

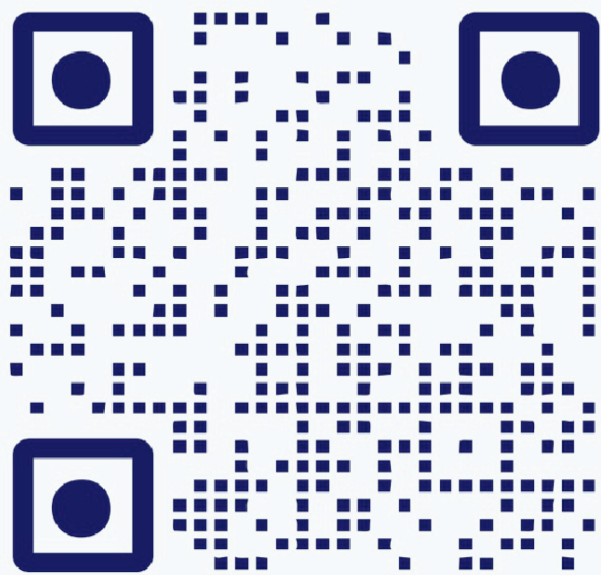


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P:06 Forlan names star-studded Uruguay squad for India friendly

HT BRIEFLY

NHM employees announce 72-hour UT-level strike from September 9

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, SEP 6: The UT-level Joint Coordination Committee of NHM Employees of Jammu and Kashmir has announced a 72-hour strike from September 9 over their long-pending demands, saying the government failed to provide a concrete response within the stipulated deadline.

The decision was taken during a virtual meeting of the committee held on September 5 and attended by representatives of NHM employees from Jammu and Kashmir divisions, including the RNTCP/NTEP Association and employees working under other schemes of the National Health Mission (NHM).

The committee had earlier issued a final ultimatum to the government and concerned authorities till September 5, seeking concrete measures to address their demands.

However, with the deadline expiring without what the committee termed a "concrete response or tangible action", it decided to go ahead with the 72-hour strike from September 9. The strike will be observed across Jammu and Kashmir, with NHM employees at district

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

UN global map should depict J&K, Ladakh as per India's official map: MEA

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEP 6: India on Sunday said any proposed global map initiated by the United Nations should depict Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in accordance with India's official map, asserting that any "incorrect" or "misleading" representation of these territories would be unacceptable.

Responding to a media query, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India's position on its sovereignty and territorial integrity was "clear, consistent and non-negotiable".

"The depiction of India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, should be as per India's official map," Jaiswal said.

His remarks came two days after India voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution aimed at promoting a more accurate and balanced representation of continental land areas on world maps.

Explaining India's vote, Jaiswal said the resolution did not endorse any particular map, cartographic projection or specific depiction of national borders. He said the resolution encouraged the use of equal-area map projections so that the relative sizes of continental land masses could be preserved more accurately.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

Woman dies after e-rickshaw, load carrier collide in Kathua

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

Jammu: A woman was killed and two others injured when a load carrier collided with an e-rickshaw on Dhar Road in the Billawar area of Kathua district on Sunday, officials said. Meanwhile, eight passengers were injured when a Tata Sumo vehicle rolled down on Bedar-Dunogam link road in Mandi area of Poonch.

An official said that the accident occurred near Darmani when the load carrier collided with an e-rickshaw carrying three passengers.

He said the trio sustained injuries in the accident and were shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Billawar, where doctors declared one of them brought dead. His identity is yet to be ascertained.

"The other two are being provided medical care and will be referred to GMC Kathua for further treatment. Their condition was not immediately known," the official said.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation.

Meanwhile, eight persons were injured after a Tata Sumo vehicle rolled down on Bedar-Dunogam link road in Mandi area of Poonch district on Sunday. The officials said that a Tata Sumo bearing registration number JK12-6675 driven by an unknown person met with an accident at

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

"If Pakistan Indulges in Mischief, Our Forces Have the Freedom and Capability to Enter Enemy Territory": PM Modi

PM says India is stronger, more secure and economically resilient; highlights defence self-reliance, mobile exports and future space station

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, SEP 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday warned Pakistan against any "mischief", asserting that India's

prepared to face security and economic challenges. Addressing the centenary celebrations of Delhi University's Shri Ram College of Commerce, Modi said terrorism had been effectively confronted,



armed forces have both the freedom and capability to enter enemy territory and respond decisively, while stressing that the country is today stronger and better

peace had improved from Jammu and Kashmir to the Northeast and Naxalism had been largely eliminated. He said India had undergone a major transformation

in internal security and the economy over the past decade and was now recording 7.8 per cent growth despite global conflicts and trade disruptions. Recalling his 2013 visit to SRCC, the Prime Minister said India had moved from the "Fragile Five" category to one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. He highlighted the expansion of manufacturing and said mobile-phone exports had crossed Rs 2.5 lakh crore. Modi also spoke of India's plans to establish its own space station and host the Olympic Games, saying these were national commitments rather than mere political statements. He further emphasised the growing self-reliance of India's defence sector, saying the government was working with the armed forces and domestic industry to reduce dependence on imports. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday issued a strong message

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

"A government speaking in two voices will cost more than the stipend ever would" : Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi

Srinagar MP questions warnings issued to striking medical interns, seeks immediate written order on revised stipend

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 6: Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Sunday accused the Jammu and Kashmir administration of adopting a dual approach towards striking medical interns, questioning why government institutions were allegedly warning protesters despite the Health Minister publicly describing their demand for a higher stipend as genuine. In letters to Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo and the principals of Government Medical Colleges, Mehdi said



the interns had been assured consideration of their demand, but warnings of consequences for continuing the strike represented a change in the government's method. He said the MBBS and BDS interns were seeking an increase in their monthly stipend from Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000, pointing out that a government committee had recommended a revision

