed the importance of fostering an empathetic and child-friendly environment in schools and classrooms so that CWSN are provided equal opportunities to participate in the teaching-learning process and realise their full potential.

'Swachhata Hi Sewa' Campaign GDC Vijaypur organises Traditional Sports, Cleanliness Drive

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 28: Government Degree College Vijaypur, under the guidance of Principal Dr. Sanjeet Kour, organized a series of traditional and local sports activities coupled with a campus cleanliness drive as part of the nationwide 'Swachhata Hi Sewa' campaign. The theme for the event was "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat Viksit Bharat."

The multi-activity event was organized by Director of Physical Education and Sports, Amit Sharma, in joint collaboration with the NSS Unit

(Khidmat) and the NCORD Committee of the college. The coordination was spearheaded by NSS Program Officer Dr. Arti Sharma and Convenor, NCORD Committee Dr. Anoop Kumar Bhagat.

The event commenced with a Swachhata Pledge administered to students and faculty members, followed by an introductory briefing on the sports schedule and cleanliness objectives.

Students actively engaged in a series of traditional and local games aimed at promoting wellness and cultural heritage in traditional games Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Pithoo / Lagori, Tug

of War (Rassa-Kashi), Hopscotch (Stapoo) and Kokla chipaki. Alongside the sports matches, an intensive cleanliness drive was executed targeting the college sports ground and surrounding campus grounds.

The key eco-initiatives included Zero-Waste Commitment ensuring all event operations produced minimal environmental impact, Plastic-Free Sports Zone with complete ban on single-use plastics during game intervals and activities, Waste Segregation and Collection for systematic collection and post-event disposal of campus waste to leave playing areas spotless,

Govt. M.A.M. College Celebrates Hindi Pakhwada

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 28: The Department of Hindi, Government M.A.M. College, Jammu, celebrated Hindi Pakhwada 2026 with enthusiasm and active participation of students under the guidance of the worthy Principal, Dr. Sanjay Kumar. On the occasion, a symposium on the theme "Vaishvik Star Par Hindi Ka Badhta Mahatva" (Growing Importance of Hindi at the Global Level) and a quiz competition were organised. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who showcased their creativity, literary abilities and knowledge of the Hindi language. The programme commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr.

Seema Sudan, Head, Department of Hindi. In her address, she highlighted the importance of Hindi as an important language of communication, literature and cultural expression.

The formal address was delivered by the Principal, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, who emphasised the significance of Hindi in promoting India's rich literary and cultural identity. He appreciated the efforts of the Department of Hindi in organising activities that encourage students to develop their literary and creative skills. A large number of students participated in the various activities with great zeal and enthusiasm. The quiz competition provided students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, while the symposium encouraged them to express their views.

AMWA Distributes Certificates Among 87 Students After Successful Completion of Computer Courses

■ GULFAM BARJI

Ahmadabad / Sept: 28 Ahmedabad Muslim Women's Association (AMWA) organised a felicitation ceremony at Juhapura, Ahmedabad, to honour students who successfully completed basic and advanced computer courses offered by the organisation. Certificates of appreciation were distributed among 87 students on the occasion. The programme was presided over by Razaq Memon, President, Ilm Foundation, who highlighted the growing importance of computer education and digital skills in the present technological era. He appreciated AMWA's efforts to provide practical computer training at affordable fees, particularly to students from economically weaker and middle-income sections of society. Among those present on the occasion were Naeem S. Tirmizi, Irfan Qadri (Bapu) and Reshmaben Kathi, besides other dignitaries. Addressing the students, Prof. Dr. Mehruunnisa Desai, President



(AMWA) said that along with formal education, practical skills play an important role in building confidence and self-reliance among young people. She urged the students to make the best use of educational and skill-development opportunities and continue working hard to build a better future. She said that (AMWA) has been working for several decades in the fields of education, healthcare, legal assistance, skill development and women's empowerment. She added that the organisation aims to help women and youth move towards self-reliance through education and vocational

During the programme, Mohammed Sharif Desai, President, The Mehr Credit and Supply Cooperative Society, spoke about various activities undertaken by the organisation. Naeem Mansuri, Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks. The distinguished guests were also honoured with shawls and books. The programme was conducted by Rizwana Qureshi, while Zakiraben Qadri presented the recitation of the Holy Quran. The services of Mahinoor Syed, instructor at the (AMWA) Computer Classes, and mentors Tasmiyan Tirmizi, Manfoos Sheikh and Sahana Desai were also appreciated on the occasion.

District Level Role Play, Folk Dance competition held at DIET Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 28: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), successfully organised a District Level Role Play and Folk Dance Competition at its premises.

The event was held under the overall supervision of the Principal Dr R.G Dogra. The programme featured participants from nine zones in the Role Play and Folk Dance competitions. They showcased remarkable talent, teamwork and expression through their performances. The event was judged by DIET HoD Kanwal Preet Kour; Principal GBHSS Akhnoor Manmeet Bali and Master GHS Sunail Ashok Kumar. Their expertise and fair evaluation contributed greatly to the success of the programme. The



event was coordinated by Lecturers DIET Suniya Mehta and Amit Gupta with technical support from Lecturer DIET Pardeep Singh Manhas and Librarian DIET Deepu Kardar. The winners were awarded trophies and certificates as recognition for their outstanding performances. Refreshments and lunch were also served to all participants and escort

teachers, ensuring a hospitable and encouraging environment for everyone involved. The event concluded on a positive note, celebrating the vibrant spirit of culture and learning among students of District Jammu. The event was held under the overall supervision of the Principal Dr R.G Dogra. The programme featured participants

from nine zones in the Role Play and Folk Dance competitions. They showcased remarkable talent, teamwork and expression through their performances. The event was judged by DIET HoD Kanwal Preet Kour; Principal GBHSS Akhnoor Manmeet Bali and Master GHS Sunail Ashok Kumar. Their expertise and fair evaluation contributed greatly to the success of the programme. The event was coordinated by Lecturers DIET Suniya Mehta and Amit Gupta with technical support from Lecturer DIET Pardeep Singh Manhas and Librarian DIET Deepu Kardar. The winners were awarded trophies and certificates as recognition for their outstanding performances. Refreshments and lunch were also served to all participants and escort teachers, ensuring a hospitable and encouraging environment for everyone involved.

KU begins three-day national conference on sociosyntax and Bharatiya linguistic

■ HT News Network

Srinagar September 28: The Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir (KU), began a three-day national conference on 'Sociosyntax and the Bharatiya Linguistic Area: Structure, Variation and Contact' at the Main Campus, with a focus on advancing interdisciplinary research at the interface of grammar, culture and society in Bharat.

Sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, and the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore, the conference aims to explore the relationship between language structure, social variation and linguistic contact, while providing a platform for scholars to exchange ideas and strengthen interdisciplinary research.

Speaking at the inaugural

session, Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan highlighted the importance of linguistic research in understanding India's rich linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

"Language is a reflection of our history, culture and social diversity. Such academic engagements provide an important platform to explore our linguistic heritage and strengthen research through interdisciplinary collaboration," she said.

Padma Shri awardee and renowned linguist, Prof. Anvita Abbi, highlighted India's extraordinary linguistic diversity and the importance of documenting and studying its languages. She also noted the rich linguistic heritage of the Kashmir Valley and the need for sustained research to understand its linguistic features and diversity.

Dean Academic Affairs, KU,



Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary academic engagements in expanding the

scope of linguistic research and encouraging meaningful scholarly exchanges.

Dean Research, KU, Prof. Bashir

Ahmad Ganaie, and Registrar, KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in their remarks, highlighted the importance of promoting research-oriented

initiatives and promoting academic collaborations to strengthen the University's research ecosystem.

Earlier, Head, Department of Linguistics, KU, and conference convener, Prof. Musavir Ahmad, highlighted the objectives of the conference and stressed on the need to promote research on the relationship between language, society and culture.

The three-day conference features research paper presentations, expert lectures, panel discussions and interactive sessions, bringing together scholars and researchers from the campus and institutions across the country.

The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Nazima, and vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Zahid Bashir, faculty members, Department of Linguistics, KU. Padma Shri awardee and renowned linguist, Prof. Anvita Abbi,

highlighted India's extraordinary linguistic diversity and the importance of documenting and studying its languages. She also noted the rich linguistic heritage of the Kashmir Valley and the need for sustained research to understand its linguistic features and diversity.

Dean Academic Affairs, KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary academic engagements in expanding the scope of linguistic research and encouraging meaningful scholarly exchanges.

Dean Research, KU, Prof. Bashir Ahmad Ganaie, and Registrar, KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, in their remarks, highlighted the importance of promoting research-oriented initiatives and promoting academic collaborations to strengthen the University's research ecosystem.

HT EDITORIAL

Beyond Free Travel : Building a Barrier-Free J&K

The Jammu and Kashmir Government's decision to allow persons with disabilities to travel free of cost on designated public transport services is a welcome and humane measure. By extending the facility to Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation buses and e-Buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited, the Government has recognised that mobility is not simply a convenience; it is an essential part of equal participation in society. Yet the real test of inclusion lies in what happens after a person reaches the bus stop.

For many persons with disabilities, everyday life involves a chain of barriers. A poorly designed footpath can make a short journey difficult. The absence of ramps can make a public office inaccessible. An educational institution without suitable facilities can discourage attendance, while inadequate transport, limited employment opportunities and insufficient rehabilitation services can restrict economic independence. In such circumstances, free transportation can remove one obstacle, but many others remain.

This is why the latest initiative should become part of a much wider accessibility policy for Jammu and Kashmir. Every new road, public building, school, hospital, government office and transport project should be planned with accessibility in mind. Ramps, lifts, tactile pathways, accessible toilets, suitable parking spaces and other facilities should not be considered special additions; they should be treated as essential elements of modern public infrastructure.

