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16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES
TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



P:12
Hardik Pandya included in India A squad as ODI comeback gathers pace

HT BRIEFLY

ACB traps treasury clerk for demanding and accepting 20,000 bribe

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, SEP 09 : The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has trapped and arrested a clerk posted at the Treasury Office, Kalakote, Rajouri, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of 20,000 from a complainant. The ACB in a statement issued to news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS) said that it received a written complaint from a retired fourth-class employee of the Health Department, who alleged that he was required to withdraw 50,000 as gratuity from the Treasury Office, Kalakote. The complainant alleged that the accused official demanded 25,000 as illegal gratification for processing his case for

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Two booked in Mendhar over alleged sexual assault of minor girl

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, SEP 09 :Police have registered a case against two persons after a Class 7 student was allegedly abducted and sexually assaulted in the Mendhar area of Poonch district. The case as per news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS) was registered under FIR No. 95/2026 at Police Station Gursai under Sections 70(2), 127(3) and 137(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Sections 3 and 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Police have initiated an investigation into the matter, and further legal action is underway. Details regarding the circumstances of the incident are awaited. (KINS)

NHM employees begin 72-hour strike across J&K

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 09 : National Health Mission (NHM) employees across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday began a 72-hour strike, demanding pay parity, job security and social security benefits. Employees staged protests at various district and block levels, seeking revision of their pay structure on par with NHM workers in other states, along with a secure job policy and benefits including EPF, ESI and insurance coverage. The employees said they had repeatedly raised their demands with the government but alleged that no concrete action had been taken. The Joint Coordination Committee of NHM employees had announced the strike following its September 5 meeting, citing the lack of a satisfactory response from the authorities. (KINS)

Spanish Filmmaker calls Kashmir ideal destination for filmmaking

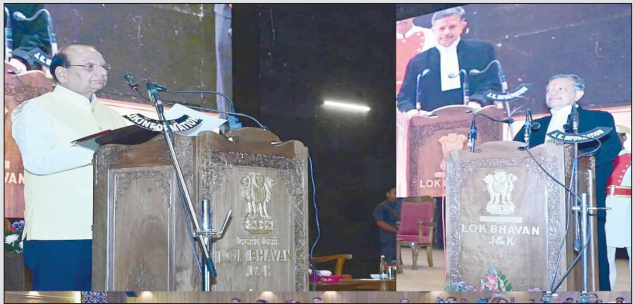
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 09 : Spanish filmmaker and producer Anna Saura Ramon has described Kashmir as an ideal destination for filmmaking, citing its scenic landscapes, lakes and natural light. Speaking on the sidelines of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) at SKICC, Srinagar, Saura said there was significant scope for stronger collaboration between Indian and Spanish filmmakers. She said language should not be a barrier to creative partnerships and expressed hope that filmmakers from both countries would work together on future projects. Saura also praised the IFFJK, saying such festivals help connect filmmakers and audiences with cinema from different parts of the world.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati Begins New Judicial Chapter in J&K, Ladakh

Sworn in as 39th Chief Justice at Srinagar Ceremony Attended by Top Judicial, Political, Administrative and Legal Dignitaries



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 9 : Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati on Wednesday assumed the office of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, becoming the 39th Chief Justice of the Union Territory's highest court. The oath was administered to Justice Bhati by Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh holding additional charge of Jammu & Kashmir, at a solemn ceremony held at SKUAST, Srinagar.

The high-profile ceremony was attended by the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Judges of the High Court, Speaker

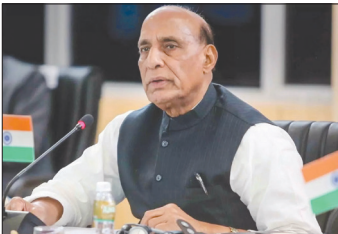
of the Legislative Assembly, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, senior government officials, former Chief Justices and Judges, senior advocates and representatives of the civil and police administration. Shashanka Ala, Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, conducted the proceedings, while M. K. Sharma, Registrar General of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, read out the Warrant of Appointment. The ceremony witnessed a strong representation from the judiciary across the country, particularly from the Rajasthan High Court, besides the High Courts of

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Rajnath Singh Pushes Stronger India-Sri Lanka Maritime Partnership
Secure sea lanes, freedom of navigation vital for Indian Ocean security and prosperity, says Defence Minister

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

COLOMBO: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday called for deeper India-Sri Lanka maritime cooperation, stressing that secure sea lanes, freedom



>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Mission YUVA Gains Momentum Across J&K

₹1,826 crore disbursed; 13,597 enterprises operational as women's participation and digital market access surge

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Mission YUVA is rapidly expanding its footprint across Jammu and Kashmir, with 1,826 crore in loans disbursed to 32,665 accounts and 13,597 new enterprises becoming fully operational, the Apex Committee reviewing the mission's progress was



informed on Wednesday.

The meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, reviewed progress since May, with particular focus on culture, capital, capacity building and

digital connectivity.

The programme has witnessed a sharp rise in youth and women's participation

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Tanvir Sadiq Extends Support to Needy People of His Constituency

Electric scooters, computers, hearing device and wheelchair distributed among beneficiaries in Zadibal

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: J&K National Conference chief spokesperson and Zadibal MLA Tanvir Sadiq on Wednesday distributed electric scooters, computers, laptops, a hearing device and an electric wheelchair among needy beneficiaries of his constituency. Speaking at a function in Doonipora, Sadiq said the initiative



was aimed at supporting educated girls, elderly

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

HT BOTTOM NEWS

Dal Lake Turns Into Kashmir's Floating Cinema

IFFJK's open-air screenings blend Bollywood nostalgia with the Valley's iconic landscape

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dal Lake has emerged as one of the most spectacular attractions of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir, with a large floating screen transforming the world-famous lake into an open-air cinema.

The Floating Cinema opened with the screening of the 1961 classic Jungle, drawing families, tourists and film enthusiasts to the lakefront. On Wednesday, audiences watched Kashmir Ki Kali, bringing the nostalgia of Shammi Kapoor and Sharmila Tagore



to the waters of Dal Lake.

The festival's concluding-day screening on September 10 will feature Yash Chopra's Kabhi Kabhie (1976).

With films projected over the water against the backdrop of mountains and city lights, the initiative has brought together Kashmir's landscape, its long

association with Hindi cinema and its enduring love for storytelling.

Cinema has found an extraordinary setting in Kashmir, as the tranquil waters of world famous Dal Lake have been transformed into a floating theatre during the

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ACB traps

withdrawal of the gratuity amount. After the complainant pleaded that he was financially weak, the alleged bribe was negotiated and settled at 20,000.

Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the ACB and lodged a written complaint seeking legal action.

The ACB said the allegations were verified and, following registration of a case, a team from ACB Police Station Rajouri was constituted to lay a trap.

During the trap operation, the accused official was allegedly caught red-handed while demanding and accepting 20,000 from the complainant. He was arrested on the spot.

Subsequently, the ACB also conducted searches at the residential premises of the accused in Rajouri in connection with the case.

Further investigation is underway. (KINS)

Spanish Filmmaker

She described her first visit to Kashmir as a positive experience and praised the region's hospitality. (KINS)

Justice Pushpendra

Delhi, Punjab and Haryana and Allahabad. Dr. Justice Nupur Bhati, Judge of the Rajasthan High Court and spouse of the Chief Justice, along with his parents and other family members, was also present.

The legal fraternity was represented by senior advocates, Government Advocates, members of the Kashmir Advocates' Association and the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu. Senior members of the Rajasthan Bar also attended the ceremony.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, issued the notification appointing Justice Bhati as Chief Justice on September 5, 2026.

Born on September 21, 1970, Justice Bhati enrolled as an advocate in 1992 and practised mainly before the Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur. His legal practice covered constitutional and writ matters, service law, public interest litigation, election matters, revenue, mining, education, Panchayati Raj, family and criminal law.

He was elevated as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on November 16, 2016. Prior to his elevation, he served as Additional Advocate General of Rajasthan and was also elected Member of the Bar Council of Rajasthan for the 2009–2015 term.

Justice Bhati served as President of the Rajasthan High Court Lawyers' Association from 2011 to 2013 and as General Secretary of the Rajasthan High Court Advocates' Association in 2001.

With qualifications including B.A., LL.B., LL.M. in Mercantile Law and a Ph.D., Justice Bhati has also maintained a strong association with legal education. He served as Visiting Faculty at Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, for 19 years and also taught at the National Law University, Jodhpur.

His assumption of office marks the beginning of a new phase for the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with Justice Bhati bringing extensive experience from the Bar, Bench and academic field to his new constitutional responsibility. : Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati was sworn in as the 39th Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at a solemn function held at SKUAST, Srinagar, on Wednesday.

The oath of office was administered to Dr. Justice Bhati by Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of UT of Ladakh with additional charge of UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The proceedings were conducted by Shashanka Ala, Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh, while the Warrant of Appointment of the Chief Justice was read out by M.K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The occasion was graced by the Chief Minister of the UT of J&K, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh along with their spouses, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, Advisor to Chief Minister of UT of J&K, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, State Election Commissioner, former Chief Justices and Judges of the High Court and a distinguished gathering representing the judiciary, Bar, civil and police administration and academia.

A large number of sitting and former Chief Justices and Judges from several High Courts across the country, particularly from Rajasthan besides the High Courts of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Allahabad, attended the event. The presence of Dr. Justice Nupur Bhati, Judge of the Rajasthan High Court and spouse of the Chief Justice, his parents, close relatives and other family members added special significance to the occasion.

Among other dignitaries present were the Chief Secretary, J&K; Director General of Police of J&K; Commissioners/Secretaries to Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh, Vice-Chancellors of Universities; Members of the Central Administrative Tribunal besides Executive Members of the Kashmir Advocates' Association and the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu; Law Officers of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Judicial Officers and officers of the High Court Registry.

A sizeable representation of senior Advocates, Government Advocates and other members of the Bar from Rajasthan besides

staff members and other distinguished guests, also attended the event.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, issued the notification regarding the appointment of Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on September 5, 2026.

Born on September 21, 1970, Dr. Justice Bhati enrolled as an Advocate in 1992 and practised primarily before the Rajasthan High Court at Jodhpur, acquiring extensive experience in diverse areas of law. These included constitutional and writ jurisdiction, service matters, public interest litigation, election, revenue, mining, education, Panchayati Raj, family and criminal law.

Before his elevation as a Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on November 16, 2016, Dr. Justice Bhati served as Additional Advocate General for the State of Rajasthan from October 13, 2008 to December 29, 2008, and again from January 6, 2014. During his distinguished career at the Bar, Dr. Justice Bhati was elected as Member of the Bar Council of Rajasthan for the period 2009–2015. He also served as President of the Rajasthan High Court Lawyers' Association from 2011 to 2013 and as General Secretary of the Rajasthan High Court Advocates' Association in 2001.

Dr. Justice Bhati holds B.A., LL.B. and LL.M. in Mercantile Law besides a Ph.D. He served as Visiting Faculty at the Faculty of Law, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, for 19 years from 1997 to 2016 and as Visiting Faculty at National Law University, Jodhpur, for one year. He is also a Member of the Executive Committee of the Rajasthan Chapter of the Indian Law Institute.

Rajnath Singh

of navigation, respect for international law and unhindered maritime trade are essential to the collective security and prosperity of the Indian Ocean Region.

Addressing senior Sri Lankan defence officials in Colombo, Singh said India and Sri Lanka must strengthen mechanisms to address emerging maritime challenges before they develop into serious threats to regional stability and development.

He highlighted cooperation in search and rescue operations, counter-narcotics, anti-piracy and combating human trafficking, while underlining the importance of the Colombo Security Conclave. Singh also proposed closer cooperation on an integrated Maritime Domain Awareness system capable of providing real-time information to counter illegal fishing, suspicious vessels, narcotics trafficking, smuggling and terrorism.

Calling Sri Lanka a "friendly neighbour, longstanding friend and reliable partner", Singh said the two countries were well positioned to safeguard peace, security and stability across the Indian Ocean.

: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday called for stronger India-Sri Lanka maritime cooperation, asserting that secure sea lanes, freedom of navigation, respect for international law and unhindered maritime trade are vital for the collective security and prosperity of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Addressing senior Sri Lankan defence officials, including Deputy Minister of Defence Aruna Jayasekara and the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force, at the Ministry of Defence in Colombo, Singh said the two countries must work together to address emerging maritime challenges before they evolve into serious threats to regional development and security.

He said India and Sri Lanka have strengthened their defence cooperation through capacity building and joint exercises, but there was a need to further deepen their longstanding strategic partnership, particularly in the maritime domain.

"We need to devise and implement joint protocols, sharpen skills and share experiences to deal with emerging threats arising from rapidly evolving global and regional dynamics," Singh said, linking closer maritime cooperation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of MAHASAGAR—Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

Describing Sri Lanka as a "friendly neighbour, longstanding friend and reliable partner", Singh said maritime security was a practical reality that directly affected the two countries' trade, security and future.

He highlighted cooperation in search and rescue operations, counter-narcotics, anti-piracy and combating human trafficking. He also underlined the relevance of the Colombo Security Conclave, which focuses on maritime safety, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and organised crime.

Singh pointed to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, established through India-Sri Lanka collaboration, as an example of the two countries' shared commitment to maritime safety. He said India was ready to assist Sri Lanka through capacity building, joint exercises and sharing of expertise.

He also proposed closer cooperation towards an integrated Maritime Domain Awareness system capable of providing real-time maritime information to help tackle illegal fishing, suspicious vessels, narcotics trafficking, smuggling, terrorism and other security threats.

On fishermen-related disputes, Singh

called for mutually beneficial solutions in accordance with applicable laws and geographic jurisdictions. He said maritime cooperation should extend beyond security to areas such as fisheries and aquaculture, marine biotechnology, ocean science, environmental protection and maritime tourism.

He further suggested exploring a joint maritime Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mechanism involving relevant agencies, disaster management authorities and scientific institutions for rapid and coordinated responses to natural and man-made disasters.

As the Indian Ocean undergoes major strategic and economic changes, Singh said India and Sri Lanka must leverage their longstanding maritime partnership to convert emerging challenges and opportunities into shared growth.

Describing India as a "Vishwa Mitra" or trusted global friend, he reiterated India's commitment to playing a constructive and dependable role in its shared neighbourhood.

"India and Sri Lanka, as close maritime partners, are well positioned to jointly safeguard peace, security and stability across the Indian Ocean Region," he said.

Singh was accorded a Guard of Honour upon his arrival at the Ministry of Defence. He also laid a wreath at the Indian Peace Keeping Force Memorial in Battaramulla and paid homage to the personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. (PIB)

Mission YUVA

.Daily applications have increased by 39 per cent, while female-led applications have surged 76 per cent. The mission's Yuva Jagriti 5.0 campaign has reached 88,300 individuals, while business hackathons have engaged 18,000 students across more than 255 educational institutions.

Applications have risen to 1.42 lakh, while loan sanctions have reached 1,992 crore. The number of J&K merchants connected to ONDC has also jumped 329 per cent to 9,266, including 2,067 dedicated Mission YUVA youth stores.

The Apex Committee of Mission YUVA (Youth Upliftment and Vibrant Advancement) met under Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, and reviewed the milestones achieved since the last Committee meeting held in May 2026, with particular focus on the four broad dimensions of the Mission including Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity through digital commerce and market access.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Director, IIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Education; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Managing Director, JKRLM; representatives from Universities, SKUAST, NABARD and other key stakeholders. Deputy Commissioners from all districts participated in the deliberations through video conferencing.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the Mission's performance across its various components and underscored the importance of sustaining the momentum generated on the ground.

He emphasised the need for close coordination among departments, financial institutions, training institutions and field-level functionaries to ensure that the expanding application base translates into viable and sustainable enterprises, meaningful employment opportunities and long-term economic empowerment of the youth.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the district-wise progress through the Deputy Commissioners and stressed the importance of continued field mobilisation, effective handholding of applicants, timely processing of cases and stronger convergence among the institutions associated with Mission YUVA.

He called for maintaining the focus on women and youth participation, strengthening the training and mentorship ecosystem and leveraging digital platforms to expand market access for locally created products and services.

The Apex Committee also reviewed the institutional mechanisms put in place for field-level implementation and took stock of the emerging requirements for further strengthening the Mission's delivery architecture.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the progress achieved since the May review and called for continued efforts to convert the Mission's growing outreach into sustainable enterprises, stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems and wider livelihood opportunities for the youth across Jammu and Kashmir.

