29th year OF PUBLICATION

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IFFJK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Information and Public Relations Jammu and Kashmir

J&K Bank Serving to Empower

THANK YOU

For Being Part Of The Journey

To every filmmaker, artist, jury member, guest, partner, volunteer, and audience member who made IFFJK 2026 unforgettable.
Thank you for celebrating cinema and culture with us.

1,184 FILMS SUBMITTED | 120 FILMS SCREENED | 17 MASTERCLASSES & DISCUSSIONS | 91 COUNTRIES' FILM SUBMISSIONS | 6,600+ VISITORS ACROSS THE FESTIVAL

It was more than a festival.

IT WAS A SHARED JOURNEY

DIPK-5527/26 Dated: 10.09.2026

RADISSON COLLECTION HOTEL & SPA RIVERFRONT SRINAGAR

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Directorate of Information and Public Relations, J&K

Study Links Pre-Existing Conditions To 20% Higher Miscarriage Risk

Press Trust Of India

Beginning pregnancy with multiple long-term physical or mental health conditions could be related with a 20 per cent higher risk of miscarriage and 69 per cent higher risk of severe nausea and vomiting, new research suggests.

Findings published in The Lancet Public Health journal also indicate a four-fold risk of anxiety and depression among women who begin pregnancy with two or more pre-existing conditions.

Researchers, led by King's College London, also found that those with multiple long-term conditions had more than double the risk of venous thromboembolism and a 42 per cent higher risk of pre-eclampsia (high blood pressure in pregnancy), compared to those without long-term conditions.

Each additional condition was found to increase risks of complications -- for example, risk of venous thromboembolism was more than three-and-a-half times among women with three or more conditions, compared to women with no long-term conditions.

"These findings make a strong case for recognising multiple long-term conditions as a marker of antenatal risk in its own right. That means identifying these women at maternity booking, assessing physical and mental health needs together, and joining up obstetric, primary care and mental health services around them," senior author Krishnarajah Nirantharakumar, clinical professor of public health and health data science at King's College London, said.

"The near four-fold risk of antenatal anxiety and depression is particularly striking, and points to perinatal mental health support as an urgent priority," Nirantharakumar said.

The researchers analysed over 2.2 million pregnancies and birth events recorded between 2000 and 2022 in five datasets spanning England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"Women with multiple long-term conditions had increased risks of hyperemesis, vomiting, gestational diabetes, gestational hypertension, pre-eclampsia, obstetric cholestasis, placental abruption, venous thromboembolism, miscarriage, antenatal anxiety, and antenatal depression," the authors wrote.

The findings support an earlier identification of women with multiple long-term conditions, integration of physical and mental care throughout pregnancy and incorporation of multimorbidity into risk assessment and care planning, the team said.

They noted that, as an observational study using routinely collected health records, some conditions and outcomes may be under-recorded or inconsistently recorded.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
TWO COVER SYSTEM
e-NIT No: 15 of R&B/MDSK/2026-27, Dated: 09-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir invites e-tenders in two (02) cover system, from Registered/Reputed/Experienced firms / Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) for the below mentioned work: -

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (INR)	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost (INR)	Time of Completion	Position of Funds
1	**Construction of 2500 MTs of Grain Storage at Mirhama,Kulgam (Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning of Fire Fighting with Fire Alarm System for 2500 MTs Grain Storage at Mirhama, Kulgam.)**	₹ 1100/-	₹ 49.21 Lacs (Base cost =41.70 lacs+ GST=07.51 lacs)	₹ 98420/=	2 months (After civil approval)	Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division South Kashmir