Public transport also requires a broader understanding of accessibility. A bus may be free, but it is of little use if a passenger cannot board it safely or travel comfortably. Accessible boarding arrangements, priority seating, clear announcements and sensitised, trained staff can make a significant difference. Urban transport authorities should incorporate these requirements into planning and procurement from the outset.

The same principle should guide education and employment policies. Persons with disabilities need opportunities to develop skills, pursue education and secure dignified livelihoods. Government departments and private institutions can play an important role by creating accessible workplaces and ensuring that employment opportunities are genuinely open to qualified persons with disabilities. Rehabilitation services and assistive devices must also reach people living in remote and rural areas.

There is equally a need to simplify the delivery of welfare benefits. A citizen should not have to navigate a maze of offices and paperwork to establish eligibility for a legitimate entitlement. Better coordination between departments, transparent procedures and easily accessible information can make welfare delivery more effective and respectful.

Policy-making must also be supported by reliable information. Jammu and Kashmir needs updated district-level data on persons with disabilities, their locations and their varying requirements. Regular consultation with affected citizens and organisations working in the field can help the administration identify gaps that may not be visible from government offices.

The objective, ultimately, should not be to create a separate system for persons with disabilities, but to create a society in which public systems work for everyone. Accessibility should become a standard feature of governance, infrastructure and public services rather than a concession provided only after a problem has emerged.

The free-travel decision is an important beginning. The larger challenge is to ensure that a person who can travel free can also reach a school, enter a hospital, access a government office, find employment and participate fully in community life.

An inclusive Jammu and Kashmir will not be measured only by how much assistance it provides, but by how many barriers it removes.

Does the Alpha Generation Really Need Another Holiday?



Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo

For the last few days, reports relating to a potential five-day working week with Saturday and Sunday as weekly holidays in government educational institutions have been going viral in the social media. It has created quite a buzz amongst parents, teachers and sections of the civil society. Whether the competent authorities consider the idea and its implications on academic, administrative and practical dimensions is for the latter to decide. But shouldn't the most important question be: Are our children getting enough continuity, time and opportunity to prepare themselves for a growing increasingly competitive world?

This question becomes very pertinent with reference to the Alpha Generation. The children born in an era of artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, digital technology and revolution in the pattern of working and living; will require more than the ability to memorize. They will need to understand, comprehend, innovate, solve problems, communicate effectively and be in a constant state of learning.

The importance of one extra weekly holiday in the context of education would hence, seem insignificant; when the issue of continuity in education is considered. The former could be an icing on the cake but the latter makes all the difference to the former, specially, in the case of such children.

It is a matter of great surprise, and indeed of great concern, that it is observed that in

many cases it becomes difficult for some students to retain the continuity of learning/teaching, especially those of the subjects like Mathematics and Physics where one concept is the building block of the next. Notwithstanding the numerous breaks during the academic year (in the form of vacations,

The interpretation of the couplet is that, a person shouldn't be idle and waste his potential and energy in any given moment. In fact, every moment of his life should make him a winner. So it is not that he shouldn't work without break but the break should make him energetic and prepared to produce

continuity.

If Academic Pressure Is the Problem, Improve Education-Don't Simply Reduce It

The answer to the problem of academic pressure shouldn't be a reduction in education but quality education. If reducing the number of school days is the solution to a burdened curriculum, then why not rationalise it? If it is related to the pattern of examination, then why not reform it? If it is related to the provision of emotional support to the students, then why not strengthen the counsellors? If it is about lack of exposure to the students, then why not expand the sports and creative activities? And if it is about the need to make the learning process more interesting and lively, then why not train the teachers and change the pedagogy?

What Is It That We Want Our Children to Be Prepared For?

It is also a matter of deep concern that we still have examples around us in the present day world; where an illiterate person earns more than a graduate, simply because he has got a practical skill that the market demands. We can't deny that such a person has not succeeded just because he doesn't have an academic degree; rather such an example presents a glaring disconnect between education and employability.

Our syllabus therefore needs urgent revision and we need to introduce more practical, vocational and job-oriented courses as per the requirements of the changing economy. There is a dire need of vocationalisation of education so that the education system helps an individual to stand on his own feet rather than making an army of graduates who are still jobless.

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holidays, weather breaks, etc.),

here is a dire need to provide enough gap for the children to get set for the next level of learning and understanding.

The question hence shouldn't be whether or not these children deserve to have one more day of rest; as they obviously do. The need for sleep, recreation, family time, sports and mental relaxation is felt by all. But the question is whether cutting down another school day is the right way to go about it.

The life philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal would be worth pondering over in this regard. He believed that in order to be successful in life, a person needs to focus on his journey of self-development and move purposefully in life as under:

Wohi zamane ki gardish pe ghalib aata hai

o har nafas se kare umr-e-javedan paida.
"The fellow same is lord of freaks of fate and strife. he with every breath he draws creates an eternal life"

better results, the next moment. And the same is true for a nation as well; it should use its resources wisely and without any waste to create a new intellectual and human resource every moment for its overall development and prosperity.

And it is this same wisdom that makes it imperative for us to consider continuity in education. A child learning algebra today needs to understand it so that he gets the concept of calculus right the day after.

The lesson in Physics may depend on the one learnt the previous day. So a break in the continuity of education may make it difficult for some students to recall or revise the last taught lesson before starting with the new one; thereby, forcing teachers to take back the old and wastage of the teaching-learning process. Also, the very purpose of imparting education - to empower a person, wouldn't be fulfilled if a person forgets the concept taught in the school because he couldn't understand it due to the break in

Private Universities Need Academic Accountability, Not Just Revenue



Dr. Vijay Garg

Higher education is no longer confined to government institutions. Across India, private universities have expanded rapidly, offering programmes in engineering, medicine, management, law, agriculture, sciences, humanities, technology and many emerging fields. They have created additional seats, invested in infrastructure and introduced new courses. Their growth has helped broaden access to higher education.

However, the expansion of private higher education also raises an important question: What should be the primary purpose of a university?

A university is not merely a campus, a collection of buildings, a brand name or a revenue-generating organisation. It is an academic institution entrusted with developing knowledge, preparing responsible citizens, promoting research and serving society. Financial sustainability is necessary, but revenue cannot become the central measure of academic success.

The real strength of a university should ultimately be reflected in the quality of its

teaching, research, students, faculty, academic culture and contribution to society.

Education Is Different from an Ordinary Business

A private university requires money to operate. It must pay teachers and employees, maintain laboratories and libraries, provide technology, construct infrastructure and support research. There is nothing inherently wrong with financial planning or generating legitimate revenue.

The concern arises when commercial considerations begin to dominate academic decisions.

If a programme is introduced primarily because it attracts large numbers of students rather than because there is adequate faculty and infrastructure, academic quality can suffer. If expensive facilities are promoted more aggressively than actual teaching and research, students and parents may receive an incomplete picture of institutional quality.

Higher education involves a long-term relationship of trust. Students invest years of their lives and families often invest substantial financial resources. They deserve transparency about what an institution can genuinely provide.

Faculty Must Remain at the Centre
No university can become academically strong without capable and adequately supported teachers.

A modern campus may have impressive buildings, smart classrooms and sophisticated

laboratories, but these cannot replace qualified faculty. Universities need teachers who have time to teach, mentor students, conduct research and participate in academic development.

Faculty recruitment should therefore be based primarily on academic qualifications, subject expertise, teaching ability and research potential. Institutions also need fair professional conditions that encourage teachers to remain and grow.

High faculty turnover should not be treated merely as an administrative statistic. It can affect continuity in teaching, student mentoring and research.

Academic accountability requires universities to examine not only how many faculty members they employ, but also the quality of the academic environment in which those faculty members work.

Research Cannot Be Reduced to Numbers
Research is another area where accountability matters. Universities often publicise the number of research papers, patents, conferences and collaborations associated with their institutions. These indicators can be useful, but numbers alone do not establish research quality.

The more important questions are: What problems is the research addressing? Is the work original? Does it withstand academic scrutiny? Does it contribute to knowledge or society? Are students genuinely involved in research? Are research ethics being followed? A culture that rewards publication numbers

without sufficient attention to quality can encourage superficial academic practices.

Universities should therefore promote meaningful research rather than treating research output merely as a marketing instrument.

Students Are More Than Fee-Paying Customers

Perhaps the most important change required in thinking about higher education is the relationship between institutions and students.

Students are sometimes described as "customers" because they pay fees. But education is fundamentally different from purchasing an ordinary consumer product.

A university does not simply deliver a finished product. It creates an environment in which students learn, question, experiment, fail, improve and develop intellectually.

Students need laboratories, libraries, counselling, sports, practical training, internships and opportunities for independent thinking. They also need teachers who can guide them beyond textbooks and examinations.

The objective should be to produce capable graduates, not merely successful fee-paying admissions. Transparency About Fees and Outcomes Academic accountability must also include financial transparency.

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Forests need special attention from the society.



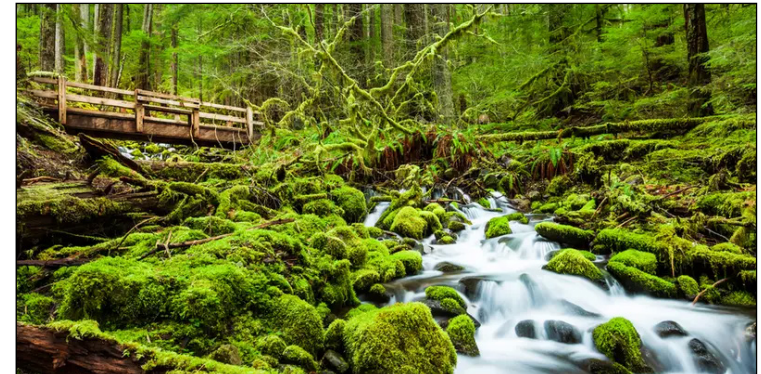
Sahil Manzoor

Our society is quite vigilant and have great potential to bring revolution in every field like in environment, sports, agriculture, horticulture, science and technology but some fields are necessary and we cannot live without their existence and some have options so it is our duty to keep our surroundings neat and clean and every bit related to environment never be ignored at any level. Today we are facing environmental threats like flash floods during the month of July, Jammu and Kashmir lost hundreds of lives due to flash floods, and we know flash floods cause floods and disturb our environment.