Presenting the latest progress, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, highlighted the substantial expansion of the Mission's footprint since the previous review, noting that the programme has continued to gain traction at both the institutional and grassroots levels.

He apprised the meeting that under the mission youth mobilisation continued gaining momentum with female participation rising sharply. He revealed that under the Cultural Mobilisation and Public Awareness component, the average daily application intake has increased by 39 per cent over the last three months, rising from 280 to 390 applications

per day.

A particularly significant feature has been the growing participation of women with female-led applications increasing by 76 per cent, from 91 to 160 applications per day, while 78 per cent of all female applications are being driven by Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Sustained field-level awareness has consequently increased the overall female share of applications from 27 per cent to 31 per cent.

The Mission's mass youth mobilisation campaign (Yuva Jagriti 5.0) has so far reached 88,300 individuals, marking a 42 per cent increase since the last Apex review.

It was also divulged that the ongoing Business Hackathons, launched on August 15, 2026, have also emerged as a major platform for entrepreneurial mobilisation, reaching 18,000 students across more than 255 educational institutions. More than 1,300 innovative business ideas have already been generated, with the campaign continuing until September 16, 2026.

Additionally it was highlighted that the total application intake has increased by 37 per cent, rising from 1,04,067 on May 15 to 1,42,196 as on September 7, 2026. SBDU verifications have risen by 34 per cent to 80,965, while DLIC approvals have increased by 39 per cent to 75,791.

Moreover the loan sanctions have grown by 53 per cent, reaching 1,992 crore across 37,171 sanctioned accounts, while disbursements have reached 1,826 crore across 32,665 accounts, also registering 53 per cent growth.

The meeting was informed that commercial banks are presently processing around 2,800 applications every month, while the final sanction rate has recovered strongly from 23 per cent in July to 40 per cent in August, indicating improved processing efficiency and conversion across the financial funnel.

The programme has simultaneously translated financial support into actual enterprise creation, with 13,597 new enterprises now fully operational across J&K, representing a 58 per cent surge since May. Another 6,777 enterprises are currently in the Work-In-Progress (WIP) stage, with WIP report submissions increasing by 70 per cent.

The Mission has also witnessed a substantial expansion in its Capacity Building and Business Mentorship component as the trained individuals has increased by 73 per cent since the last review, with 36,474 student/entrepreneur certifications completed so far.

The mentorship framework has recorded an especially notable expansion, with enterprise mentorship completion increasing seven-fold (700 per cent) since the previous review. As many as 2,645 entrepreneurs have been mentored by 482 onboarded mentors, strengthening the handholding ecosystem for emerging entrepreneurs beyond the initial stages of enterprise establishment.

The number of J&K merchant storefronts onboarded on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has grown by an extraordinary 329 per cent since May, reaching 9,266 digital stores.

Significantly, 2,067 dedicated Mission YUVA youth stores have now been fully onboarded on ONDC, providing young entrepreneurs, including those from rural and semi-urban areas, direct access to the national digital marketplace.

It is needless to say that the Mission YUVA, through its integrated approach to mobilisation, finance, skills, mentorship and market connectivity, is emerging as a comprehensive platform for enabling young people of J&K to move from aspiration to enterprise and from enterprise to sustainable livelihood.

Tanvir Sadiq

persons, persons with disabilities and families facing financial difficulties.

He said an electric scooter was provided to a physically challenged student to facilitate her university commute, while computers and other assistive devices were distributed to beneficiaries requiring support for education and mobility.

Sadiq said he would continue such initiatives and announced that another public assistance programme would be organised next week in the Rainawari-Dargah Block.

The J&K National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq Wednesday distributed two electric scooters, computers, laptops, hearing machines and an electric wheelchair among deserving and needy individuals of his constituency at a function held in Doonipora, Zadibal.

In a statement issued, Tanvir said that it has always been his endeavour to stand by people who need support, particularly educated girls, the elderly, persons with disabilities and families facing difficulties.

Sharing the thought behind the initiative, he said, "One of our daughters needed an electric scooter because of her physical disability, which was making it difficult for her to travel to university. I had promised her that I would help, and today I am happy that I could keep that promise."

Similarly, a student in need of a computer for her studies was provided one, while another family was supported with an electric scooter to help with the daily commute of their children to school. A hearing machine was provided to an elderly person, while an electric wheelchair was given to a young child to help

him move around with greater independence and dignity.

Tanvir said such initiatives were close to his heart and that he would continue to extend support wherever possible.

"Sometimes, we have to step forward with our own resources so that people do not have to remain dependent on government schemes or wait for assistance. Even a small gesture can make a meaningful difference to someone's life," he said.

He wished all the beneficiaries well and urged them to make the best possible use of the assistance provided to them.

He further said that another such public assistance programme would be held next week in the Rainawari-Dargah Block.

Several prominent members of the party and local residents were present on the occasion. (KNS)

Medicity Land

requisite right-of-way so that the project can proceed without further impediments.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review and resolve issues related to the Medicity project.

Besides Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, senior officers from the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, SIDCO, Industries & Commerce Deptt and Project Coordinator Sajad Nazir Shah attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the demarcation of land earmarked for the Medicity project, as well as 15-metre Right of Way/the buffer area between new Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Highcourt complex & Medicity.

The Divisional Commissioner took note of the issues raised by the concerned departments and the executing agency and directed the officers to undertake a joint inspection of the site to resolve the matter of demarcation of allocated land.

He further directed that revenue officers from the concerned departments be associated with the demarcation process to ensure that the land is demarcated strictly in accordance with the approved plan of 2021.

Anshul Garg also stressed the need to ensure the requisite right of way to the Medicity project so that the implementation of the project proceeds smoothly and without further impediments.

Meanwhile, DC Srinagar assured support to facilitate the resolution of the issue at the earliest.

Earlier, project coordinator apprised the chair regarding the approved plan of Medicity and Right of Way.

Dal Lake

first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK).

In a setting where the lake, mountains and city lights come together, audiences are experiencing films on a large floating screen, with the banks of Dal Lake serving as an open-air auditorium. The initiative has emerged as one of the most distinctive attractions of the four-day festival that began on September 07, giving the celebration of cinema a setting deeply connected with Kashmir's visual and cinematic heritage.

The Floating Cinema opened on the first day of the festival with the screening of the evergreen 1961 film Jungle. The screening drew audiences to the lakefront, creating a memorable spectacle as a classic Hindi film played out against the waters of Dal Lake.

As the screen lights up over the waters of Dal Lake, families, visitors, film enthusiasts from different parts of the country and abroad and curious onlookers have been turning up along the banks, making the screenings a lively public experience.

The experience goes beyond conventional film viewing, allowing audiences to watch cinema while surrounded by the very landscapes that have inspired filmmakers for generations. The initiative also reflects IFFJK's effort to take cinema beyond traditional theatre spaces and bring it into public and culturally significant settings.

On Wednesday, the Floating Cinema featured the timeless 'Kashmir Ki Kali', bringing to the waters of Dal Lake the infectious energy and charisma of Shammi Kapoor at his energetic best, alongside the effortlessly graceful and captivating Sharmila Tagore.

The film, remembered for its romance, music and vibrant performances, offered audiences an opportunity to revisit one of Hindi cinema's most beloved classics in a setting that feels naturally connected to its story.

The nostalgia will continue on the concluding day on September 10 with the screening of Yash Chopra's Kabhi Kabhie (1976), another celebrated classic associated with the cinematic tradition of Kashmir.

With films being projected over the waters and audiences gathered along the lakefront, Dal Lake has become more than a backdrop to the festival—it has become a part of the cinematic experience itself.

The Floating Cinema brings together three enduring elements of Kashmir—its landscapes, its association with Hindi cinema and its love for storytelling—creating an experience that is as much about the place as it is about the films being screened.



CS Dulloo charts roadmap for rolling out RuTAGe Smart Village Centres across J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 9: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today held detailed deliberations with the stakeholders of the Manthan platform of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India to deliberate upon the roadmap and institutional framework for implementing RuTAGe Smart Village Centres (RSVCs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by ACS, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, Education; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Director General, Rural Sanitation, besides other senior officers and concerned stakeholders.

The deliberations focused on translating the RSVC concept into a practical, outcome-oriented model suited to the diverse socio-economic and geographical requirements of J&K. The initiative envisages bringing



appropriate science, technology and innovation closer to rural communities while creating avenues for entrepreneurship, skill development, livelihood enhancement, local value addition and improved delivery of services.

While speaking the Chief Secretary underscored the need for a day-long workshop to deliberate comprehensively on the possibilities,

institutional arrangements and implementation strategy for the programme in the UT. He observed that such a workshop should bring together all relevant departments, universities, technology institutions, grassroots organisations and other stakeholders so that a clear and actionable roadmap is evolved.

He emphasised that developing local capacity would be crucial for

ensuring that the initiative is sustained beyond its initial implementation phase and that the technologies introduced through RSVCs are adapted to local needs and translated into tangible benefits for communities.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Science & Technology Department to function as the nodal department for the initiative in J&K and maintain close coordination with

the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India, as well as other stakeholders associated with Manthan, for technology identification, institutional partnerships, capacity building and implementation support.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary highlighted several sectors having significant potential for technology-led transformation through the RSVC framework. These included hydropower, agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, hospitality, education, geriatric care and drug-abuse rehabilitation, among other areas.

The Chief Secretary further stressed the importance of convergence with existing flagship initiatives of J&K, particularly Mission YUVA and the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), so that the RSVC network can leverage established grassroots institutions, entrepreneurial ecosystems, training mechanisms and community outreach platforms.

Secretary Tribal Affairs discusses key tribal welfare issues with Minister Javed Rana

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Anvy Lavasa, today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here.

Lavasa was recently assigned the additional charge of the Tribal Affairs Department.

During the meeting, the Minister and Secretary discussed key issues concerning the department and reviewed initiatives aimed at strengthening the welfare, development and socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Rana extended his best wishes to Lavasa and expressed confidence that her administrative experience would further strengthen the department's efforts towards the overall development of tribal communities in J&K.

Later, the Minister met several deputations at the Civil Secretariat and heard their grievances and demands.

He assured them that all genuine issues would be examined and addressed on priority.

Rana reiterated that timely resolution of public grievances remains a key priority of the government and directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt action on the issues brought to their notice.

Media Delegation from Keralam Visits NHPC Hydropower Projects in Baramulla

■ HT News Network

Srinagar:- On the third day of the ongoing Press Tour to Jammu and Kashmir, the media delegation from Keralam visited Baramulla district in North Kashmir and gained first-hand insights into major hydropower projects in the region. The delegation visited the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) projects at Uri, including NHPC Uri-I and NHPC Uri-II.

At NHPC Uri-I, Shri K. Vaitheeswaran, Head of Project (HOP), welcomed the media delegation and provided an overview of the ongoing works under Stage-II of the project. The delegation was briefed about the various activities and developments associated with the project.

The delegation later visited NHPC Uri-II, where Shri Rajendra Kumar, Head of Project, welcomed the team. Officials provided an overview of the project and explained its power generation capabilities and contribution to meeting the country's energy requirements.

The journalists also inspected the dam and gained an opportunity to understand the functioning and operational aspects of the hydroelectric project. The journalists also inspected the dam and gained an opportunity to understand the functioning and operational aspects of the hydroelectric project.

Div Com Kashmir Chairs Meeting to address issues related to Medicity

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review and resolve issues related to the Medicity project.

Besides Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, senior officers from the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA), Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, SIDCO, Industries & Commerce Deptt and Project Coordinator Sajad Nazir Shah attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the demarcation of land earmarked for the Medicity project, as well as 15-metre Right of Way/the buffer area between new Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Highcourt complex & Medicity.

The Divisional Commissioner took note of the



issues raised by the concerned departments and the executing agency and directed the officers to undertake a joint inspection of the site to resolve the matter of demarcation of allocated land.

He further directed that revenue officers from the concerned departments be associated with the demarcation process to ensure that the land is demarcated strictly in accordance with the approved plan of 2021.

Anshul Garg also stressed the need to ensure the requisite right of way to the Medicity project so that the implementation of the project proceeds smoothly and without further impediments.

Meanwhile, DC Srinagar assured support to facilitate the resolution of the issue at the earliest.

Earlier, project coordinator apprised the chair regarding the approved plan of Medicity and Right of Way.

DC Anantnag visits HADP-based Medicinal, Aromatic Plants Germplasm Bank at Verinag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today visited the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Germplasm Bank established by the Agriculture Department under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) at Verinag. The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Muzammil Maqbool, Chief Planning Officer, Tawseef Ahmad, Chief Agriculture Officer, Syed Shah Nawaz, and other concerned officers and field functionaries. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities and demonstration plots at the Germplasm Bank, including those for lavender, rosemary, lemongrass, and other medicinal and aromatic plants. He inquired about the cultivation and preservation of these diverse plant varieties



and reviewed the overall progress of the project.

The DC further inspected the Controlled Conditions Mushroom Unit and the Mushroom Compost Making Unit established at the facility. He appreciated the efforts of the Agriculture Department in setting up and developing the Germplasm Bank at Verinag and emphasized the importance of promoting medicinal and aromatic plants for sustainable agriculture and livelihood generation. Briefing the Deputy Commissioner on the project, the Chief Agriculture Officer

provided a detailed overview of the facilities, activities, and initiatives being undertaken at the bank. He informed that all facilities were developed under HADP and the project is seen as a shining example of the flagship program's success. Commending the project's multiple units, the DC stressed to launch innovative agricultural initiatives and asked the concerned officers to explore possibilities for establishing similar projects under HADP and JKICP at other viable locations across the district.

LMD intensified enforcement drive across J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Under the supervision of Controller, Legal Metrology, J&K, Shiv Kumar Gupta, the Legal Metrology Department (LMD) has intensified enforcement and compliance activities across the Union Territory.

As per the consolidated progress report for August 2026, the Department has realised approximately Rs 44.55 lakh as revenue and 9.10 lakh through composition.

The Department has also adopted the Improvement Notice mechanism introduced under Jan Vishwas 2.0, marking an important shift towards compliance-oriented enforcement. Under this mechanism, establishments found with minor or rectifiable deficiencies are served Improvement Notices, giving them an opportunity to correct the deficiencies within the prescribed period before further penal action is considered, wherever warranted. The approach seeks to promote voluntary compliance while ensuring that persistent and serious violations are dealt with strictly under law. As part of this compliance-oriented approach, the Department has so far served more than 50 Improvement Notices to establishments

for minor or rectifiable deficiencies.

The enforcement framework has further been strengthened through the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Metrology Enforcement Rules, 2026, along with a revised fee structure providing greater uniformity and transparency in regulatory services, enforcement procedures and statutory fees. These reforms seek to simplify compliance, reduce unnecessary regulatory burden and promote a business-friendly environment while safeguarding consumer interests. During September 2026, LMD Kulgam took action against two sellers on the Amazon e-commerce platform in connection with a violation initially detected in July, for which Improvement Notices had been issued. Both sellers were penalised with a compounding fee of 25,000 each, resulting in a total realisation of 50,000. In another consumer protection-related action, a penalty of 75,000 was imposed by Consumer Protection, Jammu, on a spare-parts establishment for violation of applicable provisions.

In a significant enforcement action by Legal Metrology Unit Kupwara, an inspection of a gas agency in August 2026, following a consumer complaint, detected short-filled domestic LPG cylinders beyond the permissible limits.

SKUAST-K Students Win One Health Day Global Award in Lisbon, Emerge Top Among Teams from 94 Countries

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: Students of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) have earned international recognition for their One Health initiative, receiving the prestigious One Health Day 2025 Student Competition Award at the World One Health Congress (WOHC 2026) in Lisbon, Portugal.

The award was presented during the closing ceremony of the international congress, which brought together leading experts, researchers, academicians, policymakers, students and professionals from across the world to advance the One Health approach. Organised by the One Health Commission, the One Health Day Student Competition recognises outstanding student-led initiatives that promote interdisciplinary collaboration across human, animal and environmental health.



Representing SKUAST-K, Dr Ayeman Qamri, MVSc Scholar, Veterinary Medicine, and Dr Shivam Srivastava, MVSc Scholar, Veterinary Gynaecology & Obstetrics, received the award online on behalf of the SKUAST-K One Health student team (SKUAOHUN). Video messages from the student representatives were also showcased during the

formal award ceremony, highlighting the team's work and contribution to advancing the One Health agenda.

The recognition follows SKUAST-K's success in the One Health Day 2025 International Student Competition, where the team secured the top honour for organising a month-long hybrid initiative, 'One Health

Program-2025'.