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

KOLKATA, SEP 6: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has called for a fundamental shift in the relationship between industry and research institutions, urging companies to become partners in technology development from the project-planning stage itself. Interacting with industry leaders at the sixth RISE Conclave at CSIR-IICB in Kolkata, Singh said potential commercial partners should be identified at the beginning of research projects so that market requirements, sustainability, supply-chain needs and



commercial viability could shape technologies during development. Industry representatives raised issues concerning critical minerals, rare-earth extraction, permanent magnets, lithium beneficiation, strategic minerals, space

technology and specialised optical components. The Minister encouraged industries to utilise the capabilities of CSIR laboratories and proposed exploring common R&D facilities for sectors such as foundry and steel, with the government ready to facilitate such platforms. Discussions also covered indigenous anti-snake venom production and new technologies for identifying snakebite species and developing antivenoms, with Singh stressing that scientific validation and clinical trials must precede wider adoption. Calling for continuous rather than

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

"Strengthen the party organisation at the grassroots level": Ashok Koul

BJP J&K leadership reviews programmes and public outreach activities of all Morchas in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 6: BJP General Secretary (Organisation), Jammu and Kashmir, Ashok Koul on Sunday chaired a review meeting of the party's various Morchas in Srinagar to assess ongoing organisational and public outreach

programmes across the Union Territory. BJP General Secretary J&K Mohammad Anwar Khan, Waqf Board Chairperson and MoS Dr Darakhshan Andrabi and other senior party leaders and office-bearers attended the meeting held at Church Lane. Representatives of different Morchas briefed the leadership on grassroots

activities, organisational programmes and outreach initiatives targeting different sections of society. Koul stressed the need to strengthen the party organisation at the grassroots level, improve coordination and ensure effective implementation of ongoing programmes. He said the Morchas had an important role in

connecting the party with different sections of society and taking its programmes and initiatives to the people. He urged office-bearers to maintain regular public contact, work with dedication and further expand the organisational network across Jammu and Kashmir.

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

HT BOTTOM NEWS

"IFFJK 2026 will bring acclaimed filmmakers and cinema professionals together": Organisers

Santosh Sivan, Dorothee Wenner, Keiko Bang, Sriram Raghavan and Himansu Sekhar Khatua named on five-member jury

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, SEP 6: The inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026 will feature a five-member international jury comprising acclaimed filmmakers and cinema professionals, with filmmakers Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Ramesh Sippy attending as special guests, organisers said on Sunday. The jury comprises cinematographer and filmmaker Santosh Sivan, German



filmmaker and curator Dorothee Wenner, Japanese media entrepreneur and documentary filmmaker Keiko Bang, filmmaker and screenwriter Sriram Raghavan, and National Film Award-winning filmmaker Himansu Sekhar Khatua. The jury members, whose professional experience spans

cinematography, filmmaking, documentary production, curation and film education, will evaluate entries in the competitive sections and decide the awards. Sivan is an internationally recognised cinematographer

>>> **MORE ON P 02**

"The water is back and life is normal again": Panzinara residents hail MLA Tariq Hameed Karra

Acute shortage resolved within hours after intervention; residents seek long-term measures to prevent recurrence

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, SEP 6: Residents of Panzinara in Srinagar on Sunday expressed gratitude to MLA Central Shaltang Tariq Hameed Karra after an acute water shortage affecting the area for several days was resolved following his intervention. Residents said they had raised the issue through a video appeal after facing severe difficulties due to the disruption in water supply. According to local



residents, Karra contacted the Chief Engineer, PHE Kashmir, on the same day and facilitated restoration of the supply. Residents

>>> **MORE ON P 02**



HT EDITORIAL

Let the Camera Tell Kashmir's New Story

Srinagar's first ever film festival can open a new chapter in culture, employment and tourism. The commencement of film festival is an important cultural milestone for Jammu and Kashmir and an occasion that deserves to be viewed far beyond the glitter of cinema. For a region that has for decades remained associated in the national and international imagination with conflict and instability, the arrival of a major film festival in Srinagar provides an opportunity to showcase Kashmir through a different and more positive lens—its unparalleled natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, artistic traditions and the aspirations of its people.

Kashmir has never needed to manufacture locations for cinema. Its mountains, meadows, lakes, rivers, gardens, historic buildings and distinctive cultural landscape provide a natural setting for almost every genre of filmmaking. What has been missing is a sustained ecosystem capable of attracting filmmakers and production houses on a regular basis.

The film festival can become an important first step towards creating that ecosystem.

Its significance lies not merely in bringing films and filmmakers to Srinagar, but in creating opportunities around them. A vibrant film industry generates employment for cinematographers, editors, sound technicians, production assistants, costume designers, makeup artists, location managers, drivers, hospitality workers and a wide range of other professionals. With proper training and institutional support, Kashmir's educated and talented youth can become an integral part of this emerging creative economy.

The benefits could extend considerably beyond the film sector. Film production requires accommodation, transport, catering, local services and logistical support. Greater filmmaking activity can consequently generate business for hotels, restaurants, taxi operators, handicraft sellers, tour operators and other local enterprises.

There is, moreover, an enormous opportunity to develop film tourism in Kashmir. Locations featured in successful films and web productions often become tourist destinations in their own right. Kashmir, with its extraordinary visual appeal, is naturally suited to this phenomenon. A sustained presence of filmmakers could complement conventional tourism and help extend the region's appeal beyond the traditional summer and winter seasons.

But such possibilities will materialise only if the festival is treated as the beginning of a long-term initiative rather than a one-time cultural spectacle.

The administration and the private sector should work towards developing Srinagar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir as filmmaker-friendly destinations. A transparent and time-bound system for permissions, professional location-management services, trained local crews, production facilities and appropriate incentives could encourage more filmmakers to choose Kashmir.

Equally important is investment in human resources. Universities, colleges and specialised institutions should be encouraged to offer courses and practical training in filmmaking, cinematography, editing, sound engineering, animation and other related disciplines. The objective should be to ensure that local youth are not merely spectators when the film industry arrives, but skilled participants who can build sustainable careers from it.