Nature has bestowed humanity with a great and luxurious carpet-like environment, and we humans are utterly selfish, and we have no idea where we are going. We are heading towards environmental destruction, like we are harming our environment. We are bad and selfish; we have polluted our environment, and still we have no idea. This is not fortuitous for our future that we selfish people drink alcohol in the lap of nature. Nature is not happy with us that we are making our environment polluted, and we have no regret about what we have done and what we are giving to nature.

Recently I saw a post on Facebook where some selfish goons drank and the residue was thrown in the environment. This is never the best and most best option for the environment. The forests of Kashmir are among the

leopard, musk deer, red fox, Himalayan monal, koklass pheasant, and numerous other birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects. Every tree, stream, and meadow forms part of a delicate ecological network that has evolved over



Valley's greatest natural treasures. They enhance its breathtaking beauty, regulate the climate, protect water resources, prevent soil erosion, and provide habitat for countless endemic and endangered species. Forests are not merely collections of trees; they are living ecosystems that sustain biodiversity and human life by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, conserving water, and maintaining ecological balance. They are nature's lifeline, supporting every form of life that depends upon them.

Kashmir is blessed with magnificent forests dominated by majestic coniferous trees such as deodar, kail, fir, spruce, and pine. These forests shelter diverse wildlife, including the endangered Hangul, Himalayan black bear,

thousands of years. Disturbing this balance can have consequences far beyond what is immediately visible.

Recently, a worrying trend has emerged across several forested areas of Kashmir. Many meadows and forest clearings have gradually been converted into informal cricket grounds, especially during weekends and holidays. While I wholeheartedly support cricket and all other sports, I strongly believe that forests are not the appropriate places for such activities. Sports are essential for a healthy society, but they should while sports are essential for a healthy society, they should take place in designated playgrounds and sports complexes instead of ecologically sensitive habitats. In designated

playgrounds and sports complexes rather than in ecologically sensitive habitats.

Sports play a vital role in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, teamwork, discipline, and protecting our youth from drug abuse and other social evils. The government has invested significantly in developing sports infrastructure, and these efforts deserve appreciation. However, encouraging sports should never come at the cost of environmental degradation. Instead of allowing forests to become recreational playgrounds, authorities should continue establishing and improving sports facilities in towns, villages, and educational institutions where such activities can be conducted safely and sustainably.

On 4 July, while visiting Haijjan Branwar on a local picnic, I witnessed a large number of people playing cricket inside a forest area. The surroundings were littered with plastic bottles, disposable cups, snack wrappers, and other waste. Wooden stumps had been hammered into the ground, repeated trampling had damaged vegetation, and loud cheering echoed through the peaceful forest. What should have been a tranquil natural landscape had begun to resemble an open sports stadium. The sight raised serious concerns about the long-term impact of such activities on this fragile ecosystem. The environmental damage caused by repeated sporting activities is often underestimated. Continuous foot traffic compacts the soil, reducing its ability to absorb rainwater and affecting the growth of grasses, herbs, and young plants.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
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sahilmanzoor9419@gmail.com

The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the editorial policy of Headlines Today at all and in any manner. We assume no responsibility or liability for the accuracy, completeness, or consequences of the views expressed therein....

How Many School Days Can Kashmir Lose?



Hidayat Bukhari

There is an understandable appeal to the idea of a five-day school week in Kashmir. At a time when children carry heavier academic expectations, move routinely between school and private tuition, and grow up in households increasingly anxious about marks, admissions and careers, giving them two uninterrupted days away from school can sound less like indulgence than common sense. The argument becomes even more persuasive when one looks abroad: children in many prosperous societies attend school from Monday to Friday, yet those countries are hardly accused of taking education lightly. It is therefore tempting to frame the debate as a choice between an old six-day routine and a more humane, modern understanding of childhood.

The difficulty is that Kashmir does not enter this debate with an ordinary school calendar or an ordinary educational memory. Here, the year available to a child has always been narrower than the calendar on the wall suggests. Winter consumes a substantial part of it; weather can take more; summer closures, once hardly central to the Valley's educational planning, are becoming increasingly familiar; public holidays remain fixed; and the possibility of an unforeseen interruption has never entirely disappeared. None of these realities provides an argument for keeping children in school merely for the sake of attendance. They do, however, make one question unavoidable before another regular day is removed from the timetable: how much uninterrupted instruction does a Kashmiri child actually receive in a year, and what happens to that total when Saturday disappears?

That is a more useful place to begin than with the number five or six, because neither number has any educational virtue of its own. OECD countries, for example, average about 186 instructional days a year at the primary level and 184 at lower secondary, while providing roughly 804 and 922 hours of compulsory annual instruction respectively. The figures vary widely between systems, which is precisely the point: successful countries do not

become successful because their children are home on Saturday; they decide what children should learn, how many hours are necessary to make that possible, how vacations should be distributed, how teachers should use classroom time, and only then does the shape of the week emerge.

To take the weekend from such a system while ignoring the structure supporting it is not really international comparison. It is comparison by appearance.

Kashmir has another reason to resist such shortcuts, and it lies less in statistics than in memory. For a time when children went to school through the 1990s, the 2000s and the years of repeated political turmoil that followed, education was often defined as much by interruption as by instruction. There were mornings when the school existed, the teacher was appointed, the books were ready and the uniform had been laid out the night before, yet circumstances outside the school gate determined whether any of that mattered. Shutdown calls, curfews, protests, restrictions and periods of unrest repeatedly fractured academic routines; floods later did their damage, and the pandemic eventually produced an interruption on a scale no politics had managed.

The causes of those disruptions were different, and any serious account of Kashmir would be dishonest if it collapsed them into a single political explanation. What united them from the perspective of a student was much simpler: a lesson that was not taught did not reappear merely because the school eventually reopened. Teachers hurried through syllabi, examinations were modified, families that could afford it leaned more heavily on tuition, and children frequently moved into the next academic year with portions of the previous one only partially absorbed. What was lost was not merely attendance but continuity, the quiet educational rhythm by which yesterday's lesson becomes the foundation for today's and a teacher notices a child falling behind before that difficulty becomes a permanent gap.

This history should not be misused. Children today should not be made to sit through six academically oppressive days because earlier generations endured interrupted schooling. Suffering is not an educational benchmark, and nostalgia is not a policy. Yet societies are supposed to learn from what they have lived through, and one lesson Kashmir ought to have learnt better than most is that instructional continuity is difficult to rebuild after it has been lost. We spent years worrying that

events beyond the control of children were stealing their school days. That experience should at least make us careful before treating instructional time as something that can be reduced without first showing what will replace it.

The irony is that the contemporary Kashmiri child often attends a school considerably richer than the one remembered by his or her parents. Many schools now provide regular games periods, physical education, sports days, cultural programmes, excursions, debates, science activities, arts and other co-curricular experiences that were either less developed or far harder to sustain consistently during earlier decades of instability. The school day, at its best, is no longer simply a procession from one textbook to the next, and this change matters because it weakens the assumption that recreation necessarily begins only when the school gate closes. If children are not receiving the games periods already written into their timetables, the problem is not that school is open on Saturday; it is that the timetable is being violated. If physical education is regularly sacrificed to finish mathematics or science, enforce physical education rather than declaring another holiday. If homework consumes the evening, regulate homework. If child leaves school only to spend another three or four hours in a coaching centre, we should ask why families believe they must purchase a second education after the first one finishes. If examinations have colonised so much of childhood that students

experience every month as preparation for the next test, the reform required is an examination reform, not necessarily a calendar reform.

This matters especially because "burnout", although a useful description of a real problem, is too easily converted into a universal diagnosis. One playground, a library, adult attention and the possibility of doing something purposeful. There is a danger, particularly in public debate conducted by relatively privileged adults, of imagining that every child returns from school to the same version of home and that every additional holiday therefore produces the same benefit.

None of this makes the five-day week a bad idea. In fact, the international evidence shows quite clearly that excellent education can be delivered within five days. The real weakness lies in deciding on the five days before designing the year around them. A serious review would begin with facts that should already be available to the education system: the actual number of instructional days delivered in Kashmir during each of the past several years, not merely the number notified at the beginning of the session; the hours lost to winter, summer heat, weather and exceptional closures; the difference between instructional time in urban and remote schools; the amount of Saturday currently devoted to genuine academic teaching rather than assemblies or activities; and, finally, the precise number of instructional hours that would remain if every Saturday became a holiday. Only then can the next questions be answered sensibly. Would school days become slightly longer? Would vacations need adjustment? Would parts of the curriculum be rationalised? Could some unnecessary academic load be removed altogether? Or are we simply willing to teach less?

There is also a possibility that sits strangely between the two sides of this debate and deserves more imagination than it has received: Saturday need not be abolished merely because it should not resemble Monday. A lighter school day could contain far less conventional instruction and far more of what education routinely claims to value but often pushes to the margins, sport, reading, theatre, art, music, science clubs, coding, environmental work, counselling, practical skills, career exposure and community activity. Children could come to school without carrying the psychological weight of another examination day. A school system would preserve continuity while simultaneously making room for childhood.