Competing with teams from 94 countries across all continents, the SKUAST-K team was recognised for taking the One Health message beyond classrooms through community engagement, awareness, education and interdisciplinary activities.

As part of the competition recognition, the team received an International Certificate of Excellence and a cash award of USD 1,000. The achievement underscores the global relevance of the students' work and reflects the University's growing engagement with transdisciplinary One Health research, education and outreach.

SKUAST-K has been working to institutionalise the One Health approach in Jammu and Kashmir. The University initiated a structured One Health roadmap in 2023, including the establishment of a dedicated School of One Health, while also developing collaborations with leading

medical and veterinary institutions to advance research, education, innovation and policy engagement in the field.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai congratulated Dr Ayeman Qamri, Dr Shivam Srivastava and the entire SKUAOHUN team, along with the scientists and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama, on the international achievement.

Prof. Ganai said the recognition demonstrates the growing global impact of SKUAST-K's transdisciplinary approach and reflects the University's commitment to addressing emerging societal and scientific challenges through One Health. He described the achievement as an important milestone in the University's transition from national to global engagement and reiterated SKUAST-K's aspiration to emerge as India's first global agricultural university by 2030.



DC Anantnag presides over public outreach prog at Verinag

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 09: A mega public outreach program cum grievance redressal camp was convened today by the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at Verinag.

The programme provided a platform for local residents, Auqaf and civil society members, tribal community representatives, tourism stakeholders and members of the trade community to interact directly with the district administration and raise issues related to development and public welfare.

During the programme, participants projected several demands, including upgradation of Verinag Garden, improvement of the Verinag PHE water supply line, resolution of Hangipora water supply issues, installation of streetlights, construction of rain shelters at Verinag Garden, development of Zerayat Thamankoot, and improvement of vehicle parking facilities at Verinag. The participants also sought installation of functional waste-management machines at the Municipal Committee Offices in Dooru and Verinag and highlighted



issues concerning tribal communities. Besides, demands were raised for better civic amenities, road connectivity, sanitation, electricity and healthcare facilities.

The District Development Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the issues and demands raised during the programme and directed the concerned officers to

examine them and ensure prompt and time-bound redressal of genuine grievances. He assured the participants that their concerns would be given due consideration and necessary action would be taken as per feasibility and availability of resources. Issues and demands requiring intervention by higher authorities will be taken up with

the concerned quarters so they are resolved in a time bound manner, he said.

Dr. Bilal emphasized the importance of regular public outreach programmes, stating that such interactions enable the administration to understand local requirements and improve the delivery of government services and welfare schemes through a citizen centric approach.

He called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to improve basic amenities and tourism infrastructure at Verinag, with emphasis on sustainable development and better facilities for tourists as well as the local population. He said such programs are being held especially in far flung areas to provide the locals an apt opportunity to participate in governance process at grassroots and curate the local development model as per their aspirations. Taking immediate note of the pressing issues, the DDC asked the concerned departments to resolve concerns related to basic facilities like water supply, sanitation, road connectivity, parking spaces and waste management on priority with focus on quality redressal and citizen satisfaction.

Capacity building session on Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 held in Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 09: Municipal Committees Yaripora and Frisal today jointly organised a comprehensive Capacity Building Programme on the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, aimed at enhancing operational awareness and strengthening ground-level implementation of sustainable waste management practices across both urban local bodies.

The specialized training workshop was conducted by Capacity Building Expert Tabraiz Madni. The session delivered practical guidance on key operational aspects under the framework of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, emphasizing source-level waste segregation, door-to-door collection routines, safe transportation logistics, scientific waste processing, and safe disposal standards.



Technical discussions during the session detailed the statutory obligations of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), operational protocols for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), home composting techniques, and essential occupational safety measures for frontline sanitation personnel.

Madni highlighted that achieving long-term urban hygiene requires structured coordination among municipal administration, local businesses, and community institutions.

DC Budgam chairs a meeting regarding essential utilities, services related to Air Force Station

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 09: Deputy commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan chaired a meeting regarding essential utilities and services related to Air Force Station Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning Budgam, SE EM&RE Circle Srinagar-Budgam, SE Hydraulics Circle Budgam, Officers from the Airforce Station Srinagar, Budgam, Exen KPDCI Budgam, Exen PHE Budgam, representatives from the SMC Srinagar

In the meeting detailed discussions were held related to utilities including electricity, water supply, sanitation, road infrastructure, stray animal issue, etc. Directions were issued to various departments for ensuring efficient coordination and ensuring necessary execution of works and services. The



meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning Budgam, SE EM&RE Circle Srinagar-Budgam, SE Hydraulics Circle Budgam, Officers from the Airforce Station Srinagar, Budgam, Exen KPDCI Budgam, Exen PHE Budgam, representatives from the SMC Srinagar

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Five-Day Biosciences Workshop Begins at Cluster University of Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU: A five-day workshop on Skill-Based Learning in Biosciences (NEP-2020) was inaugurated today at the Research, Extension & Innovation Hub (Biosciences), Cluster University of Jammu. The workshop is being organized by Cluster University of Jammu, Rapture Biotech Jammu & Kashmir and JKSTIC, with funding support from the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

The inaugural session was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, who emphasized the need for strengthening practical and skill-oriented education in line with the vision of NEP-2020. The Vice Chancellor highlighted that modern higher education must move beyond conventional classroom learning

and provide students with hands-on exposure, industry-relevant skills and opportunities for innovation.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. Meenakshi, Director IQAC, Cluster University of Jammu, highlighted the importance of skill-based education and appreciated the initiative for creating a platform where students and faculty can gain practical exposure to contemporary bioscience techniques.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ambika, Director, Rapture Biotech Jammu & Kashmir, stressed that skill-based learning is the need of the hour, particularly in the rapidly evolving field of biotechnology and life sciences. She emphasized that students need practical competencies alongside academic knowledge to become employable, innovative and future-ready.

Five-Day Workshop on Skill-Based Learning in Biosciences Inaugurated at Cluster University of Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, September 9, 2026: A five-day workshop on Skill-Based Learning in Biosciences (NEP-2020) was inaugurated today at the **Research, Extension & Innovation Hub (Biosciences), Cluster University of Jammu**. The workshop is being organized by **Cluster University of Jammu, Rapture Biotech Jammu & Kashmir and JKSTIC**, with funding support from the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

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DC Bandipora Inspects Ongoing Developmental Works in Sumbal Sub-Division

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Wednesday toured various areas of Sumbal Sub-Division, including Chewa, Laman and SK Bala, to conduct on-spot inspections and take firsthand appraisal of the progress of ongoing developmental works.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status and pace of execution of various works being undertaken under different development programmes and funding streams, including VBGRAM G, District Capex, schemes under PRI, DDC and BDC grants, and MPLAD funds. She also interacted with the concerned officials and took feedback on the ground-level implementation of the works. On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, Dr. Suhayb Ahmad Wani, briefed the Deputy Commissioner



about the status and progress of the ongoing works and apprised her of various aspects related to their implementation. The Deputy Commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers and executing agencies, stressing the need for timely completion of the works while ensuring adherence to prescribed quality standards. She

directed for close monitoring of the works and timely resolution of bottlenecks, wherever required, to ensure effective execution and delivery of developmental benefits to the people. The DC was accompanied by the concerned Executive Engineer, Block Development Officer (BDO), besides other concerned officers and officials.

DDC Kupwara Reviews Implementation of UT Capex, CSS at GMC Handwara

■ HT News Network

UPWARA, SEPTEMBER 9: The District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today convened a review meeting at the Conference Hall of the Government Medical College (GMC), Handwara, to review the implementation and progress of UT Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and other developmental programmes at GMC Handwara.

The meeting was attended by the Principal GMC Handwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, senior officers of KPDCI, R&B, Mechanical & Hospital, STD, PHE, JK Housing Board, and Executive Officer, Municipal Council Handwara, besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the latest status and



progress of various ongoing developmental works and projects

associated with GMC Handwara. The concerned departments were directed to ensure close coordination and timely completion of the ongoing works as per prescribed timelines and quality standards.

The Principal GMC Handwara presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the latest progress achieved under UT Capex, CSS and other developmental programmes, along with other agenda items.

The DDC stressed upon all concerned officers to maintain close coordination, expedite the implementation of ongoing projects and ensure effective utilization of funds so that the intended benefits of these developmental initiatives reach the people at the earliest.

The DDC also called for regular monitoring of the projects and timely resolution of bottlenecks, wherever

DC Pulwama reviews Mission YUVA implementation in district Directs intensified mobilisation of youth, SHGs, timely disposal of applications and stronger market linkages

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Administrative Complex here to assess the progress and implementation of Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) in the district.

At the outset, Assistant Director Employment, Pulwama, presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the progress under various components of Mission YUVA, including Udyam Jagriti 5.0, mobilisation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), credit linkage, capacity building, enterprise mentorship and market connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner

reviewed the block-wise performance under the Mission and sought details regarding the applications received so far, approved cases, loans sanctioned and loan disbursement, output tracking and stressed the need for accelerating efforts to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach all eligible youth and aspiring entrepreneurs. He directed all concerned departments, banking institutions and implementing agencies to work in close coordination for timely processing of applications, speedy sanction and disbursement of loans and effective handholding of beneficiaries.

Emphasizing the importance of awareness and mobilisation, Dr. Qayoom directed the concerned officers to intensify Udyam Jagriti

activities at the grassroots level. He called for the involvement of Block Development Officers, Urban Local Bodies, NRLM functionaries and other field-level agencies in identifying and motivating potential entrepreneurs by organising joint awareness camps at the grassroots level. He directed the concerned officers to devise a joint schedule for conducting awareness and mobilisation camps across the district to ensure participation, outreach and inclusive development of society.

While reviewing the progress of SHG credit applications, Dr. Qayoom called for mobilisation of SHG members and Lakhpati Didis and directed NRLM functionaries to provide proper handholding to members for developing viable



enterprise proposals. He emphasised that SHGs should be supported not only in accessing credit but also in establishing and sustaining their enterprises.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the need to accelerate credit linkage and loan disbursement under Mission YUVA. He directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to ensure timely processing of applications, minimise pendency and maintain regular follow-up with applicants so that sanctioned cases are converted into operational enterprises without delay.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the progress made under the capacity building and enterprise mentorship components of Mission YUVA and directed the

concerned institutions to ensure that beneficiaries receive practical training, continuous guidance and necessary support at every stage of enterprise development. He called for close monitoring of ongoing training and mentorship programmes and timely completion of training batches.

Reviewing the market connectivity component of Mission YUVA, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to facilitate wider onboarding of local enterprises and businesses on digital platforms (ONDC) and strengthen market access for entrepreneurs. He called for coordinated efforts to ensure that beneficiaries are able to expand their customer base and achieve sustainable growth through digital and physical market linkages.



HT EDITORIAL

Kashmir Beyond the Postcard : Time to Become a Storytelling Powerhouse

Kashmir has been filmed, photographed and romanticised for generations. Its mountains have provided dramatic frames, its lakes have supplied countless songs and its snow-covered landscapes have served as familiar backdrops for Indian cinema. But the Valley has rarely been allowed to become what it truly deserves to be a source of stories, voices and cinematic ideas in its own right.

The recent observations of actors Pankaj Tripathi and Divyenndu during the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir should be viewed in this larger context. Their appreciation of Kashmir's rooted stories, young talent and creative possibilities is not merely a compliment from visiting stars. It is a reminder that the Valley possesses something far more valuable than scenic beauty: an enormous reservoir of human stories waiting to be told.

For too long, Kashmir's cinematic identity has been shaped largely from outside. Filmmakers came here to capture the landscape, while the lives, traditions, contradictions and aspirations of its people often remained peripheral. That formula may have worked for an earlier era of cinema, but the changing entertainment landscape has opened a new door.

The rise of digital platforms has democratised storytelling. Audiences are increasingly willing to watch stories in different languages, cultures and settings, provided those stories are authentic and well made. This creates an unprecedented opportunity for Kashmir's writers and filmmakers. A story rooted in a Kashmiri village or neighbourhood can now potentially travel far beyond the Valley without first passing through the traditional gates of the metropolitan film industry.

But beautiful stories alone do not create a film industry. Kashmir needs a sustained ecosystem in which writers can develop scripts, young actors can receive professional training, technicians can find regular work and producers can see a viable future for investment. Film workshops, master-classes, production facilities, post-production studios and opportunities for local crews must therefore accompany the enthusiasm generated by festivals.

The International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir can play an important role in this transformation. Its real success should not be judged only by the presence of celebrated actors, directors and other personalities. Its greater test will be whether a young student watching a masterclass today eventually writes a screenplay, directs a film or builds a career in cinema tomorrow.

There is also a need for confidence. Kashmir should not attempt to become a smaller version of Mumbai. It should develop a cinematic language that reflects its own character. Its literature, folklore, music, humour, food, family structures, history and contemporary social realities offer subjects that are both deeply local and potentially universal.

The Valley also has an advantage that cannot be manufactured elsewhere: an extraordinary visual landscape combined with a distinctive cultural identity. But scenery can attract a camera only once. Stories can bring audiences back repeatedly.

The challenge before Kashmir, therefore, is to move from being a location to becoming a creation centre.

The encouraging words of Pankaj Tripathi and Divyenndu should be taken in that spirit. Their invitation to young talent to learn, listen and make use of the opportunities provided by the festival is perhaps the most important message. The future of Kashmiri cinema will ultimately not be created by visiting stars, but by local storytellers who dare to believe that their experiences are worthy of the world's attention.

Kashmir has spent decades being seen on the screen. The time has come for Kashmir to speak through it.



SURINDERPAL SINGH

From the creation of universe and the origin of life on earth the oceans have been symbols of life, beauty and endless abundance. They provide food, regulate the climate, support millions of livelihoods and produce a significant share of the oxygen we breathe. Yet, ironically, human beings are increasingly treating these vast water bodies as convenient dumping grounds for waste.

Every day, enormous quantities of plastic, sewage, industrial chemicals, agricultural waste and other pollutants enter rivers and eventually reach the oceans. Plastic bottles, bags, fishing nets, food packaging and countless other discarded items float across the seas or sink to the ocean floor. What appears to be a distant environmental problem is actually a serious threat to human health, marine life and the future of our planet.

The consequences are already visible. Marine animals often mistake plastic for

food, while discarded fishing nets can trap turtles, dolphins and other creatures. Tiny plastic particles, known as microplastics,

Poor waste management, excessive use of single-use plastics, untreated sewage and irresponsible industrial practices allow waste



have entered marine food chains and are now being detected in seafood and other parts of our environment. Chemical pollution can also create areas where marine life struggles to survive.

The problem is not caused by oceans themselves but by human habits on land.

to travel from cities and villages into rivers and ultimately into the sea. In this sense, ocean pollution is largely a reflection of how responsibly—or irresponsibly—we manage our waste on land.

Governments must strengthen waste-management systems, strictly regulate

industrial discharge and reduce plastic pollution. Coastal communities need better waste-collection facilities, while industries should be made accountable for the waste they generate. Citizens, too, have an important role: reducing unnecessary plastic consumption, avoiding littering, segregating waste and choosing reusable alternatives.

Clean-up campaigns can remove some waste, but they cannot be the permanent solution. The real answer lies in preventing waste from being generated and reaching the ocean in the first place. Education and public awareness must therefore become an integral part of environmental policy.

The ocean has no voice to protest when we pollute it, but its declining health is sending us a clear warning. We cannot continue to use the sea as a bottomless dustbin simply because its waters can carry our waste away from our sight.

The ocean is not our dumping ground; it is our life-support system. Protecting it is not merely an environmental responsibility—it is a responsibility towards ourselves and future generations.

SURINDERPAL SINGH
FACULTY IN SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB
PUNJAB.