The festival should also provide a meaningful platform to Kashmiri filmmakers and emerging storytellers. Kashmir possesses a rich literary and cultural heritage, and its own stories deserve a place on national and international screens. Interaction with established filmmakers, producers and distributors can provide local talent with exposure and opportunities that are otherwise difficult to access.

There is also a wider significance to this cultural opening. In a place that has experienced prolonged periods of disturbance, the creation of spaces devoted to art, cinema and cultural exchange carries a value that cannot be measured only in economic terms. Festivals bring people together, encourage dialogue and allow a region to be experienced through its creativity rather than through the headlines of its troubled past.

Yet development must remain responsible. Kashmir's fragile ecology and cultural heritage cannot be sacrificed in the pursuit of commercial opportunity. Film tourism and production must be planned in a manner that protects the environment, respects local communities and preserves the very character that makes the region attractive to visitors and filmmakers.

The first Srinagar film festival, therefore, should be seen as more than an event. It can be the foundation of a new creative economy and a new tourism avenue for Kashmir.

For decades, the world has admired Kashmir's landscapes. It is now time to let those landscapes become the setting for stories of creativity, enterprise and hope.

If the festival is followed by sustained policy support, professional infrastructure and private investment, Srinagar can emerge as a significant film destination in India—creating jobs, encouraging tourism and giving Kashmir an opportunity to tell its own story through the universal language of cinema.



Faisal Rashid Bhat

There is a strange silence around the nursing interns. For years, we study, we sacrifice, we learn. We leave our families, our comfort and sometimes even our sleep behind, only to stand beside a hospital bed and care for someone else's loved one. We learn to hold a patient's hand when they are afraid. We learn to stay awake when the ward is silent. We learn to smile even when we are exhausted.

And after years of preparation, when we finally enter our internship, the final step before becoming professional nurses, we are expected to give our time, our energy and our service without receiving a single rupee. Perhaps the most painful part is not the amount. It is what that amount seems to say about our work. Does our time have no value? Does the care we provide have no value? Does the responsibility we carry beside a patient's bed have no value? We are not asking for sympathy. We are asking for recognition.

Across India, there are government institutions where nursing interns receive stipends. Odisha, for instance, provides a monthly internship stipend to B.Sc Nursing students, while nursing internship programmes under ESIC have also provided for financial support. So why should a nursing student in Jammu & Kashmir have to accept that their months of clinical training are worth nothing?

Nursing is often called the backbone of healthcare. We proudly repeat those words during celebrations, speeches and ceremonies. But a backbone also deserves support. Nurses who spend hours beside a patient

deserve to know that society sees their effort. The students who enter the ward before sunrise and leave exhausted deserve to know that their struggle matters. We are not asking anyone to take away what they have earned. We are simply asking that nursing students

to be recognised not merely as a compulsory period of training, but as an important part of becoming a healthcare professional.

To the authorities of Jammu & Kashmir, our request is simple: Please hear the nursing student. Give us a



should be remembered too.

A stipend may be a small amount for a government, but for a student, it can mean transport to the hospital, a meal during a long duty, books, accommodation, or simply the feeling that someone recognises the effort being made. We have remained quiet for too long. Perhaps because nursing students are taught to care for everyone except themselves.

But today, we need to ask: Who will care about the nursing intern? We do not want special treatment. We want a fair opportunity. We want our internship

voice. Give our internship value. Give us recognition. Because behind every nursing intern receiving 0 is a student who has spent years preparing to care for others. And perhaps it is time that someone should care about us too.

If 12,300 is considered inadequate for one healthcare intern, how is 0 considered adequate for another?

Faisal Rashid Bhat hails from Shahabad Bala, Tral, Pulwama

The Butterfly Migration Revealed



SURINDERPAL SINGH

When we see a butterfly fluttering from one flower to another, it is easy to think of it simply as a delicate and beautiful insect. Yet, behind those colourful wings lies an extraordinary story of survival, navigation and endurance. Some butterflies undertake remarkable migrations, travelling hundreds or even thousands of kilometres in search of suitable weather, food and places to reproduce. Their journeys remind us that even the smallest creatures can perform some of nature's greatest feats.

Butterfly migration is a seasonal movement from one region to another. It is usually triggered by changes in temperature, rainfall, availability of food plants and the length of daylight. During unfavourable seasons, butterflies may leave areas where food becomes scarce or temperatures become unsuitable and move towards more



favourable habitats. In doing so, they demonstrate an amazing ability to respond to environmental changes. One of the best-known examples is the monarch butterfly, which migrates across North America. Some monarchs travel thousands of kilometres between breeding areas and wintering grounds. What makes this journey particularly fascinating is that the butterflies making the return journey may not be the same individuals that began the migration. Several

generations may be involved, yet the population follows remarkably consistent migratory routes. Scientists believe that butterflies use several environmental clues. The position of the Sun provides an important navigational reference, while an internal biological clock helps them interpret the Sun's changing position during the day. Some research also suggests that butterflies can detect Earth's magnetic field, particularly when sunlight is limited. Their tiny brains therefore

support a sophisticated navigation system that continues to fascinate scientists.

Migration, however, is not merely a journey from one place to another. It is a struggle for survival. Butterflies face strong winds, storms, predators, habitat destruction, pesticides, pollution and changing temperatures. Roads, buildings and expanding cities can destroy the plants on which butterflies depend. Climate change is adding another layer of uncertainty by altering flowering seasons, temperatures and rainfall patterns. This makes butterfly conservation an important environmental issue. Butterflies are not only beautiful creatures; they also play an important role in ecosystems. As they visit flowers, they help in pollination. Their presence can also provide valuable information about the health of an ecosystem. A decline in butterfly populations may indicate that something is wrong with the wider environment. Protecting migratory butterflies does not always require large or expensive projects.