Hidayat Bukhari is a business strategist, AI transformation commentator, and US government contracting consultant focused on economic resilience, technology, and market competitiveness and can be reached at Hidayat.bukhari@gentechprollc.com.



Book Review

Satire and Humour in Kashmiri Language and Literature: A Critical Study

A Comprehensive Study of Kashmiri Literary and Cultural Traditions



Mohd Yousuf

Authorised by Dr. Zahir Banihali
Reviewed by Mohd Yousuf Bumboor

Dr. Zahir Banihali's *Satire and Humour in Kashmiri Language and Literature: A Critical Study*, published by Meezan Publishers, Srinagar, is an extensive scholarly work devoted to the study of satire and humour in Kashmiri language, literature and cultural traditions. Extending to about 725 pages and comprising 26 chapters, the book represents a serious and ambitious attempt to examine a literary and cultural dimension that, despite its longstanding presence in Kashmiri society, has received comparatively limited systematic critical attention.

At the heart of the book lies the idea that humour is not merely a source of laughter and satire is not simply an instrument of ridicule. Behind laughter may lie observation, irony, criticism, social awareness and a desire for improvement. Similarly, satire can expose hypocrisy, pretension, contradictions, corruption and various weaknesses of individual and collective behaviour. Dr. Banihali therefore approaches his subject from literary, historical, social, psychological, cultural and aesthetic perspectives.

A Wide Historical and Comparative Perspective

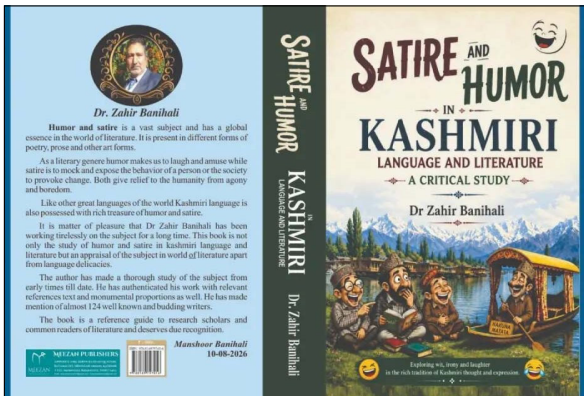
One of the notable features of the book is its broad historical and comparative approach. The author does not confine his inquiry to Kashmiri literature but places the development of satire and humour within the wider history of world literature and cultural traditions. References to Greek, Roman, Chinese, Egyptian, Arabic, Persian, Pashto, English, Turkish, Ladakhi, Urdu and other literary traditions help establish the universal dimensions of humour while simultaneously bringing into focus the distinctive features of Kashmiri satirical expression.

The discussion of classical forms such as Horatian, Juvenalian and Menippean satire, together with humorous and satirical elements in early Indian and Sanskrit traditions, provides a useful background for understanding the evolution of satire across cultures and periods.

Satire and Humour in Kashmiri Literature

The most significant contribution of the book is its detailed engagement with Kashmiri literary tradition. Dr. Banihali brings together material relating to different periods, genres and literary personalities and examines their relationship with humour, wit, satire and social observation.

The study refers to eminent figures associated with Kashmiri literary and cultural history, including Lal Ded, Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani, Rasool Mir, Mahmood Gami, Maqbool Shah Kralawari, Master Zinda Kaul, Mehjoor, Arjun Dev Majboor and Dr. Aziz Hajini, among others. Their literary contributions are considered in relation to the broader development of humorous and satirical expression in Kashmiri literature.



The Rich World of Folk and Oral Traditions

A particularly valuable aspect of the study is its attention to oral and folk traditions. Kashmiri humour has never been restricted to written literature. It has flourished in villages, public gatherings, performances, festivals, songs, stories and everyday community life.

The author's discussion of Ladi Shah, Bhand Pather, Dastan and storytelling highlights the important role of folk traditions in preserving humour, social commentary and collective experience.

Ladi Shah represents a distinctive combination of humour, satire and social observation, while Bhand Pather, the traditional Kashmiri folk theatre, brings together performance, music, humour and commentary on social behaviour. The treatment of Dastan and storytelling further demonstrates that these traditions serve purposes beyond entertainment: they preserve cultural memory and transmit social values, experiences and collective wisdom from one generation to another.

Rouf and Wanwun as Cultural Expressions

The inclusion of Rouf and Wanwun broadens the cultural dimensions of the study. In particular, Wanwun represents an important form of women's oral expression associated with social and ceremonial life. Through songs and performances, emotions, observations and aspects of community life have traditionally been preserved and transmitted.

Their inclusion in a study of literature and humour reinforces an important point: literature does not exist only in written texts. It also survives through songs, performances, rituals, oral traditions and collective cultural practices.

Cartoon and Caricature

Another interesting dimension of the book is its treatment of cartoon and caricature as forms of satirical expression. A cartoon can combine humour, criticism and social observation through visual representation, while caricature often employs exaggeration to produce comic or critical effects.

By incorporating these forms into his study, the author adopts a broad understanding of satire that extends beyond poetry and prose to performance and visual art.

The Aesthetic Dimension of Humour

The book also examines humour as an aesthetic and artistic phenomenon. Humour can emerge through language, dialogue, characterisation, situation, contrast, irony, exaggeration, parody and unexpected circumstances. The richness of the Kashmiri language, with its idioms, proverbs, vocabulary and culturally specific expressions, provides considerable scope for humorous and satirical creativity. In this context, humour emerges not simply as spontaneous laughter but as a literary and artistic technique capable of conveying complex ideas in an engaging form.

Satire as Social Commentary

A central idea running through the study is the relationship between satire and society. The satirist observes the distance between ideals and actual behaviour, between appearance and reality, and between what people say and what they do. Through irony, wit, exaggeration and parody, these contradictions are transformed into literary expression.

Mohd Yousuf Bumboor.
Mobile No. 9596948793

Light In Imperfection



Hoor Un Nisa

Right in front of me,
I see a flawlessness hidden within the half-curve of the moon.
I wonder how it stands,
Firm and full of light, all alone.
It does not possess its own light,
Yet it shines so proudly.
Can I be like the moon—
Alone, yet radiant enough
To spread light across the earth?
Silent, yet worthy of admiration;
Full of scars, yet beautiful.
It holds the secrets of the world,
So deep and mysterious.
It teaches me the nature of life:
Ever-changing—hopeful and hopeless,
Whole and broken,
Half and full.
It teaches me that
You do not have to let the world see you in the light.
You can shine even in darkness.
After helplessness comes completeness.
Give me hope,
O Moon.



Capacity Building Workshop on VB-G RAM-G held at Kishtwar DC presides over District-Level session

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 28: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Kishtwar today organised a one-day District-Level Capacity Building and Awareness Workshop on the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM-G] in the Conference Hall of the New DDC Building.

The workshop was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DPC VB-G RAM-G) Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

The programme focused primarily on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) framework, convergence, operational guidelines, implementation procedures and digital workflows under VB-G RAM-G. At the outset, Assistant

Commissioner Development (ADPC, VB-G RAM-G) Manoj Kumar welcomed the Deputy Commissioner and government functionaries, including the participating officials and highlighted the objectives and significance of the workshop.

He briefed the participants that the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) process is scheduled to commence from Oct 2, 2026 with a five-year perspective plan based on saturation, evidence-based assessment and scientific planning. "The planning process shall be undertaken through the Yuktadhara portal," he added.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the broader vision of VB-G RAM-G towards strengthening rural development and transforming rural areas in line with the national development goals. He informed that the scheme provides for 04 Master



Work Categories, 30 Sub-Categories and 375 permissible works, providing a comprehensive framework for need-based and outcome-oriented rural development planning.

The DC further emphasised that the planning exercise under VGPP will be undertaken through Yuktadhara, with greater focus on scientific and evidence-based

planning.

The designated Resource Persons subsequently conducted detailed technical and thematic sessions on various aspects of VB-G RAM-G.

The sessions covered the VB-G RAM-G Act, vision and key provisions; VGPP framework and SOP; end-to-end operational guidelines; convergence and permissible works;

technical planning and execution; Yuktadhara, SECURE and e-MB 2.0; MIS, NMMS, e-KYC, FTO and wage-payment workflow; transparency, social audit, records and grievance redressal, besides other field-level implementation issues.

The Resource Persons also responded to queries raised by the participating field functionaries and provided practical guidance for effective implementation of the Scheme at Panchayat and Block levels.

The workshop served as an important platform for sensitising the field functionaries and developing a common understanding of the planning, implementation, convergence and digital workflow mechanisms under the new VB-G RAM-G framework, particularly in preparation for the commencement of the VGPP exercise across the district.

AHD Jammu raises awareness about Rabies through seminar at Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 28: On the directions of Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Dr. Sanjay Gupta, the Extension & Publicity Wing of the Animal Husbandry Department Jammu organized an awareness seminar on World Rabies Day at the Veterinary Hospital, Samba. Among others the seminar was attended by school-students, pet owners and other stakeholders, besides officers and officials of the Animal Husbandry Department. The Extension Officer Dr. Suresh Kumar highlighted the significance of World Rabies Day and stressed the need for sustained public awareness about rabies prevention to achieve zero Dog Mediated Human Deaths by 2030. VAS Publicity Wing Dr. Sandeep Kumar sensitized participants about rabies, its symptoms in animals, prevention and control measures, besides dispelling common myths and misconceptions associated with the disease. Dr. Nitish Bhatt explained the Pre-Exposure and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis protocols, including vaccination and treatment measures following exposure to a suspected rabid animal. The seminar concluded with a strong message that rabies is preventable through vaccination, responsible pet ownership and timely post-exposure care. Collective awareness and prompt action are vital to saving human and animal lives.