Intending Authority: Department of Urban Local Bodies.
Major Head Account: **Capex Budget**
Position of AAA = AAA vide Order no. **42-JK(Coop) of 2025, Dated :15-10-2025**
Technical Sanction No: **SEMHK/TS-14/21, Dated: 11-07-2026**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09/09/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09/09/2026from 03.00 PM.
3	Date, Time and Place of Pre Bid meeting	14/09/2026 at 12.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir
4	Bid submission **Start Date**	09/09/2026from 03.00 AM.
5	Bid Submission **End Date**	01/10/2026 upto 12.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids **(Online)**	02/10/2026 at 12.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids **(Online)**	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan/Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD)** in favour of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir **(tender inviting authority)** **(NIT No and Name of Work/Item No to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)**(Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and **EMD (2% of advertised Cost)** to be deposited in the Account No: **0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH.**
2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security **(EMD@2% of Advertised Cost)** to be deposited in the Account No: **0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH.** Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as **No-responsive.**
3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security to be deposited in the Account No: **0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH,** within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
4. **The Earnest Money Deposit Rs ₹ 98420/- (EMD @2% of Advertised Cost)** to be deposited in Account No: **0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH** shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost to be deposited in the Account No: **0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALAN, Account Name: M/S CENTRALIZED POOL ACCOUNT PW R AND B ZONE SOUTH** and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
5. 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 **Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir (Tender Receiving Authority).**
6. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
7. **The bidders are requested to quote their rates exclusive of GST. GST @ 18% shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment**
8. The date and time of opening of Financial-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 **Financial-bids of Responsive Bidders** shall be opened online in **Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir.** The date for same shall be intimated separately.
9. The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**.
10. The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:-
    a) *Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.*
    b) *Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required Performance Security within specified time period before signing contract agreement.*
    c) *In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.*

No. R&B/MDSK/1782-86.
DIPK-5529/26 Date. 10-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Mechanical Division
South Kashmir

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No:. 501304 Session:Annual -Regular Year 1985 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my father's name as Rahim Lone Instead of Ab Rahim Lone Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Mohd Hussain Lone
Father's name: Ab Rahim Lone
Mother's Name: Mukhti Bagum
DOB: 15-02-1968
Residence: Wanpora Gurez
Mobile no: 9103135781

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name and .parantage in my Aadher Card bearing Aadhar No :- 4399 4429 0230 has been wrongly mentioned as Waseem Azam Malik .S/O. Mohammad Azam Malik instead of Waseem Azum Malik S/O. Mohd Azum Malik and DOB is 01.05.1992 .Now I am applying for its Correction as per J&Kashmir Board of School Education recard bearing Reg No:-08NKM504617 .if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.
Waseem Azum Malik
S/O. Mohd Azum Malik
R/O :- Kultoora .Tehsil :- Langate Distt :Kupwara .
Post Office:- Langate Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Waseem Hassan s/o Ghulam Hassan Khan R/o Babagund Mamoosa for issuance of legal heir certificate..

PUBLIC NOTICE.

IT is inform to general public that applicants father's legal heir certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Ghulam Hassan Khan s/o Mohd Amin Khan R/o Babagund Mamoosa died on 11/07/2026 and left fallowing legal heirs..
Legal Heirs Details

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
ASHIA BANO	51	WIFE	WIDOW
TOIBA HASSAN	29	DAUGHTER	MARRIED
QIFAYAT HASSAN	25	SON	UNMARRIED
WASEEM HASSAN	28	SON	MARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Ulfat Jaan to (new name) Ulfat . In future i will be known as (new name) Ulfat.
If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days.
After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, REYANA AKBAR D/o MOHAMMAD AKBAR MIR, R/o NADIR GUND, TEHSIL TANGMARG, DISTRICT BARAMULLA, hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card No. 7661 2853 2346 as "REHANA AHTER", whereas my correct name is "REYANA AKBAR" as per my Domicile Certificate Record.
I have applied for correction of my name in the Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