My Profession Is Worship



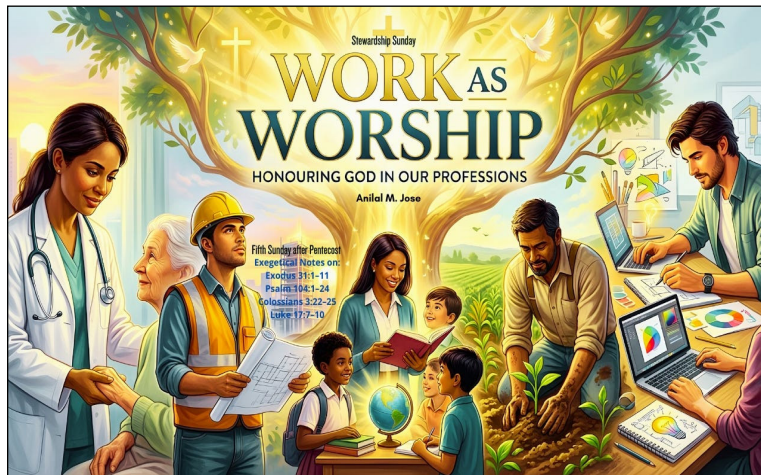
Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

All living creatures on this earth need food to survive. Different species need different types of food for their survival on this unique planet. We should understand that we are not here only to eat food. In simple words, food is a basic need of our body. It helps in body growth, development, good health, and many other processes. In other words, we are directly or indirectly in search of food.

Different organisms fulfil their needs in different ways. Some are omnivores, some are carnivores, and some are herbivores. Some living creatures eat dead and decaying things, some eat waste food, and some eat fresh and healthy food. So, the chain begins naturally here. Every individual is directly or indirectly dependent on others because the origin of every living creature comes from the earth.

We need each other's favour, help, support, love, protection, guidance, and many other things. We have been doing the same since the beginning of life, and we should make sure that this continues for future generations with positive changes and better development.

We should always work for the development of our morals, ethics, and behaviour. In fact,



our good behaviour is our real recognition. We should keep in mind that people should recognise us by our behaviour and not by the fancy degrees written on fancy papers. We start our journey without holding degree papers in our hands. No one really needs to know about your highest degree. They need your good behaviour, humility, kindness, and attention. These are the things that give you real respect in society.

Today's article is about how we can become the best professionals in our particular fields. The dictionary defines a profession as an occupation, trade, craft, or activity in which a person has special knowledge or skill. It is a job that may require a high level of skill or training.

We start our day with different activities. Muslims go to mosques for prayers, Hindus go to temples for puja, Sikhs go to Gurdwaras, and Christians go to churches for prayers. Our daily activities continue from morning until late evening.

We are living in a well-civilised society where we find people working in different occupations and professions. Some professions are considered higher, some lower, and some are considered to be in between. These differences are mainly based on the status given to them by society.

We see many different objects around us, such as utensils in the kitchen, flowers in the garden, vases on the window panes, bricks in boundary walls, cars, buses, and many other

means of transport outside our homes. Sometimes, we wonder how these things were made. But we know that these inventions are the result of human effort and intelligence.

I used to wonder why only a few professionals become famous, such as teachers, doctors, professors, engineers, and many others. Why are only a few people known throughout a country, city, or state? I think it is because they are loyal, honest, hardworking, and willing to do their best. These qualities may be the main reasons behind the success and recognition of great professionals in the world.

In our society, we sometimes consider some professions undesirable, such as the profession of a conductor or a cobbler. But we lack knowledge when we think in this way. Suppose these professions did not exist in our society. How would we fulfil our needs if these services were not provided by such professionals?

My views are clear: whoever takes his or her profession as worship and works with honesty and dedication can achieve respect and recognition in society.

Suppose someone wants to become a doctor. They should completely concentrate on their assigned work instead of running after false name and fame. We should take every profession as worship and perform our duties with honesty, dedication, and willingness.

Then, the time will not be far when you may be counted among the respected personalities of society. Sacrifice unnecessary desires, work honestly, and then expect good results.

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Only if the soil is saved, farming will survive.



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Indian agriculture is now entering a new era where growth is no longer the only criterion for assessing progress. Declining soil fertility, groundwater depletion, biodiversity loss, climate variability, and rising cultivation costs are putting increasing pressure on farmers and the agricultural sector. In this context, regenerative agriculture offers a promising path. It is a holistic approach that will not only conserve existing natural resources but also actually sustain agricultural productivity by improving soil health, biodiversity, water systems, and ecosystem functions.

The key is to focus on regenerative agriculture and restore the ecological pillars of agriculture. Intensive farming, excessive reliance on chemical inputs, and monoculture cultivation have led to nutrient imbalances and degraded soil quality in some regions over the past several decades. Regenerative agriculture is an approach that

places living soil at the heart of agricultural production. Soil management, including composting, green manure use, crop residue management, and the use of organic matter, can help improve soil structure, reactivity, and nutrient cycling.

The principle of soil cover is another important aspect. Soil is easily lost to erosion and can also be damaged by excessive evaporation or sudden changes in temperature. Mulching, cover crops, and retaining residues in the soil help maintain the soil surface and retain moisture. This is especially useful in rain-fed and drought-prone areas because it improves soil health and moisture retention, reducing the impact of short-term droughts on crops.

Regenerative agriculture also recognizes that biodiversity is an asset, not a burden, to agricultural productivity. More resilient production landscapes can be developed by implementing crop diversification, agroforestry, mixed farming, and integrated farming systems. Agricultural land managed with crops and livestock, fisheries, or trees can help diversify

farm income and improve nutrient cycling. Such systems can also help support beneficial insects and other organisms, rather than making the system more vulnerable and, in some cases, dependent on external inputs.

This shift has become even more important in light of climate change. Rainfall patterns are becoming erratic, heat waves are increasing, and droughts and floods are becoming more common. Irregular rainfall, heat waves, droughts, floods, and changing pest populations

also be important.

Another potential benefit is reduced dependence on expensive external inputs. When properly designed and scientifically proven, low-external-input agricultural practices can reduce the cost of some of the chemical inputs used in natural farming. But don't sell the concept of regenerative agriculture as a universal solution. India has highly diverse soil types, crop varieties, rainfall, and agricultural practices. Strategies that work in the semi-arid region of Haryana may not



are exacerbating the challenges faced by Indian farmers. Regenerative practices increase soil organic carbon, water holding capacity, and biological activity, which can help build resilience to climate change. Crop diversification can reduce the risk of loss of total agricultural income due to climate change shocks to any single crop. Similarly, integrated farming can mitigate economic risks arising from different production sources.

This shift must be integral to water management. Irrigation remains one of the largest freshwater consumers, and it is essential that irrigation is done efficiently. Micro-irrigation (drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation) can be used in conjunction with regenerative soil management to increase water use efficiency. In addition to appropriate crop selection, soil moisture management, and good agricultural management, government initiatives such as "More Crop Per Drop" can

yield the same results in the humid agricultural regions of Kerala or Assam.

Regional diversity also poses a major challenge to the widespread implementation of regenerative agriculture. The transition period can be uncertain for farmers, especially if production takes time to adapt to the new model. The cost of transition can be challenging for small and marginal farmers with limited financial resources. Furthermore, regenerative agriculture requires extensive knowledge. Farmers need ongoing information about crop rotation, nutrient management, pest management, residue management, livestock integration, and water management.

Another significant gap is the market. Without market recognition and/or rewards for farmers' additional efforts and risky changes, widespread adoption of environmentally beneficial practices by farmers is difficult. These incentives can be boosted by

strengthening certification, traceability, producer organizations, institutional procurement, and differentiated market opportunities. Furthermore, policymakers should avoid creating complex compliance systems that prove too costly for small farmers.

Therefore, scientific validation, farmer participation, and region-specific implementation should be the key focus of the path forward. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) can design and demonstrate experiments and practices on agricultural regeneration based on agro-climatic zones. Field trials and long-term demonstrations are essential to assess changes in soil organic carbon, yield, water use, input costs, farm income, and biodiversity.

Integration of existing programs should also be improved. Soil, water, and climate programs can complement each other rather than being separate; for example, soil health cards

can complement the National Mission for Natural Farming (NMNF) and micro-irrigation initiatives. Risks for farmers can be mitigated through transitional financing, available extension services, farmer producer organizations, and reliable market links.

Regenerative agriculture should not be seen as a return to past practices or a rejection of modern agricultural science. Its strength lies in the combination of ecological principles and scientific knowledge, combined with appropriate technology and the knowledge and experience of farmers. Its goal is to develop productive agricultural systems that can regenerate resources for future production.

However, farmland productivity isn't the only factor determining the future of Indian agriculture; it's also crucial that soil, water, and biodiversity are healthy for tomorrow's food. Regenerative agriculture offers us an opportunity to move away from production systems dependent on external resources to systems based on ecosystem productivity. Through evidence-based policies, farmer-friendly incentives, strong extension systems, and locally appropriate models, India can make agriculture more resilient, sustainable, and ecologically secure.

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

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Youngest of the Oldest" Brigade in the Indian Army.



By M S Nazki

If you do your homework in a proper way be rest assured your class work will never be wrong!

-This story has different dimensions and one by one we would unfold the same!

-A kid of mine asked me a question in the office and the question was:

-How you become mission-ready through rigorous training?

-My answer: an individual or team must transition from basic competence to instinctual execution under extreme stress.

-Core Pillars of Rigorous Training

Stress inoculation:

-Expose trainees to chaotic, simulated environments.

-Muscle memory: Repeat core mechanics until execution requires zero conscious thought.

-Failure analysis: Debrief every mistake immediately to eliminate weak points.

-Conditioning: Build physical and mental endurance to combat operational fatigue.

-The Progression Pipeline

Crawl: Learn fundamental skills in a controlled, slow-paced classroom setting.

-Walk: Apply skills in realistic, predictable field exercises.

-Run: Execute missions under high-stress, unpredictable, and shifting conditions.

-Key Outcomes

Decisiveness: Eliminates hesitation during high-stakes scenarios.

-Adaptability: Enables rapid pivoting when initial plans fail.

-Cohesion: Syncs team movements and communication seamlessly.

-He never has questions but today he had one!

-What is Technology absorption?

-Yaar Roz phone Karte Ho mujhe Aur Abhi Tak Pata Nahin Chala? Was my sombre reply!

-It is the process by which an organization or nation acquires, assimilates, adapts, and effectively utilizes external technological knowledge rather than just purchasing equipment.

-Key Stages of Technology Absorption

Adoption:

Acquiring and introducing the external technology to meet immediate operational needs.

-Adaptation: Modifying and tuning the technology to fit local environments, constraints, or shop-floor conditions.

-Assimilation/Absorption: Deeply unpacking, investigating, and training personnel to fully understand the mechanics behind the tools.

-Optimization: Improving utilization performance, lowering costs, and scaling applications for maximum productivity.

-Strategic Importance

Self-Reliance: Builds indigenous design competence and reduces heavy reliance on repeated foreign collaborations.

-Capability over Hype: Shifts focus from merely owning high-end assets (such as drones or AI systems) to operationally integrating them into coherent

human-machine dimensions shape the perception of victory or defeat short of open war.

-Core Tenets and Mechanics

Convergence: The simultaneous use of cross-domain capabilities to strike an adversary across physical and digital layers.

-Decentralized Command: Shifting from vulnerable, centralized nodes to resilient, distributed networks enabling faster decision cycles.

-Grey-Zone Persistence: Operating continuously in the blurred state between peace and war using a mix of kinetic and non-kinetic tools.

I was 45 minutes behind the schedule!



strategies...

-How cold Sim be far off! She is skeleton thin but brain she carries is a hard one:

-Sir what is Multi-Domain Operations

-My reply: (MDO) represent a fundamental shift from rigid, single-service military actions to an integrated framework spanning traditional, technological, and cognitive spaces.

-Key Dimensions of the Multi-Domain Environment

Traditional Physical Domains:

-Land, air, and sea remain foundational, but they no longer operate in isolation.

-Technological Domains: Space, cyberspace, the electromagnetic spectrum, and nuclear capabilities dictate information superiority and speed.

-Cognitive and Informational Domains: Public opinion, legal frameworks, influence campaigns, and

-The lesson learnt.....Never be behind the schedule but help your shadows out!.....

-The story at hand:

-Lt Gen Pratik Sharma Army Cdr NC visited Youngest of the Oldest brigades to review operational preparedness of the formation. During his interaction with troops, the Army Commander appreciated their commitment and resilience. He emphasised on the need to remain mission-ready through rigorous training, Tech Absorption & Innovation. He underscored the importance of Synergy to surmount challenges of evolving dynamics of Multi Domain operational environment.....

-The 5th Indian Infantry Brigade fought in major World War II campaigns across North Africa, East Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

-Major Campaigns and Battles

North Africa Campaign (1940-1941): Fought in early desert operations

in Egypt and Libya under the 4th Indian Infantry Division.

-East African Campaign (1941): Moved to Sudan and Eritrea, participating in key engagements against Italian forces, including the advance on Amba Alagi.

-Syria-Lebanon Campaign (1941): Fought with the 4th Indian Infantry Division in the Battle of Kessabeh and the Battle of Damascus in June 1941.

-Tunisian Campaign (1942-1943): Returned to North Africa under multiple formations, including the 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division and 51st (Highland) Infantry Division, to fight in Tunisia.

-Italian Campaign & Greek Civil War (1943-1945+): Rejoined the 4th Indian Division for operations in Italy and later deployment during the Greek Civil War.

-The 5th Infantry Brigade of the Indian Army is celebrated as one of the oldest and most distinguished formation brigades in the nation's military history, boasting a rich heritage rooted in operational valour and longevity.

-Core Legacy Highlights

Historic Longevity: It holds a revered status as one of the senior-most active infantry brigade formations, observing decades of service originating from early pre-independence roots.

Camaraderie and Valour: The brigade's ethos centers on an enduring tradition of sacrifice, resilience, and operational readiness in diverse, challenging terrains across India's borders.

-Operational Steadfastness: Over generations, the formation has maintained a continuous commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty, symbolizing the core professional standards of the Indian Army...

-The 5th Infantry Brigade is famously referred to in military circles as the "Youngest of the Oldest" Brigade in the Indian Army.

-Key Detail

The "Oldest" Aspect: It holds the distinction of being one of the senior-most and oldest active brigade formations in the Indian Army, with a legacy spanning over eight decades.

-The "Youngest" Aspect: Despite its long history and rich lineage, it continuously inducts modern tactical approaches, younger personnel cohorts, and updated operational frameworks, earning it the unique moniker "Youngest of the Oldest".....

-The 5th Indian Infantry Brigade was an infantry brigade formation of the Indian Army during World War II. It was converted from the 9th Indian Infantry Brigade in September 1939, and assigned to the 4th Indian Infantry Division.

The brigade first moved to Egypt and took part in the early battles in North Africa. Then in 1941, it moved to the Sudan with the 5th Indian Infantry Division. Returning to 4th Indian Division command it took part in the Syria-Lebanon Campaign. The brigade

then returned to North Africa coming under command of the 5th and 10th Indian Infantry Divisions, and the 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division and the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division in the Campaign in Tunisia. The brigade once more returned to the 4th Division for the Italian Campaign and the Greek Civil War.

5th Infantry Brigade (specifically of the Indian Army) is referred to as the "oldest brigade" because it traces its official raising and lineage back over eight decades to the early phases of World War II organization.

-Raising Date: The brigade celebrates its raising day commemorating its formation history within the military establishment.

-Legacy: It is recognized in military observances for holding the distinction of being the oldest infantry brigade formation still active in that specific command structure of the Indian Army.

-The 5th Infantry Brigade (5 Infantry BDE) in India is located in the West Slang District of Arunachal Pradesh.

-Youngest of the oldest

-The 5th Infantry Brigade (frequently referenced in contexts like the Indian Army's 5 Infantry Brigade) is colloquially called the "youngest of the oldest" because it is a historically veteran formation comprised of ancestral, battle-hardened units, yet it retains a perpetually youthful, agile operational status and mandate through continuous re-tasking and frontline readiness.

-The "Old" (Lineage and Heritage): The constituent battalions and foundational roots of the brigade date back deep into military history, carrying battle honors and traditions from legacy campaigns (such as World War II North African or Italian campaigns).

-The "Young" (Composition and Vigor): Despite its venerable history, the brigade's actual numerical designation or active composite structure gets dynamically refreshed, or it continually absorbs modern, rotationally young troops and modern operational roles that keep its combat profile energetic and modern.

-The 5th Indian Infantry Brigade has a rich historical lineage primarily rooted in World War II North African and Mediterranean campaigns, but in contemporary modern-day operational contexts, the numerical and tactical designation

aligns with various elite formations and mountain divisions (such as the 5th Infantry Division/Mountain Division footprint) operating across high-altitude and high-intensity frontiers.

-Modern Mountain and Frontier Integration: Units carrying forward the legacy of the 5th formations serve in strenuous terrains like Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir, adapting to modern electronic and high-altitude warfare.