Health Department Doda organises series of awareness events during World Rabies Week

HT News Network



DODA, SEPTEMBER 28: Health Department Doda organised a series of awareness activities in all Medical Blocks during the World Rabies Week observed from September 22 to 28, 2026.

The week-long programme was conducted under the guidance of CMO Dr. Vinod Sharma and under the supervision of the respective Block Medical Officers (BMOs). The awareness programmes and IEC activities were organised across all Medical Blocks to sensitise the public about rabies prevention, responsible pet ownership, the importance of timely wound management following animal bites and the need for prompt medical attention and post-exposure prophylaxis. Healthcare staff actively participated in the programmes and disseminated key messages regarding rabies prevention and control, with special emphasis on seeking immediate medical care after an animal bite and completing the recommended vaccination schedule.

DC Udhampur reviews drug control measures at NCORD meeting

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee to review drug control measures and assess the progress of ongoing efforts to combat the drug menace in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Additional SP Sandeep Bhat; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and senior officers from various line departments.

The DC conducted a detailed review of measures pertaining to the identification and rehabilitation of individuals struggling with drug addiction, installation of CCTV cameras for hotspot surveillance, prevention of illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, inspections of pharmacies and de-addiction centres, destruction of wild cannabis and preventive



enforcement, surveillance of educational institutions, implementation of IEC campaigns, mass awareness programmes, computerised billing systems in pharmacies, Nasha Mukti Panchayats and cases registered under the NDPS Act. The DC directed the concerned agencies to intensify efforts to identify and apprehend individuals involved in drug trafficking, monitor drug abuse-prone areas and promote community-based rehabilitation and awareness initiatives.

He instructed the concerned departments to intensify counselling services and

strengthen IEC activities to sensitise the public, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage timely rehabilitation and support.

The DC called for decisive action against drug trafficking, effective seizure of illicit substances and sustained efforts to protect the youth from the menace of drugs.

SDMs were directed to conduct joint drives in their respective jurisdictions to identify and curb illicit cultivation of narcotic crops and ensure prompt action against those found involved in such activities.

DDC Reasi flags off IEC Van to promote awareness on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan

HT News Network

REASI, SEPTEMBER 28: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today flagged off an Information, Education and Communication Campaign Van from the DC Office to generate awareness among rural populace about the upcoming Gram Sabha under the VB-G RAM-G initiative.

The campaign aims to sensitise people about the scheme, participatory planning, employment generation, improved livelihoods and the role of Gram Sabhas in identifying local development priorities.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said the IEC van would spread awareness about the VB-G RAM-G employment scheme and the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP). He informed that a Mahapanchayat will be organised in every Panchayat on October 2 to sensitise people about the scheme and the 375 permissible categories of works. He urged people to participate actively in the Mahapanchayats, visit their respective Gram Panchayats and put forward their genuine requirements so that the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans are prepared in a participatory and demand-driven manner.

The DDC said the awareness campaign would also help villagers understand the permissible works under the scheme and enable Panchayats to identify development



priorities based on the actual needs and aspirations of the local community.

Additional District Development Commissioner Krishna Lal, Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Development Mukesh Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, District Information Officer, Block Development Officers and other officers and officials were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said the IEC van would spread awareness about the VB-G RAM-G employment scheme and the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP). He informed that a Mahapanchayat will be organised in every Panchayat on October 2 to sensitise people about the scheme and the 375 permissible categories of works. He urged people to participate actively in the Mahapanchayats, visit their respective Gram Panchayats and put forward their genuine requirements so that the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans are prepared in a participatory and demand-driven manner.

Awareness event for students; anti-rabies vaccination drive held at Doda to mark World Rabies Day

HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 28: The Animal Husbandry Department Doda organized today organised free Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive at District Veterinary Hospital (DVH) and an awareness programme on World Rabies Day 2026 here at Government Boys Higher Secondary School themed "Stronger Together."

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Krishan Lal was the Chief Guest at the awareness event.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Irfan Ali Wani; Chief Education Officer Bhushan Kumar Pathak; School Head,



Dr. Rishi Kumar Manhas; VAS, DVH Dr. Ranju Balla and Technical Officer to CAHO Dr. Ahatsham-ul-Haq were also present.

The DDC highlighted the importance of generating awareness among students and staff on prevention of dog bites and its Post exposure prophylaxis. He said the campaign has been launched

across the Country on the directions of the Supreme Court of India. He also emphasized the importance of community participation in minimizing the threat of rabies.

Veterinary Surgeon Dr. Ranju Balla delivered an insightful lecture to sensitize the students and teaching staff to the threat of rabies, its transmission, prevention, and

responsible behaviour around animals. He stressed on the importance of seeking timely vaccines after an animal bite or scratch.

The participants were specifically advised to immediately wash the bite or scratch wound thoroughly with soap and running water and seek medical attention without delay for appropriate Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

The programme emphasized that rabies prevention requires coordinated efforts of the Animal Husbandry, Health and Education Departments, local administration and the community, in keeping with the spirit of this year's theme, "Stronger Together."

Health Department steps up dengue prevention, awareness activities in Doda

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, SEPTEMBER 28: In continuation to the intensified efforts undertaken to prevent spread of dengue in the district, the Health Department conducted a special dengue control, sanitisation and awareness drive in various identified and adjoining areas of Doda town.

The special drive was aimed at strengthening preventive measures, reducing mosquito breeding sites and limiting the possibility of transmission of dengue in the affected and vulnerable localities. Health teams carried out sanitisation, source-reduction and awareness



activities in areas where dengue cases have been reported, as well as in their surrounding locations.

The areas covered during the drive included Radhey Sham Mandir, Gattu Mohalla, Old Bus Stand, New Bus Stand, near GDC, Home Guard Line, Dak Bunglow area and Hamdanpur.

For effective implementation of the containment measures, three dedicated teams were deployed in the field. The teams

conducted door-to-door awareness activities, sensitised residents about dengue prevention, identified potential mosquito breeding sites and undertook necessary source-reduction and sanitisation measures.

The field activities were carried out by Basharat Ali Mir (SHI), Liaqat Ali Zargar (JHI), Ashraf Hussain (JHI), Sudershan Singh (JHI) and Raj Dev (JHI), along with other field staff

including Basic Health Workers (BHWs). The teams actively engaged with the local community and disseminated information regarding preventive measures, early identification of symptoms and the importance of seeking timely medical attention.

The drive was conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma and under the supervision of District Malaria Officer Ilam ud Din. The field teams worked in close coordination to ensure timely intervention and strengthen dengue prevention and control measures at the community level.

DC reviews proposal for repair, renovation & optimal use of Govt buildings at District Headquarters Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting with the District Heads of line departments and government executing agencies to review proposals for the optimal utilization of the government buildings, Mini Secretariat infrastructure and repair, renovation and creation of additional facilities at the District Headquarters.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Heads of District Offices functioning at the District Headquarters to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the existing infrastructure and submit proposals for additional requirements, wherever necessary. The Deputy Commissioner laid special emphasis on the development of new green spaces within the complex to create a greener, cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing environment. The District Heads were asked to include in their respective proposals requirements



related to the repair and renovation of office infrastructure, including ceiling and wall repairs, flooring/tiles, painting, boundary-related works and other essential civil works, wherever required. Directions were also issued to assess the requirements for water supply and filtration systems, water motors, lighting, boundary walls and solar lighting facilities at the Mini Secretariat, New DC Office Complex and other District Offices. The Deputy Commissioner further directed the departments to assess the feasibility of

rainwater harvesting systems and make necessary provisions on priority. He directed the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B), to prepare a comprehensive assessment of the existing District Administration Complex and submit proposals for the identified requirements and necessary works. The Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) was also directed to depute a Junior Engineer along with the technical team to assess and cross-check the proposals submitted by the concerned departments.





PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHAMMAD AMIN YATOO, Father of MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO, hereby issue this public notice regarding the correction of the name of my minor child in his Aadhaar Card. That I am the father and legal guardian of my minor child, MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO. That the Aadhaar Number of my minor child is 6072 4186 4048. That due to an inadvertent error, the name of my minor child has been incorrectly recorded in the Aadhaar Card as "MOHAMMAD AMAAN YATOO". That the correct name of my minor child is "MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO", which should be updated and recorded in the Aadhaar records. That "MOHAMMAD AMAAN YATOO" and "MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO" refer to one and the same person, i.e., my minor child.

Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
MOHAMMAD AMIN YATOO
Father of MOHAMMAD ANAS YATOO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as SAZIYA ALTAFA D/O ALTAFA AHMAD GANAIE on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No...3078 0833 1631 while my correct name is SHAZIA ALTAFA D/O ALTAFA AHMAD GANAIE which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name... SHAZIA ALTAFA
D/O...ALTAFA AHMAD GANAIE
R/O...BURZAWACHAN BLOCK...WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's RONAK JAAN & SALIYA WASEEM her Mother's name on Date of Birth certificate has been wrongly written as MUNEERA BEGUM bearing Mrd Numbers ...101001704001 & 101002444570 while her correct mother's name is NAZIMA JAN which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO office kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name ...NAZIMA JAN
W/O...WASEEM AHMAD MIR
M/O....RONAK JAAN
M/O...SALIYA WASEEM

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I have Changed my name from (Old Name) SHEIKH AZI BANO to (New name) AZI BANO. In future I will be known as (New Name) AZI BANO.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Azi Bani W/o Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh
R/o Parimpora, Near Ahli Hadess Masjid, Srinagar, M:7006769006