zk-r

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420110012931
issued in favour of IMRAN MEHDI BHAT Parentage GHULAM HUSSAIN BHAT
Whereas an application has been recieved by one IMRAN MEHDI BHAT Parentage GHULAM HUSSAIN BHAT wherein he claimed that the Fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as HAJI GH. HUSSAIN Which needs to be changed as GHULAM HUSSAIN BHAT.
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
mcb Budgam Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 362379825823 the name is entered as ABRAR YASEEN while my actual name is ABRAR HUSSAIN DAR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
ABRAR HUSSAIN DAR
S/O MOHAMMAD YASEEN DAR fko
R/o GUZER GUND BUDGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MIR S/o GHULAM AHMAD MIR, R/o OCHLI PORA, TEHSIL KUNZER, DISTRICT BARAMULLA, have applied for fresh enlistment as a "DEE Class" Contractor with the PWD (R&B) Department for accord of approval.
Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SURAYIA AKHTER D/o MUNAWAR PANDITH, R/o HARDU ABOORA, TEHSIL KAWARHAMA, DISTRICT BARAMULLA, hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card No. 7400 0049 0706 as "SURIYA AKHTER", whereas my correct name is "SURAYIA AKHTER" as per my Domicile Certificate.
I have applied for correction of my name in the Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, RIYAZ AHMAD BHAT S/o GHULAM NABI BHAT, F/o SEHRISH RIYAZ, R/o HARDU ABOORA, TEHSIL KAWARHAMA, DISTRICT BARAMULLA, hereby declare that my ward's name has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card No. 3082 3392 7049 as "YOUSIRA RAYAZ", whereas her correct name is "SEHRISH RIYAZ" as per her Birth Record.
I have applied for correction of my ward's name in the Aadhaar records accordingly. Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar Centre within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK01AE 6018 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the RTO Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Javeed Ahmad Gani S/ O Abdul Ahad Gani R/ O Gokhama

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Gulshana Begum,** W/o **Mohd. Ramzan Bhat,** R/o Zaloora, Tehsil Bomai, District Baramulla, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as **"Gulli Begum"** in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. **9486 2907 2371.**

I further declare and affirm that **Gulshana Begum** and **Gulli Begum** refer to one and the same person.

This notice is issued for the information of all concerned and for correction of the aforesaid discrepancy in the relevant records. Any person having any objection in this regard may communicate the same to the undersigned/concerned authority within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Gulshana Begum
W/o Mohd. Ramzan Bhat
R/o Zaloora, Tehsil Bomai,
District Baramulla

zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Aashaq Hussain Lone, S/o Abdul Gani Lone, R/o Mughalpora, Shopian, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as "Ashiq Hussain Lone" in my Aadhaar Card.
I further declare that my correct and actual name is "Aashaq Hussain Lone", and Aashaq Hussain Lone and Ashiq Hussain Lone refer to one and the same person. This notice is issued for the information of all concerned and for the purpose of correction of my name in the relevant records/documents.
Aashaq Hussain Lone
S/o Abdul Gani Lone
R/o Mughalpora, Shopian zk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tanveer Hussain Mir, S/o Ghyulam Rasool Mir, R/o Wata, Magam, hereby inform the general public that the front number plate bearing Registration No. JK04D-7685, pertaining to my vehicle, has been lost/misplaced on 06/09/2026 while travelling from Magam to Kanihama.
The said number plate is not traceable despite diligent efforts. If anyone finds the same, they are requested to kindly contact the undersigned.
Contact No.: 9682307383
Tanveer Hussain Mir
S/o Ghyulam Rasool Mir
R/o Wata, Magam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my PG Degree Certificate, which I completed in the year 2020. I have now applied for issuance of a duplicate certificate. Any person having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Department of Sociology, University of Kashmir, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.
SAIMA SAIF-U-DIN
D/o SAIF-U-DIN PIR
R/o DRUDMULLA, KUPWARA qns

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattann

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Samiya Ashraf D.o.B 10/12/2001, Saniya Ashraf D.o.B 01/01/2005 ,Sabiya Ashraf D.o.B 28/05/2006 and Imran Khan D.o.B 03/10/2009 S/DD/Mohammad Ashraf Khan R/o Ganjipora Buran Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla.in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattann

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohd Ashraf Khan s/o Bakhtawar Khan With verified date of birth 01/04/1973. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Asiya Begum D/o Sonaullah Bhat R/o Buran Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of birth 03/04/1973 . In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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NHM Strike Enters Second Day Across J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 72-hour strike by National Health Mission (NHM) employees continued across Jammu and Kashmir for the second consecutive day on Thursday, with workers staging protests at district, block and field-level health establishments over their long-pending demands.