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Why the Aging Retina Can't Easily Rebuild Lost Neurons



Dr. Vijay Garg

The human eye is often described as a window to the world, but behind that window lies an extraordinarily complex biological system. At the back of the eye, the retina captures light and converts it into signals that the brain can interpret as vision. Its neurons play a crucial role in this process.

One of the remarkable challenges in modern eye research is that, when retinal neurons are damaged or lost, the adult human retina has very limited ability to replace them. This becomes particularly important with aging, when the eye becomes more vulnerable to several forms of retinal damage.

A retina that does not readily regenerate Unlike some tissues in the body, the mature human retina does not normally replace damaged neurons efficiently. Once important retinal nerve cells are lost, the remaining cells generally cannot simply divide and produce fully functional replacements.

This limited regenerative capacity is one reason scientists are studying ways to encourage the retina to repair itself.

Researchers have long been interested in cells called Müller glia, which provide structural and metabolic support to retinal neurons. In certain animals, these cells can respond to injury and produce new retinal cells. However, in adult mammals, including humans, their regenerative response is much more restricted.

What changes with age?

Aging affects the cellular environment of the retina in many ways. Cells may become less efficient at responding to injury, communication between cells can change, and the molecular signals that control repair may become weaker or disrupted.

Scientists are investigating whether age-related changes in gene activity and cellular signaling help explain why

retinal regeneration becomes so difficult.

The problem is not simply that the retina becomes "old." Rather, aging may alter the biological conditions required for regeneration. Signals that might encourage a cell to enter a regenerative state may no longer work as effectively, while other mechanisms may actively prevent inappropriate cell growth.

Why neurons are difficult to replace Creating a new neuron is only part of the challenge. A

to reprogram supporting cells into neurons.

Another important area of research is understanding how aging changes the retinal environment. If researchers can identify the molecular "brakes" that prevent regeneration, it may eventually be possible to temporarily remove or modify those barriers.

However, translating such discoveries into treatments for people is complicated. Any therapy must be carefully controlled because excessive or inappropriate cell growth could itself create serious problems.

Hope for future treatments The limited regenerative ability of the aging retina does not mean that vision loss can currently be reversed by simply stimulating retinal cells. Much more research is needed before experimental approaches become reliable treatments.

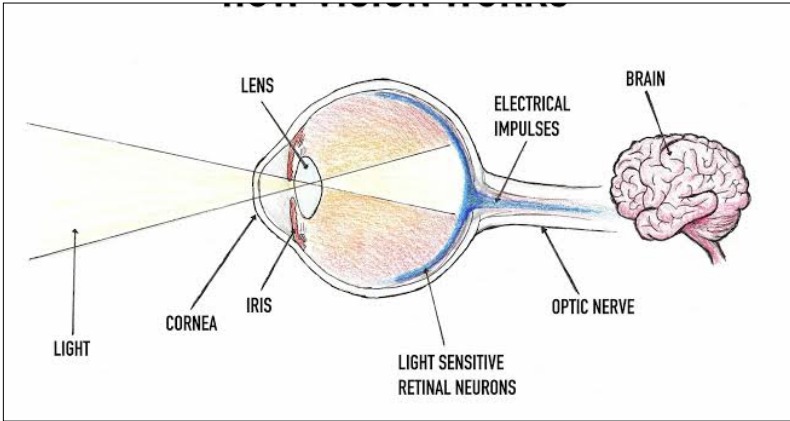
Nevertheless, understanding why the retina loses its regenerative potential with age could open new avenues for treating retinal diseases.

The long-term goal is not merely to prevent further damage but to develop therapies capable of repairing damaged retinal circuits and restoring lost visual function.

The aging retina therefore represents both a biological challenge and an opportunity. By understanding the molecular changes that accompany aging, scientists may one day learn how to unlock regenerative abilities that the human eye currently keeps largely dormant.

The journey from discovery in the laboratory to a safe treatment for patients may be long, but every insight into how aging limits retinal repair brings medicine one step closer to restoring vision rather than simply managing its loss.

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal
Educationist and Eminent Scientist street
kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab



replacement retinal neuron must develop the correct type, migrate to the appropriate location, connect with neighboring cells and establish functional communication with the brain.

The retina is an intricately organized network. Photoreceptors, bipolar cells, ganglion cells and other specialized cells must work together in precise circuits. Simply producing new cells would not necessarily restore vision.

Therefore, successful retinal regeneration would require both cell replacement and correct circuit reconstruction. Could the aging process be reversed?

This is one of the most exciting questions in regenerative medicine.

Scientists are studying several possible approaches, including manipulating genes, altering molecular signaling pathways, using stem-cell-derived retinal cells and attempting

Muzamil Arif is a graduate student, poet, and writer with a passion for literature and social issues. He has published 50+ articles in various state and national newspapers on topics including health, society, environment, and contemporary issues. Through his poetry and writings, he aims to express ideas, raise awareness, and inspire positive change in society.

US Open roundup: Rybakina moves into last 16, Zheng stages comeback

United News Of India

NEW YORK, SEPT 6 :Women's second seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan beat Ukraine's Yuliia Starodubtseva in straight sets, while China's Zheng Qinwen came back from 5-0 down

in the decider to defeat Madison Keys of the United States to reach the last 16 at the US Open.

Two-time Grand Slam winner Rybakina faced some challenges from Starodubtseva, who forced the first set to [around] tie-breaker, but the 27-year-old clinched the 7-6 (6), 6-3 victory on Saturday.

"It was a tough match, and it wasn't my best performance. But I was happy I got through," said Rybakina, who had 30 unforced errors. Rybakina will face Naomi Osaka of Japan, after the 13th seed saw off Belgium's Elise Mertens 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.

"I'm literally shocked that I won this match. There was a certain point where I put my entire heart out on the court. I was trying my hardest on every single point," said Osaka.