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD AKBAR SHEIKH R/O CHANDKOTE Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of income Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of income dependent certificate in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (04) members and having annual income 90,000 / the details of family of the applicant are as follows
1....AB RASHID SHEIKH Father 46 years Labour Married
2...ZAHIDA BEGUM Mother (applicant) 43 years H/W married
3...MOMIN RASHID Son 16 years student Un , married
4....RONAQ RASHID daughter 13 years student un married
It is further submitted that ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD AKBAR SHEIKH is Labour by profession and is sole earnings in the said family. The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of her wife ZAHIDA BEGUM for Medical Assistance
The applicant has applied for the issuance of income dependent certificate as such the instant matter is published through newspaper .
if anyone is having any kind of objection He/She may approach this office within (07)seven days of the publication of this notice .After passing of Stipulated time of 07 days No objection will be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, AISHA BEGUM, W/o MOHD SABIR WANI, R/o SHIRPORA BANGIL, TEHSIL PATTAN, DISTRICT BARAMULLA, do hereby solemnly declare and affirm as under:
That I am a permanent resident of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
That my correct name is AISHA BEGUM.
That in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9753 9251 1857, my name has been wrongly mentioned as "ASHA BEGUM".
That my correct name is "AISHA BEGUM" and the same should be read and recorded in all official and Aadhaar records as AISHA BEGUM instead of ASHA BEGUM.
.Any person having any objection regarding the aforesaid correction may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

Sd/-
AISHA BEGUM
W/o MOHD SABIR WANI
R/o Shirpora Bangil, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD ASSAN SHEIKH R/O CHANDKOTE Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of income Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of income dependent certificate in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (04) members and having annual income 90,000 / the details of family of the applicant are as follows
1....AB RASHID SHEIKH Father 46 years Labour Married
2....ZAHIDA BEGUM Mother (applicant) 43 years H/W married
3...MOMIN RASHID Son 16 years student Un , married
4....RONAQ RASHID daughter 13 years student un married
It is further submitted that ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH S/O MOHD ASSAN SHEIKH is Labour by profession and is sole earnings in the said family. The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of her wife ZAHIDA BEGUM for Medical Assistance
The applicant has applied for the issuance of income dependent certificate as such the instant matter is published through newspaper .
if anyone is having any kind of objection He/She may approach this office within (07)seven days of the publication of this notice .After passing of Stipulated time of 07 days No objection will be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of MOHAMMAD YOUSUF GOJAR PODE for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal)in favour of Wards namely REYAZ AHMAD GOJAR PODE , ASHIQ HUSSAIN GOJAR PODE MAYMOONA BANO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJAR PODE community, having annual income is the details of the family of the applicant are as follows
1..MOHAMMAD YOUSUF GOJAR PODE Self 55 years Labour
2....REYAZ AHMAD GOJAR PODE son 30 years Labour
3...ASHIQ HUSSAIN GOJAR PODE son 28 years Labour
4....MAYMOONA BEGUM daughter 25 years student
5..KHATOON BEGUM Mother 50 Years H/W
.The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self
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 TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

is notified that the applicant namely Dilshada Bano D/o Mohd Ramzan Dar R/o Narbal Tehsil NARBAL District BUDGAM applied for the issuance of BIRTH certificate of her own Dilshada Bano D/o Mohd Ramzan Dar
The applicant intends to register the Date of birth of her own as school records 15 / 03 / 1977
If any one has objection in this regard, he can approach concerned Births and Death authorities within the period of seven days after the publication of said Notice . No objection will be entertained .

28 /09 /2026

Rs25.99 Lakh Earmarked for Upgradation of Kathua Sports Stadium : Bharat Bhushan

MLA Kathua informed that Tendering process initiated for proposed Developmental works

■ HT NEWS DESK/ AGENCIES

Jammu, Sept 28: The issue of the dilapidated condition of the Sports Stadium in Kathua was raised today, with the Government being asked about the steps taken during the last three years for its improvement and development. In its reply, the Government stated that an amount of 25.99 lakh has been earmarked for the proposed improvement and upgradation works at the Sports Stadium, Kathua.



The Government further informed that the tendering process has already been initiated and the tender has been floated. The proposed works will be taken up for execution after completion of the prescribed tendering formalities. The development assumes significance as the Sports Stadium serves as an important sporting facility for athletes and young players in Kathua and strengthening grassroots efforts for women, children and family welfare.

Central University of Jammu Organizes Blood Donation Camp

■ HT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Sept 2026: The Central University of Jammu (CUJ), through its University Health Centre, organized a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) and Associated Hospitals, Jammu, at the DRDO Building on the University campus.

The camp was organized under the guidance of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Jain, with the objective of promoting voluntary blood donation and creating awareness about the critical need for safe blood to save human lives. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Vijayata Puri, Senior Medical Officer, Central University of Jammu, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, officers, staff and students. More than 50 units of blood were donated during the camp. The initiative forms part of the nationwide voluntary blood donation campaign being observed from 17 September to 2 October 2026, culminating on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.



Addressing the participants, Prof. Sanjeev Jain highlighted the significance of blood donation as one of the noblest acts of service to humanity. He stated that a single unit of donated blood has the potential to save multiple lives and encouraged members of the University fraternity to actively participate in such humanitarian initiatives. He appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Central University of Jammu and Government Medical College, Jammu, in fostering

healthcare awareness and social responsibility among the youth. The camp witnessed active participation from students, research scholars, faculty members, officers, non-teaching staff, and volunteers who came forward to contribute towards this noble cause. A dedicated team of doctors, medical professionals, and technicians from GMC and Associated Hospitals, Jammu, carried out the blood collection process while adhering to all prescribed medical and safety protocols.

The programme aimed to instill a sense of social commitment, compassion, and community service among the University fraternity while contributing to the availability of safe blood for patients in need. Participants were also sensitized about the importance of regular voluntary blood donation and its vital role in strengthening healthcare services. The event concluded with the distribution of appreciation certificates to the donors and an expression of gratitude to all participants

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/ SRINAGAR.

Subject: Appointment to the post of Lecturer in the discipline of Botany in the School Education Department.

Reference:

1.No. Edu-GEN/35/2024-01(7383282) dated 12.11.2024 and 05.12.2024 issued by School Education Department. 2.No.PSC Dated 08-07-2026 received from J&K Public Service Commission. 3.Satisfactory Character and Antecedent reports from Criminal Investigation Department Government Order No: 404 -JK(Edu) of 2026
Dated: 28.09.2026 in continuation to Government Order No.379-JK(Edu) of 2026 Dated: 17.09.2026, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of the following candidates as Lecturers in the discipline of Botany in the School Education Department in Pay Level-9 (Rs 52,700 - Rs 1,66,700) notionally w.e.f 17.09.2026:

SR.No	Name	Parentage	Address	Category
1	Mohammad Urfan	Mohammad Shaffi	64 Barmola Bani	RBA/OM
2	Subzar Ahmad Nanda	Gul Mohd Nanda	198 Nanda Pora Khanabal Anantnag	OM
3	Wasim Sajad Malik	Hakam Din Malik	06 Thatharka Gool	RBA
4	Manisha Kumari	Babu Ram	Ward No. 16 Upper Shiva Nagar Kathua	SC
5	Fariha Chowdhary	Faryad Ahmad	Jalalabad Sunjwan Bahu	ST-1
6	Zayaqat Ali	Hussain Alam	VPO Muradpur Rajouri Rajouri	ST-2
7	Priyanka Rakwal	Suresh Kumar	Jangalwar Rehri Pul Doda Doda	EWS
8	Prinka Jasrotia	Sawarn Singh	0 R/o Barwal Kathua	EWS

The appointment is subject to the following terms and conditions: The appointees belonging to Jammu Division shall report to Director, School Education, Jammu and those belonging to Kashmir Division shall report to Director, School Education, Kashmir within a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of issuance of this appointment order. In the event of failure to join within the prescribed period, the appointees shall forfeit the right to appointment and this order shall be deemed to have been withdrawn ab-initio without any further reference or notice. The formal posting order shall be issued separately by the Competent Authority in due course. The appointment shall remain provisional and shall be subject to verification of the educational, professional and/or technical qualifications claimed by the appointee from the concerned issuing authorities. In the event of any discrepancy, misrepresentation or adverse finding during the verification process, the appointment shall be liable to cancellation without prejudice to any other action permissible under the applicable rules. The appointees shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates in original: (i) Academic Qualification Certificates. (ii) Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate. (iii) Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer. (iv) Domicile Certificate issued by Competent Authority. (v) Category certificate, if any. If the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery. The appointees shall furnish an affidavit, affirming that: (i) All the certificates/documents submitted in support of the appointment are authentic, valid and have been issued by the Competent Authorities concerned. (ii) In the event of any certificate/document is subsequently found to be fake, forged, tampered with or otherwise invalid upon verification from the concerned issuing authority, the appointment shall be deemed void ab-initio and liable to cancellation forthwith, without prejudice to such legal, disciplinary or other action as may be warranted under the applicable laws, rules and regulations. The release and disbursement of salary in favour of the appointees shall be subject to receipt of a satisfactory verification report in terms of 5(ii) above. No pay or allowances shall be authorized until such verification is duly completed and found satisfactory. The appointees shall be governed by the provisions of the New Pension Scheme (NPS) in accordance with SRO-400 dated 24.12.2009, as amended from time to time. The appointees shall be liable to serve at any place within the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in accordance with administrative exigencies and public service requirements. The Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir shall furnish the joining report of the appointees to the Administrative Department for further allocation and placement against available vacancies in Higher Secondary Schools in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The inter-se seniority of Lecturers shall be determined in accordance with the order of merit assigned by the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission in the select list. The appointment shall also be subject to the outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before any Competent Court of Law. By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

DIPK-6203/26

Send Date: Sep 28 2026

Sd/-
(Ram Niwas Sharma) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government





DLC approves 11 Cases under PMFME Scheme in Budgam

HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 28: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) for the review and consideration of applications received under the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme.

At the outset, the District Nodal Officer and Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO), Budgam, briefed the chair about the applications/cases received under the scheme and placed the same before the committee for consideration and approval.