The strike, called by the UT-level Joint Coordination Committee of NHM employees, has brought together workers associated with various NHM programmes, including the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), across both divisions of the Union Territory.

Reports from different parts of J&K indicated participation of employees at multiple health institutions and administrative units.

The employees are demanding revision of their remuneration on the lines of NHM workers in other states, besides a comprehensive policy for job security and protection of their long-term service interests.

They are also seeking implementation of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), insurance coverage and post-retirement financial support.

The employees said they had been working for years under NHM but continued to face uncertainty over their employment status and social security benefits.

"We have remained on the frontline of healthcare delivery for years, but our wages, employment | More on P10

IFFJK Concludes, J&K Eyes Global Filmmaking Destination Status

Four-day maiden festival draws global filmmakers; 1,100 entries from 80+ countries

Cultural Performances Mark Closing; CM Omar calls for focus on local stories, talent

Dabirah Hassan/ Sameer Hussain

Srinagar: The first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) concluded in Srinagar on Thursday with a vibrant closing ceremony, bringing the curtain down on four days of films, discussions, masterclasses, cultural performances and industry engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The maiden festival, organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K, was held from September 7 to 10 across Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg. It brought together filmmakers, actors, technicians, artists, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from India and abroad.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Dr L. Murugan said Jammu and Kashmir was emerging as a global destination for cinema and the wider creative industries.

Congratulating the J&K Government for organising the festival, Murugan highlighted the international response to its inaugural edition, saying around 1,100 films had been submitted from more than 80 countries.

Omar calls for a filmmaking ecosystem rooted in J&K

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir must move beyond being merely a beautiful filming location and become a place from where its own stories emerge, talent is discovered and films are conceived and created.

"Our ambition must go beyond being a beautiful filming location. Jammu and Kashmir must increasingly become a place from which stories emerge, talent is discovered and films are conceived and created," Omar said.

The Chief Minister said the four-day festival had brought filmmakers and audiences together, connected established professionals with young aspirants and created a platform for cinema from Jammu and Kashmir to engage with India and the world.

"You came as our guests, I hope you leave as friends of Jammu and | More on P10

J&K Can Flourish As Film Destination: MoS For I&B

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to once again emerge as a preferred destination for filmmakers from India and across the world, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan said on Thursday.

Addressing the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir, Murugan said the festival reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of encouraging filmmakers to shoot and create films in Kashmir.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's distinctive landscapes and cinematic heritage, the minister expressed confidence that the Union Territory could regain its position as an attractive filmmaking destination. Murugan said | More on P10

August 2026 Joint-Warmest August On Record

Observer News Service

New Delhi: August 2026 was the joint-warmest August ever recorded globally, tying with August 2023, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said on Thursday.

The global average surface air temperature during the month was 1.65 degrees Celsius above the estimated pre-industrial baseline, according to the climate observatory.

August also marked the first time since November 2025 that the monthly global average temperature crossed 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average.

C3S attributed the elevated temperatures primarily to global warming driven by greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning, along with prevailing El Niño conditions over the tropical Pacific.

UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell warned that continued fossil fuel use would further intensify extreme heat and its impacts.

"Until humanity stops burning colossal amounts of coal, oil and gas, the pollution this causes will keep baking our planet, and extreme heat will keep smashing records," Stiell said.