Olympic champion Zheng continued



her run from the qualifying after rallying past 22nd-seeded Keys 1-6, 7-6 (3), 7-5.

"It is [around] very classic comeback," Zheng said. "I kept holding every single point. Somehow, little by little, it just happened. I turned [around] 0-5. This is the first time [it] happened in my career."

"It was a very tough game. At that moment, I showed no emotion. I just kept fighting. Against Maddie, you can't be too passive. I think I find the right balance at the end of the game. What

I can say? Wow," the 23-year-old added.

In her sixth appearance in the Grand Slam last 16, Zheng will play against eighth seed Iga Swiatek of Poland. Swiatek beat Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3).

In the men's singles third round, top seed Alexander Zverev of Germany cruised past Chile's Alejandro Tabilo 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-2, while Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo came from two sets down to upset ninth seed Taylor Fritz of the United States 3-6, 4-6, 6-3,

6-4, 6-4, according to Xinhua.

"Of course, the top guys are the ones that are always favorite, and they always make to the last rounds, but it's open for anyone. It's good for me, good for other players that we can beat these top guys, and that shows you that the level is super close," said Cerundolo. Defending champions Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz will face home players Taylor Townsend and Tommy Paul, respectively, in Sunday's fourth round matches. "It is [around] very classic comeback," Zheng said. "I kept holding every single point. Somehow, little by little, it just happened. I turned [around] 0-5. This is the first time [it] happened in my career."

"It was a very tough game. At that moment, I showed no emotion. I just kept fighting. Against Maddie, you can't be too passive. I think I find the right balance at the end of the game. What

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Late fightback in final secs help Indian Men hold Japan 3-3 in Asian Junior hockey

United News Of India

MOQI, CHINA, SEPT 6 :A dramatic late fight back by Indian Men helped them hold showed tremendous fighting spirit to secure a 3-3 draw in the dying seconds against Japan in their second Pool A encounter of the Junior Asia Cup hockey championship here on Sunday.

Fresh from their emphatic 14-0 victory over Indonesia in their opening Pool A match, India made a confident start forged into a 2-0 lead before Japan neutralised at 2-2 and also led 3-2 with just a minute remaining, before India scored the all important goal coinciding with the hooter, to share points, converting a near certain defeat to hold Japan's surge.

India took an early lead in the 4th minute when captain Anmol Ekka converted a penalty stroke and stretched it 2-0 six minutes later after Ashu Maurya found the net, only to see

Japan pulling one back in the very next minute, thanks to Ryushin Sasaki's short corner conversion to make it 2-1. Both teams continued to push forward in the second quarter, with India looking to extend their lead and Japan searching for the equaliser. The contest remained tightly fought, with both defences holding firm. Neither side was able to create the decisive opening, and India went into the half-time break leading 2-1.

The third quarter too was barren as none of the teams could make any headway despite pressing hard

as India managed to hold on to their slender lead. The final quarter saw rise in intensity as Japan pressed for an equaliser won a penalty corner and, after a re-awarded penalty corner, Captain Kazuki Nakanishi converted in the 48th minute to level the score at 2-2.

Tennis: Jovic outlasts Eala to make US Open fourth round for first time



United News Of India

NEW YORK, SEPT 6 :After more than three hours of pushing each other around the court, Iva Jovic outlasted Alexandra Eala 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 to book a spot in the US Open fourth round, the farthest she's ever gone at her home Slam.

After splitting the first two sets, Eala broke in the first game of the third and consolidated to take the early 2-0 lead.

Jovic broke back two games later, and from there it was a battle of superb shot-making, stellar defense, ferocious ball-striking and extended rallies, the momentum shifting back and forth in front of an

enthusiastic Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd that was clearly pro-Eala for the majority of the match, but seemingly behind both players equally by the end of it.

After a Jovic double fault gave the break back in the decider, Eala held at love for a commanding 4-2 lead. It would not hold.

Jovic won the next game after two deuces, and then tied the match with a pinpoint winner off Eala's serve.

After a running forehand volley winner gave Jovic a 5-4 lead, she earned her first match point in the next game, a backhand that found the net. After Eala held, Jovic took the lead back, 6-5, with an ace at 40-15.

In the final game, on Jovic's second match point, Eala hit a forehand into the net and the 18-year-old American fell to the ground in relief and exhaustion. When she got up, Eala was already on her side of the court for the congratulatory post-match hug. Jovic was excellent at the net, winning 12 of her 15 points, and struck 44 winners to 27 unforced errors. Eala came in even more, winning 16 of 25 net points, and had 34 winners to 33 unforced errors. Both returned exceptionally well, though Jovic was slightly more effective in the most critical moments, converting 9 of 17 break-point opportunities to Eala's 8 for 20.

Beyond the school pitch: Nova Sports takes on India's girls' football gap

United News Of India

BENGALURU, SEPT 6 :For a young girl who falls in love with football, the hardest part may not be finding the courage to start playing, but finding somewhere to go when the school pitch is no longer enough.

That is the gap Nova Sports is seeking to address. The launch of the Supernova Football Championship (SNFC) in Bengaluru on Sunday, featuring 24 school teams across the Under-13, Under-15 and Under-17 categories, is being positioned not as an end in itself but as the first rung of a much longer ladder for girls aspiring to play football at higher levels.

Apurv Gupta, Capri Sports (Contact Sports) Director, said the organisation had spent the past year developing a dedicated pathway for women's football, with the objective of creating a clear progression from grassroots participation to elite sport.

"We realised today that there are a lot of gaps in the ecosystem. Sometimes athletes don't know what next for them when it comes to women's football. That's what Nova Sports is attempting to address," Gupta said.

Tennis: Yuki Bhambri, Anirudh Chandrasekar exit US Open



United News Of India

NEW YORK, SEPT 6 :India's Yuki Bhambri and Anirudh Chandrasekar saw their respective US Open 2026 tennis men's doubles campaigns end in the first round here.