After detailed deliberations and examination of the cases, the District Level Committee approved all 11 cases placed before it for



consideration.

The PM FME Scheme is aimed at providing financial, technical and institutional support to micro food processing enterprises and facilitating their formalisation and upgradation. The scheme provides a 50 percent credit-linked capital

subsidy, subject to the prescribed scheme guidelines and limits, to eligible beneficiaries for setting up or upgrading food processing units.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for wider dissemination and effective publicity of the scheme across the

district so that maximum eligible beneficiaries, particularly small entrepreneurs and prospective food processing unit holders, can avail the benefits available under the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to undertake coordinated awareness and outreach activities and ensure that eligible beneficiaries are sensitised about the objectives, eligibility criteria, financial assistance and other provisions of the scheme. He also emphasised the importance of facilitating prospective beneficiaries in completing the requisite formalities and submitting their applications within the prescribed framework.

The meeting also discussed the role of different line departments in promoting food processing

activities and encouraging local entrepreneurship in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner called for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure effective implementation of the scheme and timely disposal of eligible cases.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Budgam; General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Budgam; Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, representatives of the Fisheries Department, Budgam; and other concerned officers and officials. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Budgam; General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Budgam; Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, representatives of the Fisheries.

Forest Department Kathua intensifies vigil against illegal movement of Forest Produce

HT News Network

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 28: The Kathua Forest Division has intensified field patrolling and vigilance measures to curb the illegal felling, movement and transportation of forest produce across the Division.

During the past two weeks, the field staff, maintaining heightened alertness and continuous monitoring, intercepted and seized eight vehicles involved in the illegal transportation of forest produce. Necessary action has been initiated against the violators under the relevant provisions of applicable forest laws and rules.

The enforcement efforts have been further strengthened through close coordination among the Forest Department, District Police and Forest Protection Force (FPF). Joint vigilance, information sharing and coordinated field checking have enhanced the effectiveness of enforcement measures, particularly along vulnerable routes and forest-sensitive areas.

The Forest Department has reiterated that strict action will be taken against persons found involved in illegal felling, transportation or movement of forest produce. Field formations have been directed to maintain heightened vigilance and undertake regular patrolling and checking to prevent forest offences.

The Department has also appealed to the general public to extend cooperation to the enforcement agencies and share information regarding illegal felling or transportation of forest produce with the concerned Forest Department officials.

Drive against violations by E-Rickshaws; 304 seized, 536 Challed in one week

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 28: In a major initiative to decongest major district towns and boost commuter safety, Traffic Police Rural Jammu launched a targeted enforcement and awareness drive against E-Rickshaws and E-Autos operating in violation of assigned routes and municipal traffic regulations.

During the initial week of the campaign (September 21 to September 28, 2026), operations focused on addressing growing public concern regarding unauthorised E-Rickshaw and E-Auto movement across major hubs, including Rajouri, Mendhar and Surankote Towns as well as adjoining highways. Indiscriminate entry and improper staging in these key areas had significantly contributed to severe traffic congestion and road hazards.

The operation adopted a dual strategy combining community outreach with firm legal deterrence. Prior to initiating enforcement, traffic officers conducted awareness sessions to educate operators against different violations including plying on highways, moving out of authorized areas, overloading, unauthorised modifications etc. They were explicitly advised against crowding major urban arteries and civic centers.

Seva Parv 2026: Series of Community-Oriented activities organised across Kathua on day-1

HT News Network

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 28: As part of the week-long Seva Parv 2026 being observed from September 28 to October 2, a series of community-oriented activities were organised in different parts of Kathua district, reflecting the spirit of service, public participation and collective responsibility.

As part of the celebrations, the Health Department organised free medical camps at different locations in Basohli and Bani, providing health screening, medical consultation and necessary healthcare services to the people. The camps aimed at taking essential healthcare services closer to the community and promoting preventive healthcare.

A free medical camp was also organised at the RTO Office, Lakhampur, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma. During the camp, 80 individuals were screened,



while necessary diagnostic tests were conducted and medicines were provided to beneficiaries as per their medical requirements. The participants were also given appropriate medical advice and guidance.

Meanwhile, the JKPC Kathua conducted an awareness drive against banned polythene and single-use plastic in the market areas of Sanjimore. During the drive, the public was sensitised to the harmful environmental impact of banned polythene and single-use plastic and encouraged to adopt eco-friendly alternatives.

Around 9 kg banned polythene (below 120 microns)

and 500 grams of single-use plastic were seized during the drive.

In another initiative, a Book Donation Camp was organised at the Zonal Education Office- Hiranagar to promote the spirit of service, social responsibility and community participation, besides encouraging reading and knowledge-sharing. Officers and officials participated in the initiative and donated books, which will help facilitate wider access to educational resources among students and members of the community.

The activities organised under Seva Parv underscore the commitment of the district administration towards promoting health, cleanliness, environmental responsibility, education and community welfare through active public participation.

The district administration Kathua has called upon citizens, particularly youth, to participate enthusiastically.

JKEDI holds Startup Idea challenge 2.0 boot camp at Govt. Polytechnic Udhampur



HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute District Centre Udhampur, in collaboration with Government Polytechnic, conducted a boot camp under startup idea challenge 2.0 at the college premises today, providing students and aspiring entrepreneurs a platform to showcase innovative ideas and learn about the startup ecosystem.

As many as 110 candidates who participated, 13 pitched their ideas before a jury panel and five were shortlisted for the next level of the challenge.

College Principal Er. Vivek Mahajan inaugurated the programme in the presence of Functional Manager, DIC Udhampur Jagdeep Singh, Associate Project Manager, JKEDI Jammu Campus Abilash Baroo, guest speaker and entrepreneur Shubham Sharma and faculty members.

DNO JKEDI Udhampur Yash Paul Sharma welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the challenge, encouraging them to identify real-world problems and develop viable solutions.

Er. Vivek Mahajan appreciated JKEDI's initiative and stressed the importance of fostering innovation and

entrepreneurial thinking among students. Jagdeep Singh motivated young minds to become startup entrepreneurs and drivers of the J&K economy.

Shubham Sharma shared his entrepreneurial journey and the challenges and opportunities of building a startup, while Abilash Baroo briefed participants on the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and offered guidance on structuring and pitching ideas.

The programme was coordinated by Subash Singh of Government Polytechnic College and Yash Paul Sharma of JKEDI Udhampur, with support from faculty of both institutions.

NSF celebrates 119th birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh

HT News Network

JAMMU, Sept 27: National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a programmed in Jammu University, and on the Birth anniversary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh who laid his life for the country. On the occasion, NSF activists raised slogans "Bhagat Singh Amar Raha" "Inqilaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai", and they paid tributes to shaheed Bhagat Singh and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil. On this occasion, Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was the chief guest while Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator and Secretary central Zone JKNC, presided over the function and Vikshay Vashist, Working President NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Ankush Abrol threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Bhagat Singh". He said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society

BJP OBC Morcha organises social activities in Kathua, Udhampur under 'Seva Mera Yogdan'.

HT News Network

Jammu, September 28: Under the 'Seva Mera Yogdan' campaign, BJP OBC Morcha Jammu & Kashmir organised social activities in Kathua and Udhampur districts on the directions of obc Morcha State President Braham Jyot Satti.

In Kathua district, programme was organised at an old-age home under the leadership of District President Binod Kumar Shinda. During the programme, Morcha workers spent time with the elderly residents and served them food. Fruits and other essential items were also distributed among them. BJP OBC Morcha State Spokesperson Bodh Raj Mehra,



State Executive Member Ramesh Mehra and members of the district team were also present. In Jalsar, Ramnagar Mandal of Udhampur district, a cleanliness and plantation drive was organised under the leadership of District President Sagar Verma. State Secretary Ravi Abrol, party office bearers and the complete district team participated in the programme.

During the drive, the workers cleaned the surroundings and planted saplings. They also appealed to

people to maintain cleanliness around their homes and public places and to take care of the plants planted in the area.

In his message, Braham Jyot Satti said, "This is not just a programme, it is a pledge of service made from the heart. Sitting with the elderly at the old-age home, sharing food with them and giving them fruits and necessary items is not just about helping them, but also about giving them a feeling of care and belonging. In Udhampur, while carrying out cleanliness and plantation work, our workers also gave the message of keeping the surroundings clean and protecting the environment. Every sapling planted today is a hope for the future.

JU, NIELIT Inaugurates Second Batch of AI Skill-Based Training Programmes

HT News Network

Jammu, September 28, 2026: The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Jammu, today inaugurated the second batch of skill-based training programmes in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for CDOE students under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions.

The second batch comprises three courses: Fundamentals of Data Annotation using Python, Fundamentals of Artificial



Intelligence Technology, and Artificial Intelligence Assistant (300 Hrs).

Addressing the students, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director, CDOE, said that the University of Jammu is consistently focusing on making education more relevant, skill-oriented and responsive to the changing requirements of the

professional world. He observed that in the present era of Artificial Intelligence and rapid technological transformation, academic qualifications need to be complemented with practical and industry-relevant skills.

Prof. Srivastava further highlighted that the CDOE-NIELIT collaboration has been designed particularly to benefit distance learners, including students from remote and far-flung areas who may not otherwise have easy access to technology-based training. He also appreciated the successful completion of the first batch, which recorded a 95 per cent pass percentage.

University of Jammu Begins Two-Day World Tourism Day Celebration

HT News Network

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (SHTM), University of Jammu, inaugurated a two-day celebration of World Tourism Day 2026 under the theme "AI se Parayatan Rupantaran", aligned with the official UN Tourism global theme, "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism." The event provided a dynamic platform to explore the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital innovations in modern tourism and sustainable development.