Unending Transfer Reshuffles Sparking Chaos In J&K Education



BY-MOOL RAJ

I am not a think tank but simply a person working as Lecturer in the discipline of Environmental Science at Govt Higher Secondary School Khellani Doda Jammu and Kashmir

Through your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the kind attention of our state government towards the transfer of Govt. Lecturer during the mid season of Academic course of the students. It disrupts student learning and harms academic performance.

Key Arguments Against Mid-Session Transfe

1-Disruption of Board/Exam Preparation: Mid-session changes force students to adjust to a new teaching style and pace just months before critical board or entrance examinations.

2-Increased Student Stress: Sudden reassignments add heavy psychological pressure on students who rely on continuity and rapport with their current educator

3-Administrative Stance: Courts and policymaking bodies often rule that employee transfers should only occur during academic breaks or under extreme administrative necessity, protecting the academic year's stability.

Transfer of a government employee is the part of his service, so from bureaucrats to fourth class government employees, occasionally, every body tastes this cup of tea.

We all know since last few months transfer of lecturer have been taking place. Lecturers have been posted so that the schools of interior regions get Lecturers in their respective schools. It is on one hand a very good initiative as there are less number of Lecturers in remote areas.

The process for rationalization the transfer and posting of Lecturers in the state is likely to be completed by mid September.

But my point here is that the process which was to be completed by the end of September is still going on between the mid-sessions.

The management of educator transfers in Jammu and Kashmir has historically been a point of friction, and despite successive policies, the system continues to draw widespread public criticism. For an educational institution to function effectively, structural stability and transparent governance are vital. However, the executing arms of the School Education Department (SED) frequently face backlash for transforming what should be a merit-based, automated exercise into a disruptive ordeal for educators.

The Core Criticisms Against the Transfer Proces

Systemic Nepotism over Transparency: While the government frequently cites its point-based and automated portal systems as triumphs of digital fairness, ground realities tell a different story. Prominent media reports and educator associations highlight that highly influential administrative figures consistently pull levers behind the scenes to secure "choice postings" for favored relatives, turning the online portal into a mere facade.

Disregard for Special Demographics: A healthy transfer system requires empathy for vulnerable cohorts. In J&K, special parameters intended to safeguard regularized teachers, educators close to retirement, or female teachers



who have married across different zones are repeatedly overlooked. Forcing sudden mid-tenure dislocations onto teachers shifts their focus away from classrooms to navigating endless bureaucratic appeals.

Student Disruption via Ill-Timed Rationalization: Moving seasoned lecturers in the middle of academic terms under the umbrella of "staff rationalization" strips schools of critical subject experts overnight. The immediate casualties of these poorly timed shuffles are the students, whose curriculum continuity gets severed, particularly in far-flung and understaffed border regions.

The Balanced Alternative: What a Fair Policy Needs

The administration has taken strides to introduce the Draft Transfer Policy to regulate the framework. However, to turn these written promises into genuine fairness, structural revisions are necessary"

I am a Lecturer and I am also facing problems like many others too. I don't say this is wrong to transfer any Lectures as it is norms of the government but why between the middle of the session when the students are preparing for the boards exams. If any Lecturer had to be transferred he or she should have been transferred before the session started or at end of the board exams.

Today the cause for writing this article is mid-session transfer of our Lecturers in the mid session created problem that all students community are facing as the students have just few months for board and the students have to adjust to a new teacher.

I personally think that if the Lecturers of Class XII would

be transferred during the mid-session then surely it would affect students result. Every year govt. schools underperform in board exams.

And now, how can they expect from the students to do well? Not all can afford pricey school/tuition fees to cope with this problem. This is now a major problem as mid session transfer is hampering the board classes and moreover the students goals too.

After few months the students will have to appear in their board exams and then entrances and now in the middle of it, this is a new pressure on the shoulders of the voice less students community.

There are thousands of questions in the students mind; why transfer in the mid-session? Why a new Lecturer for the board preparing students? Is something wrong with the system? Why such a decision? Will it be fair for with the students future?

I hope this message of mine reach our Honorable Commissioner Sectary of Education Department Jammu and Kashmir. If possible, please help students in this case as each and every one students wants their Lecturers to stay. It is not too late. There is still time for you to correct this.

Next When an employee works in the same department for years, he/she gain in-depth knowledge of its processes and policies. However, sudden transfers to another department/ distant locations can disrupt their performance as they need time to adapt. Similarly, when large numbers of teaching faculty or other employees are transferred far away, they might look for ways to return to their preferred locations, different type of approaches applications etc impose unnecessary overburden of workload on department. Therefore, transfers should be carefully considered and only done when there is a valid reason, such as performance issues or lack of commitment to duties. Unnecessary transfers disrupt efficiency of employees. If there are some locations where no one wants to be transferred then tenure of two year posting in those locations should be considered for each employee after promotion.

The transfers employee avail all kinds of leaves whatever due to them, you must have seen some employees avail almost all the earned leave due to them while others do not avail such leave in their entire service. Last but not I would like to request Commissioner Sectary to School Education Department Jammu and Kashmir to delay the transfer of Lecturers keeping in view the ongoing Academic Session of the students and same transfer policy should be brought into work after the end board exams on most humanitarian ground.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Returning to the World of Books and Libraries



DR. VIJAY GARG

In an age dominated by smartphones, social media and instant digital information, the habit of sitting quietly with a book is slowly becoming less common. We can access millions of pages with a few taps, yet many people are losing the patience to read deeply. In this changing environment, returning to books and libraries is not a step backward; it may be a step toward a more thoughtful and meaningful future.

Libraries have always been more than rooms filled with books.

They are spaces where curiosity grows, ideas meet and minds develop. A good library offers students, teachers, researchers and ordinary readers an opportunity to explore subjects beyond the limits of their classrooms or daily lives.

Books provide something that short digital content often cannot: depth. Reading a complete book requires attention, imagination and reflection. It allows us to understand an idea in context rather than consuming

isolated pieces of information. Regular reading can also enrich language, strengthen comprehension and encourage independent thinking.

For students, libraries can play a particularly important role.

A textbook may provide the required syllabus, but a library can open the door to history, science, literature, biographies, philosophy, technology and countless other fields. A student who develops the habit of exploring books learns not only what to study but also how to discover knowledge independently.

Libraries are equally important in the digital age because information is not the same as knowledge. The internet provides enormous quantities of information,

but readers must decide what is reliable, relevant and meaningful. Books selected and organized by

libraries can provide a more structured path to learning. Librarians also help readers discover resources that they might never find through ordinary internet searches.

Another valuable feature of libraries is their ability to create a culture of quiet concentration. In a world of constant notifications and interruptions, a library provides an environment where the mind can slow down. This quietness is not emptiness; it is an opportunity for thought. Libraries can also strengthen communities. A modern library can become a centre for reading clubs, discussions, lectures, exhibitions, workshops and educational activities. It can bring together people of different ages and backgrounds through a shared love of learning.

The future of libraries, therefore, should not be imagined as a choice between books and technology. Libraries can successfully combine both. Digital catalogues, e-books, online databases, educational platforms and multimedia resources can exist alongside traditional shelves. The library of the future can be both digital and physical, modern and timeless.

Parents and teachers have an important role in encouraging children to read. Instead of treating reading only as an examination requirement, they can help children discover books for pleasure. Even a few minutes of voluntary reading each day can gradually develop into a lifelong habit.

Society must also ensure that libraries remain accessible, especially in rural and economically disadvantaged communities. A well-equipped library can provide opportunities to children who may not have extensive educational resources at home.

Returning to libraries does not mean rejecting technology. It means using technology wisely while preserving the human habit of deep reading, reflection and imagination.

A library is ultimately an investment in people. Every book placed on a shelf carries the possibility of changing a life. Every reader who enters a library carries the possibility of discovering a new idea, a new dream or a new direction.

In the rush of the digital world, perhaps we need to rediscover the simple pleasure of opening a book, turning its pages and allowing our minds to wander. The world of books and libraries is still waiting for us—not as a relic of the past, but as a doorway to the future.

Dr. Vijay Garg
Retired Principal
Eminent Scientist & Academic Editor,
FNWorld.com
Malout



Div Com Jammu reviews Forest Lands demarcation, sets two months' deadline

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 09: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the progress on demarcation of forest lands in Jammu Division and discuss the issues related to demarcation exercise. The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Senthil Kumar; Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division; Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers. Officers stationed outside Jammu attended the meeting through virtual mode. Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Senthil Kumar, briefed the meeting on the status of forest lands demarcation and highlighted issues related to old and incomplete records, maps, boundary descriptions and Tatima

in certain forest areas. He informed that out of 1,555 forest areas in Jammu Division, around 215 have been identified as difficult forests requiring joint surveys with the Revenue Department. He further informed that around 24,000 boundary pillars are required to be installed in these forests, while nearly 25,000 boundary pillars have already been installed in the last three months. Reviewing the progress, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Revenue and Forest authorities to undertake joint demarcation of the forest lands on priority and ensure proper installation of boundary pillars after demarcation. He directed that the exercise be carried out through coordinated field teams and be properly recorded by the concerned departments. Ramesh Kumar further directed the concerned officers to



finalize a district-wise schedule within one week in consultation with all DFOs and concerned Revenue officers. The schedule shall clearly indicate the areas to be covered, field teams, responsible officers, Range

Officers and dates for the field exercise. He also fixed a two-month timeline for completion of the demarcation exercise and directed all Deputy Commissioners and DFOs to ensure strict adherence to the schedule and

the timelines thereof. The Divisional Commissioner further directed that the composition of field teams be decided at the local level according to the sensitivity and complexity of the area. While routine cases may be handled by suitable Revenue officials, including Naib Tehsildars; Tehsildar-level officers may be associated in sensitive or complex cases requiring higher-level intervention. Reviewing forest lands issues related to roads and other infrastructure projects, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officers to expedite cases involving alternate land and transfer proposals and take up pending matters with the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

He also directed DFOs to provide necessary guidance to the concerned departmental authorities for timely processing of cases on the PARIVESH.

DC Rajouri inaugurates SHG-run Cafe near DC Office

■ HT News Network



RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 09: In a significant step towards promoting women-led entrepreneurship and livelihood generation, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today inaugurated a Cafe named by "Umeed ka zaika" run by a Women Self Help Group (SHG) here near the DC Office premises. The Cafe will provide hygienic and affordable refreshments to officers, officials and visitors, while offering the SHG members a sustainable source of livelihood and income. The initiative reflects the district administration's continued efforts to empower women associated with SHGs by facilitating income-generating activities and creating avenues for self-employment. Such ventures provide SHG members with practical opportunities to utilise their skills, strengthen their financial independence and contribute meaningfully.

Samba admin hosts recreational trip for senior citizens to Jambu Zoo

■ HT News Network



SAMBA, SEPTEMBER 09: To promote the welfare, inclusion and well-being of the elderly population, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Samba Ayushi Sudan today flagged off a special excursion of senior citizens for a recreational trip to Jambu Zoo in Jammu. This trip was organized under the auspices of the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), a comprehensive initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, aimed at ensuring a dignified life for senior citizens. The trip was meticulously coordinated by the Office of the District Social Welfare Office under the direct guidance of the Deputy Commissioner. Approximately 100 visitors, comprising senior citizens and accompanying departmental support staff, participated in the day-long outing. Prioritizing the health and safety of the elderly participants throughout the journey, a dedicated team of doctors and paramedical staff was provided by Chief Medical Officer Dr Vidhi Kohli to accompany the group.

To further ensure a comfortable and accessible experience, the District Social Welfare Office worked closely with the Additional Director/Warden of Jambu Zoo to secure prior arrangements. This included coordinated entry ticketing,

DC inaugurates Blood Donation Camp at GMC Kathua District Red Cross Society organises camp; over 50 units of blood collected

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 09: The District Red Cross Society (DIRCS), Kathua, in collaboration with Punjab Kesari Group and JK Blood Donor & Welfare Society, today organised a Blood Donation Camp here at Government Medical College (GMC), Kathua.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, who is also Chairman District Red Cross Society, inaugurated the camp. Medical Superintendent Dr Neeraj Nagpal, Ex DDC Sandeep Majotra, Senior Journalist Mangat Ram Mahajan, besides other officers were also present on the occasion.

Over 50-unit of blood was collected during the camp, with volunteers from different age groups participating in the noble cause. Doctors and paramedical staff of GMC facilitated the blood donation process.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said



that voluntary blood donation is a noble and selfless act that can help save precious lives. He said that the District Red Cross Society is committed to promoting humanitarian causes and encouraging voluntary blood donation to ensure timely availability of blood for patients in need.

The DC emphasised the importance of maintaining adequate blood stocks at GMC Kathua, particularly as the hospital caters to patients from remote and hilly areas of the district, including Bani, Basohli

and Billawar, who often require emergency medical care.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to healthy and eligible citizens to come forward and donate blood regularly, stressing that there is no substitute for human blood and every unit donated can help provide a second chance at life to someone in need. He further said that regular voluntary blood donation helps maintain the availability of different blood groups in the blood bank and strengthens the capacity to meet emergency requirements.

3-day annual Kailash Yatra begins in Bhaderwah amid religious fervour

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 09: The three-day annual Kailash Yatra began in Bhaderwah today, with devotees embarking on the pilgrimage to seek the blessings of Lord Vasuki Naag.

Amid chants in praise of Lord Vasuki Naag, the yatra passed through Bhaderwah town, where local Member Legislative Assembly Daleep Singh Parihar, ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, CEO, BDA, Sanjeev Sharma, ASP Vinod Sharma, DFO Davinder Kumar, Tehsildar, Kamal Preet Singh, SDPO Naveed Shokat Qazi, EO Municipality Ravi Sahni, President of Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Satish Kotwal, Army, Police, CRPF personnel, other tehsil officers and a large number of locals accorded a warm send-off to the pilgrims.

As per the schedule, after a night halt at Hayan (Nalhi), the Yatra would proceed to the Holy destination on Sept 9, 2026, where devotees will take a dip in the sacred water of Kailash Dal. After performing religious rituals, the Yatra will begin its return journey to Bhaderwah on September 10, 2026.

The pilgrimage sees participation from pilgrims hailing from Dudu, Basantgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur Chenani and Ramnagar, each carrying a Charri Mubarak through different routes to Holy Kailash Kund.

The district administration Doda has



made elaborate arrangements along the yatra route to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. Several officers and medical teams equipped with sufficient medicines and oxygen cylinders have been stationed to provide assistance to pilgrims.

Arrangements for drinking water, generator-based electricity, firewood and tents, security have been put in place to ensure the safety and convenience of devotees throughout the yatra.

The commencement of the pilgrimage reflects the deep religious faith of the people of Bhaderwah and the region's rich spiritual traditions.

AHD Doda organises Awareness-cum-Medicine distribution camp

■ HT News Network

DODA, SEPTEMBER 09: The Animal Husbandry Department Doda today organized an Awareness cum Medicine Distribution Camp at village Shiva under the Information, Extension and Communication (IEC) programme.

The camp focused on educating farmers about animal healthcare, disease prevention and control, vaccination, good livestock management practices, breed improvement, fodder development, livestock insurance and various welfare schemes being implemented by the Government. As part of the outreach initiative, 1 kg of mineral mixture was provided to each participating farmer to promote better nutritional



management and overall health of livestock.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Dr. Irfan Ali Wani briefed the farmers in detail about various departmental schemes, programmes and employment opportunities for rural youth in the livestock and poultry sectors. He highlighted the scope of animal husbandry as a source of sustainable

livelihood and encouraged farmers and unemployed youth to take advantage of the financial and technical assistance available under different government initiatives. The CAHO also interacted with the farmers, listened to their concerns and responded to their queries regarding departmental schemes and animal husbandry related activities.

During the technical session, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, LDC Ghat Dr. Naveed Anjum sensitized the participants about Rabies, its public health significance, prevention of dog bites and the importance of immediate medical attention following suspected exposure. He also elaborated on the role of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in providing technical guidance and facilitating farmers in accessing departmental services and schemes. He further educated the farmers about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), emphasizing the judicious and rational use of antibiotics, avoidance of self medication and the importance of using antimicrobials only on veterinary advice.

DC Rajouri holds public outreach camp at Kalakote as part of Weekly Block Diwas

■ HT NEWS DESK

KALAKOTE, SEPTEMBER 09: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, today convened a public outreach camp at the Municipal Hall, Kalakote, as part of the Weekly Block Diwas, providing the locals residents an opportunity to put forth their issues and concerns before the district administration.