World No. 32 Bhambri and his partner Michael Venus of New Zealand lost to the American pair of Ryan Seggerman and Patrik Trhac 7(7)-6(4), 7(7)-6(3) in one hour and 43 minutes on Saturday,

according to olympics.com.

Bhambri and Venus had reached the semi-finals at Flushing Meadows together last year. Neither pair dropped serve in the opening set, which Seggerman and Trhac claimed by taking the tie-break 7-4.

Bhambri and Venus made the first breakthrough in the

second set, breaking the Americans in the second game before consolidating to take a 4-1 lead. Seggerman and Trhac, however, recovered

o level the set at 4-4 and took it to another tie-break. The Americans then dominated the second tie-break 7-3 to close out the match in straight sets. Last year's run to the semi-finals was Bhambri's maiden appearance in the last four of a Grand Slam, eventually losing to Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski in three sets.

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Referral Judges training held at J&K Judicial Academy under 'Mediation for Nation 3.0'

Referral Judges are gatekeepers, must refer right case at right time: Justice Rajnesh Oswal

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 06: A one day training programme for the Referral Judges was conducted today at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Srinagar, in hybrid mode under the aegis of the Mediation & Conciliation Committee (MCC), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court in view of the "Mediation for the Nation 3.0" Drive.

In the inaugural address, Mr. Justice Rajnesh Oswal while addressing the participants described the programme as a focused "Judicial Master Class" aimed at equipping the Referral Judges with the practical tools for effective case referral. He emphasized that mediation is relevant across all spheres of life and highlighted the crucial role of Referral Judges as the primary gatekeepers of justice delivery system, responsible for identifying disputes that are better suited for mediation rather than formal adjudication. He stressed that mediation adopts an interest-based approach, offering parties faster, confidential and relationship-preserving solutions, particularly in complex human and commercial disputes.

Mr. Justice Oswal cautioned that Referral Judges must exercise careful judicial screening to ensure that



appropriate cases are referred and unsuitable matters are not. He identified the commercial, matrimonial, family, property, neighbourhood and suitable cheque dishonour disputes as having good potential for mediation. He stressed caution in cases involving power imbalances, settled law, serious fraud or urgent intervention. He highlighted the importance of judicial communication

in encouraging the litigants to opt for mediation. He concluded that referring the right case to the right forum at the right time can reduce docket congestion, save litigants' time and costs and enhance the quality of justice.

Earlier, an introductory address was presented by Mr. Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy. He emphasised that Mediation is an important instrument for achieving fair, expeditious and cost-effective justice. He said that mediation transforms disputes from adversarial contests into processes of dialogue and mutually acceptable resolution. He underscored the pivotal role of Referral Judges in identifying the suitable cases, making thoughtful and timely referrals, sensitizing litigants and advocates and ensuring meaningful participation in the mediation process.

The technical sessions of the day were conducted by Mr. Justice Bashir A. Kirmani, Former Judge, High Court of J&K. He elaborated on the relevance and importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), particularly with reference to Section 89 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and discussed the various modes of ADR. He explained the basic concept, nature and advantages of mediation, emphasizing its role in facilitating amicable and mutually

acceptable resolution of disputes. He also dwelt upon the different stages of the mediation process and the role of the mediator, highlighting the importance of communication, voluntary participation and a constructive approach towards settlement. These themes corresponded to the first session of the programme, which specifically focused on ADR, Section 89 CPC and the fundamentals of mediation.

In the second session, Justice Kirmani focused on the practical role of Referral Judges, stressing the need for judicial officers to exercise proper discretion while deciding when and which cases should be referred to ADR. He dealt with the appropriate stage of referral, consent of the parties, identification of cases suitable for mediation and the importance of avoiding unnecessary delay in trial. He further highlighted the role of the Judge in motivating and preparing lawyers and litigants for mediation, framing appropriate referral orders and understanding the court's responsibilities after the conclusion of mediation proceedings. His deliberations thus provided the participating Judicial Officers with practical guidance for making effective, timely and case-sensitive referrals and for strengthening the use of mediation as an integral part of the justice delivery process.

VC SKUAST-K chairs 20th SAC meeting of KVK Bandipora

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 06: The 20th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora, SKUAST-Kashmir, was held today under the chairmanship of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, with a focus on strengthening farmer-centric extension, promoting agricultural diversification and expanding technology-led interventions in the district.

Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, attended the meeting as Guest of Honour, while Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, participated in the deliberations.

The meeting began with a presentation on the Annual Progress Report 2025-26, highlighting the major activities and achievements of KVK Bandipora during the year. Dr. Tariq Sultan, Programme Coordinator, KVK Bandipora, subsequently presented the Action Plan for the forthcoming period and outlined the KVK's proposed thrust areas, including crop diversification, aquatic agriculture, horticulture, protected cultivation, value addition, technology demonstrations, farmer training and capacity building.

Dr. Sultan also apprised the Committee of the ongoing initiatives and proposed programmes aimed at addressing the emerging production and livelihood needs of farmers in the district.

In his address, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai appreciated the efforts of KVK Bandipora in implementing farmer-oriented extension programmes and stressed the need for stronger technology dissemination, adoption of innovative and climate-resilient agricultural practices, and interventions focused on enhancing farm income and improving farmers' livelihoods.

Indu Kanwal Chib appreciated the KVK's contribution towards agricultural development



in Bandipora and called for continued coordination between KVK Bandipora and the district administration to strengthen farmer-oriented initiatives.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth emphasised the importance of need-based extension programmes, field demonstrations, capacity building and effective farmer-scientist interaction.

Progressive farmers participating in the meeting shared their field-level experiences, observations and suggestions on agricultural production and emerging challenges in the district.

The SAC members held detailed discussions on the Annual Progress Report and Action Plan and offered suggestions for further strengthening the activities of KVK Bandipora.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on strengthening farmer-centric extension, promoting innovative agricultural technologies, diversifying farming systems and addressing the priority needs of the farming community in Bandipora.