Mr. Ujjwal Bhimwal, General Manager, Hotel Taj-Vivanta, Jammu City Centre, graced the occasion as

the Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted how AI is rapidly transforming the tourism sector by enhancing destination promotion, improving visitor experiences, enabling data-driven decision-making and creating new opportunities for sustainable and inclusive tourism development.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Jammu, was the Guest of Honour. She stated that AI has become an integral part of the tourism industry, transforming the way destinations are promoted, tourism services are delivered and visitor experiences are designed. She emphasised the growing importance of embracing

AI-driven technologies to enhance efficiency, innovation and sustainability in the tourism sector.

Prof. Anil Gupta, SHTM, highlighted the significance of technological advancements in shaping regional tourism paradigms. He emphasised that emerging technologies are transforming destination management, enhancing tourist experiences, improving operational efficiency and creating new opportunities for innovation and sustainable tourism development.

Earlier, Prof. Suvidha Khanna, Director, SHTM, in her welcome address highlighted the significance of World Tourism Day. She underscored the importance of collaboration



among academia, industry, government and young minds in shaping a dynamic, innovative, inclusive and sustainable tourism sector. The inaugural day commenced

with a showcase of a Digital Village project developed by students of MBA (TTM) 1st Semester, SHTM. A key attraction was an interactive cultural and destination showcase

presented by MBA students, representing various states across India. The showcase highlighted the rich heritage, traditional attire, regional cuisines and key tourist attractions of the states, blending Indian hospitality with digital technology through QR codes and interactive video presentations.

A Video-Documentary Competition, "Drishyam-The Visuals of Jammu," was also organised, in which teams from different colleges, departments and institutes presented innovative documentaries.

In the Digital Village competition, the first prize was won by Safeena Choudhary, Vansh Vardhan, Sheetal Sharma and Arshuman Kapahi. Gargi,

Ankita, Taanish and Suryansh secured the second prize, while Sukhmeet, Nandani, Vedhan and Arpit bagged the third prize.

In "Drishyam-The Visuals of Jammu," the first prize was won by Bheem Prashad, Sartaj Ahmed and Ananya Anthal from the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu. Khushi Sharma, Ansh Sharma and Ranveer Singh from the School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu, secured the second prize, while Ramneek Singh, Mukhtar Ahmad and Kumari Jyoti from the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu, bagged the third prize.



Greece stuns Germany in Nations League to hand Klopp first defeat

United News Of India

BERLIN, SEP 28 :Germany suffered its first defeat under Jurgen Klopp as Dimitrios Kourbelis's second-half strike gave Greece its first-ever victory over the four-time world champion with a 1-0 UEFA Nations League win in Augsburg.

Four days after a 1-1 draw in the Netherlands that opened its League A Group 2 campaign, Germany dominated possession but struggled to turn that control into clear chances against a compact Greek side.

Greece, fresh from a 2-1 win over Serbia in its opener, defended deep and looked to exploit the pace of Christos Tzolis and Konstantinos Karetas on the counterattack. Germany began creating openings midway through the first half.

Karim Adeyemi fired over from a promising position and later forced goalkeeper Konstantinos Tzolakis into a fine save, while Younes Ebnoutalib sent a volley wide.

The host remained largely untroubled at the other end before the break, with Jan-Aurel Bisseck settling well into the back four alongside Joshua Vagnoman and Nathaniel Brown.

Debutant Bambase Conté threatened again shortly after the restart, forcing Tzolakis into action, before the Greek



goalkeeper tipped away a curling Joshua Kimmich free kick.

Germany was warned in the 67th minute when Kimmich lost possession to Vangelis Pavlidis, who released Fotis Ioannidis, but the forward dragged his effort narrowly wide.

Greece made the host pay seven minutes later. Tzolis switched play across the German defense and Kourbelis found space on the edge of the area. His shot took a deflection off Kimmich and beat Alexander Nubel, according to Xinhua.

Klopp introduced Florian Wirtz and Jonathan Burkardt in search of an equalizer, but Germany struggled to

break down the visitor in the closing stages.

"It wasn't an easy game. To be honest, we didn't do well enough," Germany defender Jonathan Tah said. "We had our chances but didn't take them. In the end, they made the most of their moments and scored the one they needed."

The result leaves Germany on one point from its opening two Group 2 matches, while Greece tops the group with six points. Germany will host Serbia in Munich on October 1 before traveling to face Greece in Thessaloniki on October 4.

Almiron leads Paraguay past Bolivia in international friendly

United News Of India

WASHINGTON, SEP 28 :A Miguel Almiron brace fired Paraguay to a 2-0 victory over Bolivia in their international friendly.

Paraguay took the lead in the 17th minute when Almiron fired in from close range after a headed pass from Mauricio Magalhães on Sunday.

Former Newcastle United winger Almiron doubled the advantage early in the second half, taking

a touch to control Julio Enciso's pass before finishing clinically into the far corner.

Bolivia had several chances to score late in the game but was denied by a series of sharp saves from goalkeeper Gaston Oliveira, including a penalty from Miguel Terceros, according to Xinhua.

Both teams are due to face other South American rivals later this week.

Costa Rica boss Batista defiant after Haiti loss

United News Of India

KINGSTON (JAMAICA), SEP 28 :Costa Rica manager Fernando Batista has said he would not stand down after a poor run of results continued with a 2-0 defeat to Haiti in the CONCACAF Nations League.

The result followed a 4-3 home loss to Curacao on Thursday and leaves the Central American team with five defeats and a draw in six games since Batista took charge in March.

"I have all the strength because I believe in this group, I believe in the work, and I am not going to announce anything [other than] that tomorrow we have to train and work," the Argentine told a news conference on Sunday.

Sunday's result left Costa Rica fifth in the six-team Group A standings ahead of its away clash with Nicaragua on Thursday.

When asked how he intended to turn around the team's fortunes, Batista replied: "By working hard. I'm not the only manager that this has happened to."



"There are great managers who have coached in World Cups that started with bad runs and ended up very well. I have absolute faith in my group, I have absolute faith in the group, and I am completely intact."

Asian Games: Japan sweeps BMX racing golds as China takes silver, bronze



United News Of India

NAGOYA (JAPAN), SEP 28 :Japan claimed both BMX racing gold medals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Monday, with Sae Hatakeyama winning the women's final and Asuma Nakai retaining his men's title.

China's Lin Haochoo edged Indonesia's Fasya Ahsana Rifki by 0.033 seconds to secure men's bronze.

Racing took place in light rain at the Nagoya Velodrome BMX Race Course. Each category featured three preliminary runs, with the top four riders from each heat advancing to an eight-rider final decided over a single race.

Liao finished second in all three of her preliminary runs, while teammate Wang Mengyao won the first two runs in her heat. In the women's final, Hatakeyama crossed the line in 33.401 seconds,

with Liao second in 34.500 and Indonesia's Jasmine Azzahra Setyobudi third in 34.932. Wang was relegated to eighth in the official

results.

Competing at her first Asian Games, Liao said nerves had affected her since the previous evening and through the preliminaries. In the final, she concentrated on her start, acceleration and the sections ahead.

"I performed above my usual level today," she said, also praising Wang for assisting her through the turns.

The Chinese team had trained in Linyi, Shandong Province, for more than a month but had only three one-hour sessions on the Nagoya course. The rain added another challenge, as Liao had never raced in wet conditions before. "I'm quite satisfied," Liao said of her silver medal, adding that she hoped the team could build on this performance at next year's Asian championships. In the men's final, Nakai, the Hangzhou 2022 champion, finished in 30.103 seconds. Fellow Japanese rider Hyoga Kiuchi took silver in 30.583. Lin crossed the line in 32.947, just ahead of Indonesia's.

Hockey India congratulates Suraj Karkera on completing 100 senior international caps

United News Of India

KAKAMIGAHARA, SEP 28 :Hockey India congratulated Indian men's team goalkeeper Suraj Karkera on completing 100 senior international appearances, a significant milestone in his career.

The 30-year-old Karkera reached the landmark during India's fifth Pool A match of the ongoing Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 against Bangladesh here on Monday. Karkera made his senior international debut in 2017 and has since been an important part of India's goalkeeping unit across major international competitions. His journey has included several memorable achievements on the continental stage, reflecting his consistency and commitment to the national team. Among his notable honours are the gold medal at the Asia Cup in 2017, followed by a bronze medal at the Asian Champions Trophy in 2021. He was also part of the Indian team that secured bronze at the Asia Cup in 2022 and won gold at the Hockey 5s Asia Cup in 2023. Karkera added another major title to his collection with India's gold-medal triumph at the Asian Champions Trophy in 2024 and was part of the team.

Asian Games: An cruises into final as China's singles campaign ends at Asiad badminton

United News Of India

NAGOYA (JAPAN), SEP 28 :Defending champion An Se-young of South Korea defeated China's Chen Yufei 21-5, 21-12 on Monday to reach the women's singles final at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games.

The high-profile semifinal between two of the world's best players finished in surprisingly one-sided fashion.

The women's singles semifinals featured the world's top four shuttlers and had been widely expected to produce tight contests, but top-seeded An wrapped up victory in just 40 minutes.

"We have played each other so many times that we know what the other does, so I put more weight on that going in. That is why I got a good result," An said.

"More than I expected. What has grown is that I am much calmer, and my confidence has come on

lot," An said, reflecting on her progress since beating Chen in the Hangzhou 2022 final

to claim gold.

In the other semifinal, Japan's Akane Yamaguchi defeated China's Wang Zhiyi 21-11, 22-20 in

a rematch of their recent team final encounter,



when Wang had produced a decisive comeback to help China claim the team title. Yamaguchi took the first game and, despite Wang saving a match point, closed out the second 22-20.

"After facing each other in the team event over the past couple of days, both of us made more targeted preparations," Wang said.

"I think I was able to gain and learn a lot from today's match," she added.

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