During the interaction, the public raised various issues related to water, power supply, road connectivity and municipal services. The people also sought installation of CCTV cameras in the municipal area for strengthening safety and



security arrangements.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the public and assured that their genuine concerns would be

addressed on priority. He directed the concerned officers to take necessary measures for timely resolution of the genuine grievances and ensure effective delivery of essential services.

Regarding the road connectivity damaged due to recent incessant rains, the Deputy Commissioner assured the public that permanent restoration works would be undertaken to improve road connectivity and facilitate smoother movement. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that providing basic amenities and essential services at the doorsteps of the people remains a priority of the district administration. He said concerted efforts are being made to address public concerns at the grassroots level and ensure that the benefits of government services and development reach every section of society.

ACD reviews implementation of VB-GRAM-G, other RDD schemes 12 officials served Show Cause Notices for poor performance

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 09: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Manoj Kumar today reviewed the progress achieved under VB-G-RAM-G, PMAY-G, District/UT Capex and other rural development schemes in the blocks of Drabshalla, Trigam, Nagsemi and Palmar.

The meeting focused on Panchayat-wise performance, identification of bottlenecks and ensuring time-bound implementation of various developmental programmes.

During the review of guaranteed wage employment under VB-G-RAM-G, the ACD expressed serious concern over the low generation of Person-Days (PDs) in certain Panchayats. He directed the concerned Block/Panchayat-level functionaries to ensure that

eligible Gram Rozgar Guarantee Card (GRGC) holders are provided employment as per the prescribed provisions and that an adequate shelf of works is available to meet the demand for wage employment. Taking serious note of the low Person-Days generation, show cause notices were served to 12 officials/functionaries for their unsatisfactory performance. The ACD directed the concerned officials to explain the reasons for the poor progress and take

immediate corrective measures to improve the performance. He made it clear that accountability shall be fixed wherever laxity or negligence is found in the implementation of the scheme. A detailed review of e-KYC of GRGC holders was also undertaken. The ACD directed the concerned functionaries to complete the pending e-KYC on priority and ensure that eligible beneficiaries are not deprived of employment benefits due to avoidable



procedural or data-related issues. The status of skilled and semi-skilled workers was also reviewed and directions were issued to ensure 100% e-KYC of skilled and semi-skilled workers along with proper updation of the relevant records and MIS. The ACD also reviewed the functioning of the Area Officer App and stressed upon effective field-level monitoring of works. While reviewing the status of material payments under MGNREGS, the ACD

directed the concerned officers to ensure that all pending liabilities are liquidated within two days, subject to completion of prescribed formalities and availability of funds. The progress under PMAY-G was also reviewed in detail, particularly with regard to the Post Deletion Module, submission of PWL, pending cases and recovery from defaulting beneficiaries.

The ACD directed the concerned BDOs and field

functionaries to update the Post Deletion Module, submit the required PWL within the prescribed timeline and initiate/complete recovery proceedings against defaulting beneficiaries as per applicable rules and guidelines. The meeting also reviewed the progress under District Capex/UT Capex. The ACD assessed the status of ongoing and pending works and directed the concerned executing agencies and field functionaries to accelerate.





PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as SAMIA BANO D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD NAJAR on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No...2103 8931 9395 while my correct name is SUMAYA AKHTAR D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD NAJAR 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...SUMAYA AKHTAR
S/O...GHULAM MOHAMMAD NAJAR
R/O...KACHWA MUQAM

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of ABDUL SATAR BHAT S/O GHULAM NABI BHAT R/O CHANPORA RESHIPORA 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 RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (05) members and having annual income 90000 / the details of family of the applicant are as fallows

1...AB SATAR BHAT Father 50 years Labour Married
2.SHAMEEMA BEGUM Mother 48 years H/W
3...TAWFEEQ AHMAD BHAT Son 29 years Un , Employed

4....ZUBAIR AH BHAT Son 27 years student
5...ZAHID UL ISLAM son 21 years student

It is further submitted that ABDUL SATAR BHAT S/O GH NABI BHAT is Labour by profession and is sole earnings in the said family. The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour ZAHID- UL- ISLAM for Labour scholarship

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, TAMMANA FAYAZ, D/o FAYAZ AHMAD GANAIE, R/o Kakuthal, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, hereby notify the general public that my correct and full name is TAMMANA FAYAZ. That in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 4246 2401 2743, my name has been incorrectly mentioned as "TIMANA AKHTER" instead of my correct name "TAMMANA FAYAZ."

I hereby declare that "TIMANA AKHTER" and "TAMMANA FAYAZ" refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself, and my correct name shall be read as TAMMANA FAYAZ for all official and legal purposes.

If anybody has any objection regarding the aforesaid correction, they may contact the concerned Aadhaar Authority within the prescribed period.

Name: TAMMANA FAYAZ
R/o: Kakuthal, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla
Aadhaar No.: 4246 2401 2743

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name GH MOHAMMAD MIR Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003837 wants to be registered on my name SHOWKAT AHMED MIR S/O GH MOHAMMAD MIR If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...SHOWKAT AHMAD MIR
S/O.GH MOHAMMAD MIR
R/O ... DARDPORA
BLOCKWAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that an Electric Power Connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0204020000443 is registered in the name of Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Bhat S/o Wali Mohammad Bhat R/o Ghat Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar. Now the said Power Connection is intended to be transferred / registered in my name i.e. Mr. Shahzad Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat R/o Ghat Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file his/her objection before the Executive Engineer, PDD / KPDC, Division Khanyar, Srinagar within Seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection will be entertained. Applicant:

Shahzad Ahmad Bhat
S/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the proposed Management Committee of Tesla Juniors, Sonar Colony, Circular Road, Pulwama (Kindergarten - Play Group to UKG) is hereby published for information. Objections, if any, may be submitted in writing to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

S. No.	Name	Designation Category
1	Fazeelat Afza Bhat	Principal
2	Mehfooz Ahmed Dar	Teacher
3	Syed Iram Andrabi	Teacher
4	Bashir Ahmed Bhat	Parent Member
5	Syed Maswal Andrabi	Parent Member
6	Syed Areeb Andrabi	Parent Member
7	Naseer Ahmad Mir	Parent Member

Place: Pulwama Authorized Representative
Date: 08-09-2026 Tesla Juniors
Sonar Colony, Circular Road, Pulwama

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Javid Yousf War, son of the late Mohd Yousf War, resident of Vodhpura, Handwara, hereby inform the general public through this notice that Shop No. 87, situated at the Fruit and Vegetable Market, Braripora, Handwara, was originally allotted in the name of Late Mohd Yousf War.

Since Mohd Yousf War passed away on 04/05/2020, we, the legal heirs, intend to have the allotment holder rights of the said shop transferred and recorded in the name of Javid Yousf War of Late Mohd Yousf War.

If any person or persons have any objection or claim regarding this transfer, they are requested to submit their objection in writing to the Horticulture Planning & Marketing Office, Fruit Mandi, Braripora, Handwara, within one week from the publication of this notice. No objection or claim shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Javid Yousf War Son of Late Mohd Yousf War Resident of Vodhpura, Handwara District Kupwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

is notified that the applicant namely Mohammed maqbool Bhat S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/o Batapora kanihama Tehsil Magam District Budgam applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his own
The applicant intends to register the Date of his own as records 01 /08 / 1966

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 .

09/09 /2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public that I, Ubaid Ur Rahim, son of Late Ab Rahim Sofi, am applying for the issuance of a Legal Heir Certificate in respect of the estate of Late Ab Rahim Sofi.

The legal heirs of Late Ab Rahim Sofi are:

1. Shameema Bano – Widow
2. Ubaid Ur Rahim – Son
3. Haroon Rahim – Son
4. Abrar Rahim – Son
5. Mehnaza Rahim – Daughter
6. Nazima Rahim – Daughter

Any person having any objection/claim regarding the issuance of the said Legal Heir Certificate. They may contact tehsil office soibugh within seven days, after completion of said period , no objection will be entertained.

Applicant:
Ubaid Ur Rahim
Son of Late Ab Rahim Sofi

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREER

Subject: Application of MANZOOR AHMAD DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal) in favour of Wards namely AMIR ALI DEADER & IMRA JAN R/O BANDI BALA

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 DEADER community, having annual income is 9,35052 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1....MANZOOR AHMAD DEADER Father 41 years employee
- 2.... RUKSANA BEGUM Mother 38 years House wife
- 3...AMIR ALI applicant 15 years student
- 4....IMRA JAAN applicant 13 years student
- 5..BABAR MANZOOR brother of applicant 04 Years minor

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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS, JAMMU & KASHMIR SRINAGAR

Subject: Notification of Syllabus for Screening Test for Admission to ST/G&B (Boys/Girls) and Gaddi Sippi Hostels of Jammu & Kashmir at Class 6th Level.

NOTICE

In pursuance to the Admission Policy notified vide Government Order No: 24-JK(TAD) of 2026 dated 03.06.2026, the syllabus/ examination framework/ pattern as prepared by a Committee constituted vide Order No:100-DTA of 2026 Dated: 03.08.2026, for the Screening Test for admission to ST/G&B and Gaddi-Sippi Hostels of Jammu & Kashmir at Class 6th level is hereby notified and enclosed as Annexure-A to this notice.

The syllabus and examination framework/ pattern for Screening Test is designed to assess the basic knowledge, understanding, reasoning and skills of students/ candidates at Class 5th level. The syllabus is primarily based on the curriculum prescribed by the School Education Department up to Class 5th with an additional component of Reasoning and General Knowledge.

The notified syllabus comprise the following components:

S.No	Subject	No. of Questions	Marks
1	Mathematics	20	20
2	English	20	20
3	Environmental Studies (EVS)	20	20
4	Reasoning & General Knowledge	20	20
	Total	80	80

It is further notified that:

The Screening Test shall be conducted in objective Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) format, comprising 80 questions carrying 80 marks with one mark for each question. The question paper shall be of Class 5th standard and shall consist of simple, student-friendly and balanced questions based on the prescribed syllabus. The duration of the test shall be 2 hours.

The Screening Test shall be conducted in accordance with the Admission policy and other instructions issued by the Administrative Department (Tribal Affairs) J&K / Directorate of Tribal Affairs, J&K from time to time. The final selection list and admission of students/ candidates in hostels shall be undertaken by the Competent Authority in accordance with the provisions of the admission policy notified vide Government Order No. 24-JK(TAD) of 2026 dated 03.06.2026.

The notified syllabus shall come into force with immediate effect and shall be applicable for the Screening Test for admission to ST/G&B and Gaddi-Sippi Hostels at Class VI level.

DIPK-5504/26
Send Date: Sep 9 2026

SD/-
(Mohd. Mamta Ali), JKAS
Director Tribal Affairs, J&K

Annexure-A

Annexure-A to Notice no: DTA-ESTB/253/2026-0315 Dated 09.09.2026 Syllabus for Screening Test for Admission to ST/G&B and Gaddi-Sippi Hostels at Class VI Level

A. Mathematics

Basic mathematical concepts and computational skills at Class 5th level, covering:

Shapes and Angles - basic geometrical shapes, properties, angles and simple applications.

Parts and Wholes - fractions, comparison of parts/wholes and practical applications.

Area and Boundary - area, perimeter/boundary, comparison of areas, length and measurement.

Basic Mathematical Operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, ordering, comparison, place value and face value.

B. English

The syllabus shall cover: Articles, Nouns, Pronouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Prepositions, Conjunctions, Gender, Number, Simple vocabulary, Sentence formation, Word meanings, Basic comprehension appropriate to Class 5th level.

C. Environmental Studies (EVS)

The syllabus shall cover topics relating to nature, health, environment, society, science and everyday life, including:

Super Sense, From Tasting to Digesting, Seeds and Seeds, Our Health, A Treat for Mosquitoes, First Aid, Rocks and Minerals, The Earth, When the Earth Shook, Whose Forests?, Sunita in Space, Air and Its Uses, Clothing and Culture The syllabus shall include age-appropriate understanding of senses, food and digestion, seed germination, hygiene and health, mosquito-borne diseases, first aid, rocks and minerals, earth and natural resources, earthquakes and disaster preparedness, forests and conservation, space, air pollution, and clothing and culture.

D. Reasoning & General Knowledge: Reasoning: Number series, alphabet series, odd one out, classification, analogy, matching, simple coding/decoding, direction sense, ranking/order, pattern recognition, logical questions, observation and basic problem-solving. General Knowledge: India and Jammu & Kashmir, national symbols, important places and days, basic Geography, mountains/ rivers/ lakes, basic science and everyday life, sports, important personalities, environment and nature, and age-appropriate general awareness.

Examination Pattern: The Screening Test shall consist of 80 objective-type Multiple Choice Questions carrying 80 marks, distributed equally among the four components, and there shall be no negative marking. The section wise break up of marks is as follows:

S.No	Subject	No. of Questions	Marks
1	Mathematics	20	20
2	English	20	20
3	Environmental Studies (EVS)	20	20
4	Reasoning & General Knowledge	20	20
	Total	80	80

Duration of exam: 2 hours

Level: Class 5th

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA. NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 116/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/6015-25

Dated: 08-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Concreting of lane in between Mantaqui School Main Market Awantipora	0.95	200/-	2% of Adv cost	60 days	CDF Scheme of Hon'ble MLA Tral during the year 2026-27.	DEE	DDCP
2	Concreting of lane from main road upto house of Ab Gani kamal upper HerporaAwantipora	1.95	200/-	2% of Adv cost	60 days	CDF Scheme of Hon'ble MLA Tral during the year 2026-27.	DEE	DDCP
3	Concreting of lane main road (behind parsu) upto house of Feroze Ah Bhat makhdum mohalla Awantipura.	0.99	200/-	2% of Adv cost	60 days	CDF Scheme of Hon'ble MLA Tral during the year 2026-27.	DEE	DDCP
4	Tiling of Lane from main road to House of Gh Ahmad Waza Iqbal Colony Awantipora	1.00	200/-	2% of Adv cost	60 days	CDF Scheme of Hon'ble MLA Tral during the year 2026-27.	DEE	DDCP
5	Protection wall near house of Mohd Altaf Bhat Iqbal colony Awantipora	2.80	200/-	2% of Adv cost	60 days	CDF Scheme of Hon'ble MLA Tral during the year 2026-27.	DEE	DDCP

Position of AAA:

Accorded vide No: 145-DDCP of 2026 Dated: 31.08.2026

Position of funds:

Committed.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-09-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08-09-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	09-09-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	19-09-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21-09-2026 12:00 PM

Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department.)

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid). Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in **Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG**

(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming **Annexure-Z** to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

All the bidders must deposit Earnest money / Bid security equal to **2%** of advertised cost in Cash in **Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG**

(In case the participating bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming **Annexure-Z** to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ **5%** of contract value to be deposited in Cash in **Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKAOLALANG**, which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period.

(In case the successful bidder wishes to deposit the requisite amount physically at any branch of the Bank other than using UPI or any other mobile application, the said bidder has to upload the Transaction Receipt as per devised format forming **Annexure-Z** to this NIT, duly signed by the concerned Branch Manager with proper seal.)

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

SD/-
Draftsman
DIPK-5511/26

SD/-
Technical Officer
Send Date: Sep 9 2026

SD/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora





DC Budgam reviews progress on demarcation of Hokersar Wetland

HT News Network

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 09: The Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing demarcation of Hokersar Wetland, a designated Ramsar Site.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Budgam, Afroza Bano; SDM (West) Srinagar, Irfan Bahadur; Divisional Forest Officer/DFO Wildlife, Mohd Altaf; Representatives of the Photo Interpretation Division J&K; Divisional Forest Officer, Settlement & Demarcation Srinagar; Range Officer Hokersar; Tehsildar Budgam; Naib Tehsildar; Regional Director, Survey & Land Records

Srinagar; Settlement Assistant; and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress made since the previous review, particularly with regard to field verification, assessment of wetland boundaries, geo-referenced mapping, and reconciliation and availability of relevant revenue, survey and land records.

Emphasising the ecological significance of Hokersar Wetland, the Deputy Commissioner asserted that scientific, precise and transparent demarcation is essential for its long-term conservation, protection and effective management.



He stressed that the exercise must be undertaken strictly as per prescribed norms and based on verified field and revenue record. He underscored the need for

continued coordination among the Revenue, Forest, Wildlife and Survey & Land Records departments, stating that concerted efforts are vital for resolving field-level issues and ensuring accuracy in the final demarcation.

He directed the concerned officers to submit regular progress reports and ensure that the remaining work is completed within the stipulated timeframe, with no avoidable delays.