Public Advisory issued for Kailash Yatra-2026 in Bholderwah

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, SEPTEMBER 6: Additional District Magistrate Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal has issued a Public Advisory for the safe and smooth conduct of the Kailash Yatra-2026, scheduled to be held from September 8 to September 10, 2026. The advisory highlights the challenging nature of the pilgrimage to Kailash Kund, situated at an altitude of around 14,500 feet and urges devotees to undertake the Yatra with adequate preparation, caution and strict adherence to the instructions of the Yatra Administration.

Devotees have been advised to ensure their physical fitness, carry valid identity proof, begin the journey early, maintain a slow and steady pace, take adequate rest and stay properly hydrated. Pilgrims have also been advised to follow weather advisories issued by the IMD and District Administration and carry essential items including warm and waterproof clothing, rain gear, suitable footwear, torch, medicines, food items and other necessary supplies.

The advisory further stresses that pilgrims experiencing symptoms of high-altitude illness should immediately descend to a lower elevation and seek medical assistance.

As part of the precautionary measures, persons above 70 years, children below 14 years, persons suffering from serious illnesses, pregnant women and lactating mothers with their babies have been advised not to undertake the Yatra beyond the specified points, keeping in view the difficult terrain and high-altitude conditions.

The administration has strictly prohibited intoxicants, narcotic drugs, alcohol, caffeinated drinks and tobacco products, with violators liable to action under relevant laws. Pilgrims have also been directed to use only designated tracks, avoid shortcuts and refrain from activities causing pollution or damage to the local ecology, flora and fauna. Single-use plastics are strictly banned in the Yatra area.

The administration has urged all devotees to cooperate with the authorities and follow the prescribed safety and environmental guidelines for a safe, disciplined and spiritually fulfilling Kailash Yatra-2026.

For emergencies, pilgrims can contact the designated Tehsildars, Police, Block Development Officers, Medical Officer, Forest officials and Station House Officer, Bhaderwah.

2 Day Folk Festival Culminates at Sunaseri (Guglidhar- Ramban)

MLA, DC join locals to celebrate folk traditions, cultural heritage of Pogal area

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 6: The two-day grand Folk Festival culminated today at the picturesque meadow of Sunaseri (Guglidhar), Pogal Paristan, showcasing the rich folk traditions, cultural heritage and ethnic identity of the Pahari community. The festival was organized by the locals, in collaboration with the District Administration Ramban, Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, with the objective of promoting indigenous culture and strengthening the potential of Sunseri as an emerging rural and eco-tourism destination.

The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation from thousands of locals and visitors, who enjoyed traditional folk music, cultural performances and local ethnic cuisine, creating a vibrant atmosphere at the scenic destination.



scenic destination.

MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju and Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aliyas Khan, along with SSP Arun Gupta, SDM Ramsoo Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah and other functionaries of civil and police administration joined the huge gathering.

On the occasion, the MLA inaugurated newly developed tourism infrastructure and amenities, executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department at an estimated cost of 2.17

crore. The facilities include eco log huts, viewpoints, benches, improved drainage and connected pathways aimed at enhancing visitor amenities while maintaining the area's natural ecology. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA appreciated the District Administration and the local community for organizing the festival and preserving the region's rich cultural traditions. He described Sunaseri as one of the most picturesque.

DC Poonch conducts field visit to inspect progress of NH-144A Resolves land acquisition issues to facilitate speedy work

■ HT News Network

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 06: In a significant initiative to accelerate the ongoing construction of the Akhnor-Poonch National Highway (NH-144A), Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma undertook an extensive field inspection of the road stretch from Sanjot to Poonch, falling within the jurisdiction of Poonch District. He was accompanied by the officers from the District Administration and representatives from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and other concerned agencies.

DC Rajouri reviews progress of digital crop survey under AgriStack

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 06: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Digital Crop Survey (DCS) being conducted under the AgriStack framework in the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the progress achieved by the concerned departments and reviewed the status of field-level data collection and other related activities.

The Digital Crop Survey (DCS) is an initiative of the Government of India under the AgriStack framework, aimed at creating a verified and reliable digital database of farm plots, crops sown and farmer-related information. The initiative seeks to facilitate better agricultural planning, improve delivery of farmer-centric services and ensure effective implementation of various government schemes.

The DC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure accurate, comprehensive and timely collection and updation of data. He directed them to



closely monitor the field-level progress, identify and address bottlenecks promptly and ensure achievement of the assigned targets within the stipulated timelines. He further emphasised the need for close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the Digital Crop Survey across the district. The meeting was attended by ADDC Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq; ADC Ravi Kumar Sihag; ADC Kalakote Mohammad Tanvir; ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma; ADC Koteranka Dil Mir; ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan; SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain Shah; CAO Rajesh Verma; Tehsildars and other concerned officers. The Digital Crop

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All J&K Shia Association Organises Majlis-e-Aza at Balhama, Srinagar Molvi Imran Reza Ansari Addresses Social Challenges, Sacrifice and the Importance of Unity

■ HT News Network

Balhama, Srinagar, September 6, 2026: The All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association organised a Majlis-e-Aza at Balhama, Srinagar, where a large gathering of mourners and members of the community participated in the religious programme. The Majlis commenced at 9:00 AM, followed by the Majlis. At around 4:00 PM, President of the All J&K Shia Association, Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, addressed the gathering and spoke extensively about the life, teachings and character of Imam Ali (AS), highlighting his commitment to justice, knowledge, humanity and moral conduct.

In his address, Molvi Imran Reza Ansari also spoke about several social challenges confronting the Muslim

community in Kashmir. He stressed that being a Muslim should be reflected not merely through religious identity but through one's character and conduct. He said that a person's behaviour should be such that others look towards Muslims as examples of honesty, morality and good character.

Speaking about the purpose of religious gatherings, he said that people must reflect upon what they learn from a Majlis and ask themselves whether those teachings are being implemented in their daily lives. The true purpose of a Majlis, he said, is to bring about a positive change within an individual.

Molvi Imran Reza Ansari expressed concern over the growing menace of drug abuse among the youth and called upon religious



scholars and society as a whole to take collective responsibility. He said that when problems affect a family or a section of society, others cannot

remain silent by thinking that the issue does not concern them. If society continues to think only about individual interests, meaningful

change within the Muslim Ummah will remain difficult.

He stressed the need for unity among religious scholars, stating

that they have a significant role to play in addressing social issues and contributing towards the betterment of society. Addressing the misuse of mobile phones and technology among the younger generation, Molvi Imran Reza Ansari said that mobile phones can be powerful instruments for education and learning, but their misuse is increasingly affecting families and social relationships. He observed that families often sit together physically while remaining disconnected because everyone is occupied with their phones. He called for rebuilding social interaction and strengthening family bonds, saying that meaningful change must begin with oneself and one's family, before extending to neighbours, the Mohalla, the city and eventually the nation.

Drawing lessons from Karbala, he said that Imam Hussain (AS) stood firmly for Haq and truth despite immense sacrifices. He also referred to the struggles and sacrifices made for the protection and dignity of Islam and paid tribute to the martyrs. He particularly mentioned the sacrifices and steadfast leadership of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei, saying that his commitment and sacrifices have played a significant role in bringing about change and keeping the Iranian nation united during difficult times. Prayers were offered for the departed, including the martyrs of Iran and the victims of the Minab School tragedy.

The gathering concluded with prayers for peace, unity, moral reform and the betterment of society.

Kashmiri Language and Literature Must Be Preserved for Future Generations

47th Adabi Markaz Kamraz conference concludes in Hajin; writers, scholars and artists honoured for contributions to literature and culture

JAMEEL ANSARI

HAJIN, SONAWARI, SEPTEMBER 6: An important and memorable chapter in the literary and cultural life of Hajin, Sonawari, came to a close on Sunday with the conclusion of the 47th two-day annual literary conference of Adabi Markaz Kamraz (AMK). Held at Government Higher Secondary School, Hajin, the conference brought together a large gathering of prominent poets, writers, scholars, intellectuals, artists and cultural personalities, providing a vibrant platform for discussions on the preservation and promotion of Kashmiri language, literature and cultural heritage. Organised with the support of J&K Bank and the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, the conference revolved around the theme

"The Role of Devotional Literature in the Kashmiri Language." Over the two days, a wide range of literary and cultural programmes were held, including academic presentations, research paper sessions, a painting exhibition, literary mushaira, group discussions, book releases and award ceremonies. The conference opened with deliberations on the rich devotional literary tradition of Kashmir and the enduring contributions of legendary figures such as Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) and Lal Ded. Scholars and literary personalities examined their spiritual, philosophical and intellectual legacy and their profound influence on the development of Kashmiri language and literature. A major highlight of the conference was the unveiling of the Kashmiri translation of the Holy Quran, while the Golden Jubilee edition of AMK's cultural and literary magazine

"Prav" was also formally released. The special issue marked an important milestone in the literary journey of the organisation and its efforts to provide a sustained platform for Kashmiri writers and scholars. The conference also featured a painting exhibition, organised as a significant cultural component of the event, alongside presentations of research papers and literary discussions. The exhibition added a visual dimension to the conference and provided artists an opportunity to showcase their creative engagement with Kashmir's cultural heritage. On the concluding day, two sessions were held. The first featured presentations of research papers focusing on Naat and Marsiya, providing scholars an opportunity to explore devotional and elegiac traditions within Kashmiri literary expression.

The academic proceedings were followed by an award ceremony during which several eminent personalities were recognised for their contribution to literature and culture. The Sharaf-e-Kamraz Award 2026 was conferred upon renowned writer Abdul Ahad Hajni and the Mehboob-ul-Alam Society, Rajwar Handwara, in recognition of their services to literature and culture. Renowned religious scholar Maulana Bashir-ud-Din Qasmi and noted singer Rashid Hafiz were honoured with the Khilat-e-Hanafi Sopori Award for their respective contributions. In a special recognition, Dr Syed Jahangir Bukhari, owner of Lubaab Publications and Editor-in-Chief of Daily Headlines Today, was felicitated for his contribution towards the publication of "Prav", the annual literary magazine of Adabi Markaz Kamraz. Several other literary personalities,

including Sheebaz Haqbari and Manzoor Ahmad Shah, were also presented awards and honours in recognition of their contribution to Kashmiri literature and culture. The conference also witnessed the formal release of books authored by prominent writers and poets, including Ali Mashghool, G.N. Shakir and Syed Masood Shadab, adding further significance to the literary proceedings. Various sessions of the conference were chaired by eminent literary figures, including Professor Shad Ramadan, Professor Mohammad Zaman Azurda, Professor Naseem Shafai, Mohammad Shafi Sambli, Hasrat Gadah, Syed Saeed-ud-Din Saadi, Dr Rafiq Masoodi, Hafiz Masoodi and Muhammad Amin Bhat. The first day had also witnessed the presentation of the annual report of Adabi Markaz Kamraz by General Secretary Shabnam Telgami, while the

proceedings were conducted by AMK Vice President Shakir Shafi. A traditional folk performance by renowned singer Muhammad Aslam Soodnari added colour to the inaugural proceedings. The conference, spread over two days, thus brought together the different strands of Kashmir's cultural life—devotional literature, poetry, scholarship, folk traditions, visual arts and contemporary literary expression. More than an annual literary gathering, the Hajin conference emerged as a reaffirmation of the collective responsibility of writers, scholars, artists and cultural organisations to safeguard the Kashmiri language and its rich literary traditions. The discussions, honours and cultural presentations underscored the need to carry Kashmir's literary heritage forward and make it meaningful and accessible to future generations.