The Deputy Commissioner further stated that clear identification and demarcation of the wetland boundaries is crucial for preventing encroachments, strengthening conservation measures and safeguarding the ecological integrity

and rich biodiversity of the Hokersar Ramsar Site. Emphasising the ecological significance of Hokersar Wetland, the Deputy Commissioner asserted that scientific, precise and transparent demarcation is essential for its long-term conservation, protection and effective management. He stressed that the exercise must be undertaken strictly as per prescribed norms and based on verified field and revenue record.

He underscored the need for continued coordination among the Revenue, Forest, Wildlife and Survey & Land Records departments, stating that concerted efforts are vital for resolving field-level issues and ensuring accuracy in the final demarcation.

Director FCS & CA Kashmir reviews functioning of Department in Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 9: Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS & CA), Kashmir, Nazim Zai Khan, undertook a comprehensive tour of District Anantnag to review and oversee the functioning of the department.

The Director was accompanied by Malik Muzaffar, Assistant Director, FCS & CA, Anantnag, along with Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs) and other officials of the department. During the tour, the Director visited PEG-II, Shumhal, where he took stock of the status of lifting operations and the available storage capacity. The Director subsequently convened a review meeting with the Assistant Director, FCS & CA, Anantnag, all Tehsil Supply Officers, office staff and other officials of the department. The meeting focused on the overall functioning of the department, distribution of food grains, developmental

works being undertaken under the CAPEX budget, and expenditure incurred under various heads. The Director directed the concerned officers to expedite the execution of developmental works under the CAPEX budget and ensure timely utilization of the allocated funds. He also called upon the Tehsil Supply Officers to work with zeal and zest and maintain accountability and transparency in the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), ensuring that the intended benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries at the grassroots level. The functioning of the district's granaries (GDs) was also reviewed during the meeting. The Director directed the Assistant Director to submit a detailed proposal regarding the mapping of Sale Centres/ Fair Price Shops (FPSs) with the available Granaries (GDs) and the requirement of manpower for the

granaries (GDs), with the objective of making them fully functional and establishing an efficient and smart supply-chain management system.

The Tehsil Supply Officers were further directed to undertake thorough verification of beneficiaries to ensure that only genuine and eligible beneficiaries avail the benefits of various departmental schemes under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Director also visited the Railway Head to inspect the lifting of food grains from the railway head to the PEG II. He interacted with officials of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and discussed the supply-chain management of food grains transported through railways and their subsequent distribution to the department's sale outlets. The FCI officials briefed the Director about the detailed procedure involved in the lifting, unloading and dispatch of food grains. The Director stressed the importance.

Bharti Airtel Foundation Celebrates 25+ Years of Transforming Education, Touching 7.8 Million Lives Across India

HT News Network

Jammu, September 9, 2026: Bharti Airtel Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises, today reaffirmed its commitment to nation-building through education as it marked over 25 years of impact across India. Since inception, the Foundation has positively impacted over 7.8 million beneficiaries, including more than 4.3 million students and 3.62 lakh teachers, across 37,000 schools and 25,000 villages in 20 states, through an integrated portfolio of initiatives spanning school education, teacher development, government school partnerships, scholarships and higher education. Punjab is the largest hub of Bharti Airtel Foundation's school education initiatives, accounting for nearly 60% of its Satya Bharti School network. The Foundation operates 85 schools across the state, serving over 21,000 students (51% girls), while its Quality Support Program reaches more than 42,000 students in 105 government schools. The impact of these efforts is reflected in strong academic outcomes, with five Satya Bharti Adarsh Senior Secondary Schools recording a 99.6% Class X pass rate in the 2025-26 CBSE examinations, including a 100% pass rate among girls and 99.53% class XII pass rate, including 98.6% pass rate among



girls. Ludhiana remains central to this journey, with 42 Satya Bharti Schools serving 10,764 students from 150 villages. The district is also home to more than 4,400 The Teacher App users, the Foundation's free-for-life platform for teachers, school leaders, educators, and parents, and has recently expanded its engagement in Ludhiana, through the Quality Support Program in 12 government schools, benefiting over 4,000 students and 160 teachers.

Teachers are an integral part of the Foundation's approach to strengthening education outcomes. The Teacher App now reaches nearly 3 lakh users across all 36 States and Union Territories, including over 20,000 users in Punjab. Through partnerships with NITI Aayog, state governments and leading education institutions, the platform combines AI-enabled tools, professional learning resources and peer to peer collaboration.

J&K Police intensifies traffic enforcement in Baramulla; 22 Vehicles Seized/Challaned

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, September 09: Continuing its sustained efforts to ensure road safety, maintain traffic discipline and enforce traffic regulations, J&K Police in Baramulla has intensified traffic enforcement measures in Gulmarg.

During the period from 01 September to 07 September 2026, Police Station Gulmarg took action against 22 vehicles found involved in various traffic violations. The vehicles were seized/challaned in accordance with the prescribed legal provisions.

The registration numbers of the vehicles are JK05-6324, JK05N-8376, JK05Q-7639, JK05P-0996, JK05Q-8515, JK05E-2597, JK05L-8435, JK05Q-9044, JK05Q-3634, JK02M-8134, JK05P-7032, JK05L-8050, JK05Q-0739, JK05B-9796, JK05F-4046, JK05N-2133, JK05-3181, JK22A-1867, JK01Q-6294, JK05N-5087, UP12-6128 and JK02BN-2116.

Wheat Seed dispatch for Rabi 2026-27 commences; Director Agriculture Jammu flags off consignments

HT News Network

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 09: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today flagged off the consignments of wheat seed to different districts of Jammu Division for the Rabi 2026-27 season.

The event was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Sanjay Anand; Agriculture Research Engineer Firdous Ahmad Tak; Divisional Seed Certification Officer Nirmal Parkash Sharma; Assistant Agriculture Engineer Bharti Thusoo; ASCO Akhnoor Rajesh Langer; Store Officer S. Ravinder Singh besides officers and staff of the Seed Processing Plant, Jammu.



Earlier, the Director visited the Seed Processing Plant and inspected the ongoing wheat seed processing operations. He took stock of the various activities involved in processing and preparation of wheat seed for the upcoming Rabi season and interacted with the concerned officers and staff regarding the progress of the work.

The Director emphasized that timely availability of quality

seed is crucial for better crop establishment, enhanced productivity and improved returns to farmers. He called upon the field functionaries to maintain close coordination and ensure smooth distribution of seed to farmers across all districts of Jammu Division.

The Department has put in place necessary arrangements for the processing, certification, packaging and dispatch of wheat seed, with consignments being dispatched to different districts as per their requirements. The initiative reflects the Department's commitment towards ensuring timely agricultural inputs and supporting farmers for a successful Rabi 2026-27 season.

9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah Launched with focus on strengthening Anganwadi Services

HT News Network

Leh, September 09, 2026: The Department of Social and Tribal Welfare today launched the 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah under the theme "Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari" at the ICDS Centre, Council Model School, Ibex Colony, Leh. The month-long campaign will run from September 09 to October 08, 2026, focusing on nutrition, maternal and child health, early childhood care and development, and the importance of community participation in strengthening Anganwadi services.

The programme was graced by Director, Social and Tribal Welfare, Zhida Bano; District



Programme Officer, Rigzin Spalgon; Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Leh, Zarina Bano; Principal, Council Model School; members of the Village Education Committee (VEC); and supervisors and Anganwadi Workers.

Addressing the gathering, CDPO Leh, Zarina Bano, highlighted the significance of Rashtriya Poshan Maah and emphasised the importance of early childhood care and

education in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy. She said quality pre-school education, proper nutrition, health education, and holistic early childhood development are essential to lay a strong foundation for children's future growth and learning.

She also stressed the importance of ensuring dietary diversity and adequate protein intake among children, particularly during the early years, to support their physical and cognitive development. She called upon Anganwadi Workers and parents to promote healthy dietary practices and ensure that children receive nutritious and balanced meals.

Rotary Club Jammu Tawi And GCW Parade Honour Distinguished Educators With 'Nation Builders

HT News Network

JAMMU: To commemorate Teachers' Day and acknowledge the invaluable contribution of educators to society and nation-building, the Rotary Club Jammu Tawi, in collaboration with Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, organized a grand felicitation ceremony at the college auditorium today. The ceremony witnessed the presentation of the prestigious Nation Builders Award 2026 to six distinguished educators for their exemplary contributions to education, academic innovation, research,

community outreach and nation-building. A Lifetime Achievement Award was also conferred on a veteran educationist in recognition of his long and distinguished service.

The ceremony was graced by Prof. (Dr.) K.S. Chandrasekhar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest. Dr. N.N. Sarma, District Chairman Literacy, RID 3070, and Dr. Naveen Anand, Principal, GCW Parade, were the Guests of Honour. PDG Dr. Dushyant Choudhary, Past District Governor, Rotary International; Prof. R. S. Jamwal, President, Rotary Club Jammu Tawi; Dr.

Sandhya Bharadwaj, Project Director of the event, along with senior Rotarians and other dignitaries, were also present.

The six educators honoured with the Nation Builders Award 2026 included Dr. Parveen Singh, Associate Professor and presently Director of Academics, Board of School Education, who was recognized for his relentless efforts towards aligning school education with the transformative vision of the latest education policies and for promoting student-centric learning.

Dr. Balwinder Kaur, Associate Professor of Physics,



GGM Science College, Jammu, was honoured for her outstanding contribution to research and development, academic excellence, and for fostering competitive academic

environments while encouraging student innovation at the state level.

Dr. Aran Kumar, Associate Professor of Chemistry, PPS Government College for Women,

Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, was felicitated for providing effective academic mentorship, nurturing digital-era competencies among young learners, and making diverse contributions to teaching, research and higher education. Dr. Brahm Dutt Sharma, Assistant Professor of Dogri, Government Degree College, Ramgarh, was recognized for his efforts to connect teaching and literature with community outreach and public welfare initiatives. His contribution to specialized education and his poetry collection Kule Bhav were also acknowledged. Dr. Sonika

Kanotra, Head, Department of ENT and Head & Neck Surgery, Government Medical College, Jammu, was honoured for her dynamic contribution as an educator, her efforts in promoting scientific curiosity and active student engagement, and her role in mentoring generations of undergraduate and postgraduate students during a career spanning nearly 25 years. Dr. Jagdish Lal Sharma, Associate Professor of Mathematics, GCW Parade, Jammu, a prolific author and scholar, was also honoured for his contribution to mathematics education and for authoring 16

books that have enriched the academic resources available to students and scholars.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Sham Lal Gupta, Former Director Colleges, in recognition of his 26 years of distinguished service in teaching, mentoring and academic administration. Dr. Gupta served as Principal of three important institutions in the region and, from 2011 to 2023, contributed with distinction as a prominent member of the NAAC Peer Team.



Those memories are being brought back out all the time

Why you never really get over high school

Popularity, one of the defining fixations of adolescence, seems to be seared into our consciousness for decades after we leave school. Before I was friends with Georgia, I was scared of her. One incident sticks in my mind. We were 14, and my best friend at the time was throwing a party – the kind that takes place in a rented church hall and where practically the whole

that around half of kids maintain the same label they had at primary school five years later in high school.

"I'd had such a bad experience in primary school, and I always remember my mum saying 'It'll be better when you go to high school,'" says Connie, another friend I've asked about her high school experience. "But I think once you've been bullied, or if you have something that makes you visibly different... it was like I was easy pickings."



school year turns up. But there was one group of people that my friend had neglected to invite.

Georgia and her posse strode towards us across the playground, observers turning to stare. She was a terrifying bolt of fake tan, peroxide hair extensions and luminous sportswear – what could she possibly want with the likes of us? We froze as she came to a halt.

"We're invited to your party, yeah?" Georgia demanded of my friend. "Yes, of course," my friend managed to stutter back. Satisfied, Georgia turned on her heel and marched away. Another girl nearby murmured, "You don't have to invite them if you don't want to." But we all knew that yes, yes she did.

You probably have similar high school recollections – of finding yourself at the sharp end of playground politics. Maybe you have memories of your own Georgia, a popular kid who could induce fear at a glance. Maybe you were a Georgia yourself.

Either way, you probably remember it well. After speaking to hundreds of people about their experiences of high school, Mitch Prinstein, a professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the US, found that people's memories of those who once ruled over the school corridors – the queen bees, the prom kings, the star athletes – were remarkably potent.

We're calling forth those experiences from when we were 14 to use as a kind of a template to see the world through – Mitch Prinstein

Even decades after leaving school, most people are able to effortlessly recall the name of the most popular kid in their year – more so than the names of teachers and other classmates, wrote Prinstein in his 2017 book *Popular: The Power of Likability in a Status-Obsessed World*.

And it's not just the memories that stick. We might be inclined to think that the high school hierarchy becomes irrelevant once we step beyond the school gates for the last time. But it turns out that it can exert a strange and persistent hold over us.

Research shows that how popular and well-liked we were as teenagers can influence our lives for years to come in everything from how we make sense of our social interactions to the strength of our romantic relations, our life satisfaction and even our health.

Rethinking popularity It was American psychologist John Coie who changed the way researchers thought about popularity.

His now-seminal studies in the early 1980s began by asking school kids two simple questions about their classmates: Who do you like the most? Who do you like the least? In the childish handwriting scrawled across hundreds of scraps of paper, Coie would trace new insights about human social behaviour.

You might think that children would be either broadly liked or disliked by their peers. In fact, Coie and his colleagues found kids can be both liked and disliked by different students, or neither liked nor disliked. Some children were named a lot by their peers – they were highly visible, like tiny celebrities. Others were barely mentioned at all.

For the first time, Coie used the kids' answers to propose five social categories. "Accepted" and "rejected" for those who were widely liked or disliked respectively. "Controversial" for those who got a high number of both "likes" and "dislikes". "Neglected" for those who were hardly mentioned either way. And "average", for kids who weren't too extreme in any one direction (though most leaned towards one of the categories).

Many studies have confirmed the usefulness of these labels. They generally find that about 40% of kids are "average" and 60% fit into one of the remaining four categories.

The most liked kids tend to be seen by their peers as kind, encouraging and supportive, while "neglecteds" tend to be quiet and withdrawn. "Rejected" kids are likely to be either aggressive and to bully others, or unassertive, socially anxious and the victims of bullying themselves. "Controversials", the rarest group, split the crowd – they're typically seen as class clowns or rebels.

Remarkably, Coie found that children's labels largely stayed the same when they were introduced to new peer groups. And while the initial research was on primary school kids, many studies have replicated the findings in adolescents. One found

After being targeted by bullies in the first few months of high school, for reasons including being mixed race at a predominantly white institution, Connie switched schools. At her new school however, she soon encountered a similar pattern. (Read about the powerful new ways being discovered to fight bullying.)

The 'Regina George effect'

While the labels stay the same, the social dynamics shift dramatically between primary school and high school. In primary school, the "popular" kids are simply those who are best liked – often those who are well-behaved and excel at school, because at that point, kids values typically align with their adult supervisors.

At high school, that changes. Adults and everything they stand for become woefully undesirable. A conscientious over-achiever might find themselves relegated to "nerd" status, while a rowdier, more divisive kid might find their star unexpectedly in ascendance.

On the phone to the one-time playground terror and my now close friend Georgia, I ask her if she considered herself popular at high school. She tells me she didn't think of herself in this way. "Popular makes it sound as if people like you and I don't think we were necessarily liked," she says. "Maybe it was a bit more like, infamous... loud and attention-seeking."

As a young teen, Georgia embodied the "controversial" archetype. She acted out aggressively and was disruptive in class. For all those who loved her, there were probably a fair few who didn't. I tell her that people, including myself, were pretty scared of her at one point. But she's wrong about this making her ineligible for the "popular" label.

"We start paying attention to who might be getting the most attention, who might be more dominant or 'cool,'" says Prinstein. "Those who start becoming more physically attractive, those who are fitting into peer norms, [like] those who dress well or are good at sports."

Engaging in "pseudomature" behaviour – actions associated with older teens or adults – is another fast track to status. Teens who drink alcohol, take drugs and engage in precocious romantic behaviour are more likely to be considered popular – at least for a time. At around age 15, this behaviour stops conferring status to the same degree.

As high schoolers begin to mature, overt status-seeking becomes less socially expedient, and "likeability" begins to reassert itself as an important determinant of social standing. But the ripple effects from these early experiences in extreme social stratification can be consequential.

"The experiences that we're having as kids – whether we're well liked, whether we're popular or high status – seem to have an enduring effect on us even 40 years later," says Prinstein. "Likability and status have pretty opposite effects. Likability is good. It generally leads to all kinds of positive health, work, academic and psychological outcomes. "High status actually leads to the opposite."

Clique culture researchers used to think of high school culture as an immature version of adult society. In the 1960s, they began to understand that this "peer culture" was something much stranger – a parallel world animated by its own quixotic fascinations and sets of codes.

Rather than a simple hierarchy, the high school social landscape features a dynamic system of cliques. The key archetypes recur across popular culture, from American Pie to The Breakfast Club: the populars, the burnouts, the rejects and the nerds.

For the first few years of high school, the boundaries between cliques tend to be rigid. "Young people can become remarkably clannish, intolerant and cruel in their exclusion of others who are 'different,'" wrote German-American psychoanalyst Erik Erikson in his 1959 book, *Identity and the Life Cycle*.

It's a human phenomenon that some people achieve more social power and dominance over others. There's just something particularly acute about it in adolescence – Lucy Foulkes

This intolerance, Erikson contended, might be "a necessary defence" against the loss of the identity one had as a child, combined with a mystifying onslaught of hormonal changes, and the overwhelming nature of the future, with all its possibilities and

choices.

Adolescents help each other through this discomfort "by forming cliques and stereotyping themselves", he suggested. This self-sorting makes it easier for teenagers to navigate their social worlds, because each person's relative "category" dictates how they should be treated.

One thing that is overlooked in popular culture, however, is the large swathe of teens who don't subscribe to any particular subculture. A 1985 study found that about 45% of high schoolers defined themselves simply as "normal". While the popular kids claimed they were all about looking good and partying, self-defined "normals" said things like "I'm just a regular teen".

Being "abnormal" and standing out for the wrong reasons can be socially catastrophic. Connie remembers arriving at her new school aged 13 and finding it impossible to gain a foothold on the slippery social edifice. She describes her attempts to amplify different parts of herself in search of the right clique.

"I remember trying to be friends with the nerdy girls. I remember trying to be friends with the cool girls," she says. "I'd be like, 'Oh, I'm really bookish, I do all my homework.' And then that wasn't working, so it was like, 'Oh, I wear makeup, I do my hair,' that sort of thing. I tried to fit in with the music people. I started playing the trumpet."

But it was to no avail. "I think I knew in my heart that it just wasn't working," she says. "There was nowhere for me to slot in. By the end, I was just completely ignored by everyone."

High school grows up Towards the end of high school, the punishing social hierarchy relaxes a little.

In the early 1990s, researcher David Kinney carried out an ethnographic research project where he embedded himself in a high school to observe the shifting boundaries of cliques up close. He tracked former "nerds" who managed to transition to "normals".

The rigidity of early high school cliques might reflect the limited cognitive capacities of young adolescents, he noted. While young teens are increasingly able to self-reflect, many are unable to differentiate between how often they think about themselves (a lot) and how often others do.

For many of the young "nerds" Kinney spoke to, this resulted in a debilitating self-focus and paralysis in social interactions. Eventually, continued cognitive development meant that former nerds were able to feel less fearful, and to surround themselves with peers who provided positive feedback.

As teens mature, the strictures of conformity begin to loosen. Popular kids might even face threats from alternative, rebellious types. Kinney's study found that in later years, the "trendies" were challenged by students with "outrageous appearance and rowdy behaviour", who "competed with them for schoolwide popularity".

Some of these subtle shifts must have been underway when, aged 15, Georgia first asked me to hang out with her, but I still remember experiencing confusion and disbelief. At that point, I was a member of a predominantly male group of stoners. Was Georgia trying to play some kind of practical joke on me? Would I be lured out only to be humiliated in some way?

Almost 20 years later, I ask Georgia why she wanted to befriend me, something I've never asked

that the memory-processing parts of the brain are active when people think about social behaviour.

"Those memories are being brought back out all the time."

Where the cool kids are now

Many of us have likely wondered what happened to the "cool kids" we knew as teens. In a 2015 study, Joseph Allen, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia in the US, sought to find out. His discoveries did not bode well for once-popular youths.

Following 184 adolescents in the south-eastern US from ages 13 to 23, Allen found that status-hungry young people who engaged in pseudomature behaviour in their early teens were at greater risk of long-term difficulties in close relationships and criminal behaviour.

An early taste for alcohol and drugs was tied to greater vulnerability to substance abuse and addiction issues later in life. And a focus on status at an early age led to shallower bonds and difficulties sustaining friendships and romantic relationships.

The experience of being rejected can also leave scars. Prinstein's research found that rejected high school students were likely to become more depressed over time. He hypothesised that a negative feedback loop was at play, where the experience of rejection begets more withdrawal, which in turn intensifies feelings of rejection.

People can absolutely turn it around. The problem is that we don't spend a lot of time talking about this – Mitch Prinstein

By contrast, "likeability" – being "accepted" – in high school and generally, is one of the strongest predictors for positive life outcomes like a successful career, good health and strong relationships, even over and above factors like intelligence and socioeconomic background.

Still, people who experience rejection can also develop important strengths, such as becoming more adept at identifying how others are feeling or being more aware of others being mistreated. Such emotional intelligence has been shown to be helpful in navigating personal relationships and the world of work.

And a child doesn't have to be "accepted" to enjoy a fulfilling social life as an adult. Studies have found that even just having one or two good friends as a teenager can confer a protective effect and strengthen future relationships.

Changing the script

Most importantly, it's within our power to change how our early experiences affect us.

According to Prinstein, the high-school-honed social scripts we approach interactions with can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. "When we enter into a social context, we may be focusing on those pieces of information that confirm our worst expectations," he says. "Then we will behave in ways that might actually encourage more negative experiences."

By choosing to update these frameworks – for example, deciding that a peer's ambiguous comment was probably not intended to upset us – we can help ourselves to have more rewarding experiences, he says.

As a reformed "high status" teen who engaged in risky, pseudomature behaviour from a young age, Georgia says, "I kind of have a sadness for my younger self, that I never got to experience just being a normal



her before. I'm wondering which of my sparkling attributes might have attracted her attention – my wit, my charm? "I guess there was a weirdness that we all shared," she says hesitantly. "Like, none of us were normal."

School, the army and prison

Given all its unique quirks, it's remarkable how often we use high school as a frame of reference for adult interactions. When Lucy Foulkes, a psychologist at the University of Oxford in the UK and author of *Coming of Age: How Adolescence Shapes Us*, shared a social media post about the "mean girl" effect, she was met with an outpouring of recognition.

"A lot of people were saying, it's not just teenagers, I see this in the workplace... I see this with mums at the school gate," says Foulkes. "It's a human phenomenon that some people achieve more social power and dominance over others. There's just something particularly acute about it in adolescence."

Foulkes points out that teens are surrounded by the same people almost every day for years in a way "that just doesn't really happen in adulthood, other than in the army or in prison. There is an intensity from the environment that goes beyond what's happening inside their brains."

It's this intensity that partly explains why these experiences stay lodged within us, says Prinstein, shaping how we make sense of social encounters for years to come.

"We're calling forth those experiences from when we were 14 to use as a kind of a template to see the world through," says Prinstein. He points to studies suggesting that the mental model we use to process our social worlds begins to form in childhood, and

kid." She tells me that an early experience of seeing a friend beaten up, combined with abusive behaviour at home, convinced her to act aggressively to project invulnerability.

More like this:

- The perks and pitfalls of laughing at yourself
- How much of our personalities are determined at birth?

- How I changed my personality in six weeks

She laments the fact that she didn't get more support at that age and was instead typecast by teachers as a "bad kid". "It's completely shaped my career trajectory and my fierce advocacy for vulnerable people," she says.

Connie, meanwhile, says her early experiences of rejection eventually fed into a pattern of self-sabotage. "I think I'd given up on myself in a lot of ways, and I had so many self-destructive behaviours that it then became hard to maintain friendships," she says. This culminated in a period of crisis in her late adolescence, which she has since worked hard to heal from. More than a decade on, she has figured out what she loves – including a creative practice and a fulfilling career – and says she rarely thinks about her high school days.

Both Connie and Georgia are testament to the fact that the labels we once wore in high school don't have to be a life sentence.

"People can absolutely turn it around," Prinstein concurs. "The problem is that we don't spend a lot of time talking about this – meaning we are more likely to repeat our patterns."

(BBC NEWS)

Hardik Pandya included in India A squad as ODI comeback gathers pace

United News Of India

NEWDELHI, SEP9: Hardik Pandya, who has not played any competitive cricket since IPL 2026, has been named in the India A squad for the three-match one-day series against Australia A in Puducherry, subject to a fitness clearance.

The matches will be played on October 6, 9 and 11.

Ever since IPL 2026, Hardik has spent much of the intervening period recovering at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. The allrounder missed part of Mumbai Indians' IPL campaign because of back spasms before suffering a leg strain while training at the CoE ahead of India's

ODI series against Afghanistan in June. The injury ruled him out of that series as well.

Hardik has not played an ODI since the Champions Trophy final in March 2025. He was rested from the format ahead of the T20 World Cup in February-March 2026 and has since remained part of India's plans for the 50-over format. However, a series of fitness issues have prevented him from returning to ODI cricket.

India will be hoping Hardik passes his fitness test and uses the Australia A series to regain his rhythm in the



50-over format. He remains an important part of India's plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup, particularly because of his experience as a seam-bowling allrounder in conditions similar to those expected in Southern Africa. The Australia A tour will begin with two four-day matches in Puducherry from September 22 to 25 and September 29 to October 2 before the one-day games start October 6.

Devdutt Padikkal will captain India A in the four-day matches, with Sai Sudharsan as his deputy. The squad has been affected by clashes with the

Irani Cup, scheduled for October 1 to 5, and the Asian Games T20 competition, which runs from September 24 to October 3.

Anshul Kamboj, Tanush Kotian and wicketkeeper N Jagadeesan are the only other players in the 15-member squad who have recently been part of India's senior setup.

The one-day squad features several familiar names. Ruturaj Gaikwad will captain the side, with Padikkal as vice-captain.

Priyansh Arya, Sai Sudharsan and Rajat Patidar are among the batters,

while Prabhsimran Singh is the wicketkeeper-batter. Fast bowler Yash Thakur, who made his

T20I debut during India's tour of Zimbabwe in July, is also included.

All-rounders Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar have been cleared by the BCCI medical team to return to action after recovering from injuries. Reddy missed India's recent white-ball tours of Ireland and England because of a quadriceps injury, while Washington was ruled out of the two-Test series in Sri Lanka with a hamstring problem.

Both players have been included in India's squad for the upcoming T20I series against Afghanistan, which begins on September 13, subject to fitness clearance.

The fitness status of Jasprit Bumrah and Harshit Rana, who were also picked for the Afghanistan series pending medical clearance, is, however, yet to be confirmed.

India A squads Four-day squad: Aman Mokhadde, Ayush Pandey, Devdutt Padikkal (capt), Sai Sudharsan (vice-capt), Yash Rathod, Shaik Rasheed, Kumar Kushagra (wk), Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Tushar Deshpande, Anshul Kamboj, Praful Hinge, N Jagadeesan (wk), Nachiket Bhute, V Vyshak (subject to fitness clearance).

Centre Court Pickleball League returns to Hyderabad for Season 2 following player auction in Phuket

United News Of India

HYDERABAD, SEP9: Centre Court Pickleball League (CCPL) will return to Hyderabad for Season 2, following the conclusion of the CCPL Owners' Weekend and Season 2 Player Auction, held in Phuket from September 3 to 6.

The league began in Hyderabad in 2025 as the Hyderabad Pickleball League (HPL), with eight franchise teams competing in its inaugural season. Mavericks emerged champions after defeating All Stars 4-3 in a seventh-set tiebreaker in the final. Nearly 2,000 spectators attended the final, which also featured a halftime performance by Lucky Ali. Centre Court Sports and Entertainment subsequently expanded the format to Bengaluru under the Centre Court Pickleball League banner. The league now returns to Hyderabad for its second season.

"Hyderabad is where the league began and where we first saw the potential for a franchise-based pickleball property," said Yashwanth Biyyala, Co-founder, Centre Court Sports and Entertainment. "We took what we learnt from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, and Season 2 gives

us the opportunity to bring those learnings back to the city and build on what we started." Several franchises had made their first moves ahead of the Phuket auction. Sreekar Mothukuri was retained from the championship-winning Mavericks, while Sameer Varma returns to the All Stars after their runners-up finish last season. Mikhil Tummalapalli and Vivek Reddy were also retained by their respective franchises. Karunesh Reddy, Abhaya Vemuri and Gopinath Reddy joined the Season 2 line-up as pre-auction picks. The Chargers took a different approach. With no player retention and no pre-auction pick,

the franchise entered the Phuket auction with its full roster to build.

The remaining places across the Season 2 squads were decided at the CCPL Hyderabad Player Auction on September 5, with franchises bidding for the players who would complete their teams. "The retentions and pre-auction picks already give you an indication of how different teams are approaching the season," said Vikrant Rao, Co-founder, Centre Court Sports and Entertainment.

Record rainfall in Nagoya forces temporary evacuation of 400 Asian Games athletes



United News Of India

NEWDELHI, SEP9: Days ahead of the Asian Games, hundreds of athletes were briefly evacuated from their accommodation in Nagoya after record rainfall caused flooding in parts of the Japanese city. According to reports, around 104mm (4 inches) of rain fell within an hour, prompting authorities to issue an evacuation order. About 400 athletes and staff staying in converted shipping containers at Nagoya's Garden Pier were moved to higher ground as a precaution and returned around two hours later after the order was lifted.

Mayor Ichiro Hirosawa said the athletes were unharmed, although some temporary accommodation units had leaking roofs. He also said the conditions at the competition venues were not a concern and the Asian Games would go ahead as planned.

Rainwater leaked into several competition venues but Hirosawa said

the impact would not threaten the Games' opening on September 19.

The Games will officially open on September 19, with some events, including basketball, beginning earlier. Nagoya's subway and bus services were temporarily disrupted, while the Japan Meteorological Agency issued its highest flood warning for a major river in the area.

Local media reported that around 3,500 people sought shelter at emergency evacuation centres. More than 17,000 athletes and officials are expected to attend the Asian Games.

The Sports Ministry on Wednesday approved 246 coaches and team officials to accompany India's 503 athletes at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, with athletics and cricket receiving the largest support staff.

The ministry had initially cleared 492 athletes across 35 disciplines, but the number has since soared, mainly due to additions to the athletics squad.

Indian Men's Hockey Team departs for Japan to defend its Asian Games gold medal

United News Of India

NEWDELHI, SEP9: The Indian Men's Hockey Team departed for Japan on Tuesday evening to defend their continental crown at the Asian Games 2026, scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4. The hockey competition will be played in Kakamigahara, located approximately 35 km from Nagoya.

Led by captain Harmanpreet Singh, the Indian side will be determined to put behind their disappointing eighth-place finish at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, held last month in the Netherlands and Belgium, and shift focus towards the crucial continental assignment.

With the Asian Games gold medal offering direct qualification to the LA 2028 Olympic Games, India will aim to successfully defend the title they won at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023.

The Indian team showed glimpses of its quality at the World Cup but struggled to maintain consistency at key moments, ultimately paying the price in closely-contested encounters.

Bangladesh set up semi-final against India at Asia Cup



United News Of India

DUBAI, SEP9: Bangladesh sealed a 34-run victory to confirm their Asia Cup 2026 semi-final against India.

Defending 103, Bangladesh restricted the UAE to 69/9 in their 20 overs as the bowlers delivered an absolute clinic in Dubai.

Rabeya Khan led the charge with the ball, registering

bowling figures of 3/14 off her four overs.

Meanwhile, Marufa Akter and Nahida Akter picked up a brace each, whereas Sultana Khatun and Fahima Khatun also got on the wickets chart.

Earlier, the hosts won the toss and opted to bowl first at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

The home side gained an early advantage as Suraksha

Kotte struck twice in the powerplay. The right-arm off-spinner went on to snap another wicket as Bangladesh kept losing momentum with the bat, according to ICC.

Juairiya Ferdous (16) and skipper Nigar Sultana (23) added crucial contributions with the bat, followed by Sharmin Akhter (38), who top-scored for Bangladesh.

Despite being bowled out for what was their lowest total in this Asia Cup, Bangladesh eventually managed to gain valuable two points in what was a decisive fixture to determine the fourth semi-finalist at the tournament.

While the Nigar Sultana-led side will play against India, the defending champions Sri Lanka will play Pakistan for a place

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