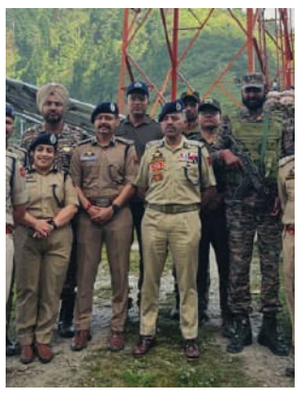
He said the effects included growing pressure on transport and health systems, rising costs and damage linked to extreme weather.

C3S also reported that the average sea surface temperature outside the polar regions reached a record 21.07 degrees Celsius in August.

The figure | More on P10

Stay Vigilant, Respond Promptly To Threats: DGP

Observer News Service



Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police Director General Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday visited a joint temporary operational base (TOB) at the strategically important tri-junction of Doda, Kathua and Udhampur districts and reviewed the operational preparedness of the joint security forces deployed in the area.

Personnel of the Special Operations Group (SOG), Rashtriya Rifles and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are jointly deployed at the operational base.

Prabhat was accompanied by Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Deputy Inspector General of Police, DKR Range, DIG Udhampur-Ramban Range and SSP Doda, besides other senior officers.

During the visit, senior officers briefed the DGP on the prevailing security situation, counter-terrorism measures and the operational preparedness of the forces deployed in the area.

The meeting also reviewed coordination among different security agencies and measures to further strengthen surveillance, area domination and the security grid in sensitive and strategically important areas.

The officers stressed the need for close coordination during joint operations, timely sharing of intelligence and continuous monitoring to effectively respond to evolving security challenges.

Prabhat also interacted with personnel deployed at the joint TOB and took stock of their duties, operational preparedness and efforts to maintain security in the area.

He appreciated the alertness, dedication, professionalism and commitment of the personnel serving | More on P10

Private School Approvals May Get Easier In Kashmir

Education Minister Sakeena Yatoo says the government is considering cutting the multiple NOCs required by private schools to three major clearances, a proposal that could change how schools operate across Jammu and Kashmir.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: Private schools in Jammu and Kashmir could soon face a much shorter list of government clearances under a proposal that Education Minister Sakeena Yatoo said she would pursue in the coming Assembly session.

Yatoo said the government was considering reducing the multiple No Objection Certificates required by CBSE-type private schools to three major approvals. She acknowledged the difficulties created by the existing system and said the government wanted to remove unnecessary regulatory bottlenecks and make the approval process simpler.

The announcement came at the University of Kashmir on Wednesday during Women Edupreneurs Connect 2026, where women school leaders from different districts had gathered with policymakers, academics and senior education officials. The meeting, organised by the Private Schools Association Jammu & Kashmir, gave the NOC proposal an audience of school managers who deal with the regulatory system directly.

Yatoo told the gathering that the government was taking the issue seriously and would pursue it during the forthcoming Assembly session. She also assured women school leaders of continued government support as they strengthen and develop their institutions.

The proposal comes at a time when the government itself has been speaking about changes in the education system. Earlier this month, Yatoo said she | More on P10

SC Collegium Recommends Bourney As HC Judge

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The Supreme Court Collegium has approved the recommendation for the appointment of senior judicial officer Yash Paul Bourney as a Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the Supreme Court Collegium held on September 10.

In its statement, the Collegium said it had approved the proposal for the appointment of Yash Paul Bourney, Judicial Officer, as a Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Supreme Court Collegium is headed by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant and comprises Justice Vikram Nath and Justice B.V. Nagarathna.

The recommendation of Bourney comes shortly after Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati assumed office as the Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, following his swearing-in on Monday.

Bourney is presently serving as Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu, on deputation. He assumed the present posting on November 14, 2025.

According to his service particulars, Bourney belongs to Village Dadwara, Bhaddu, Billawar, Kathua. He was born on August 25, 1967, and entered judicial service on December 1, 1997. He entered the present cadre of District and Sessions Judge (Super Time Scale) on August 30, 2011.

Bourney has had nearly three decades of experience in the judicial service since his entry in 1997.

The Collegium's recommendation is now required to go through the prescribed appointment process, following which the formal notification of appointment | More on P10

Vande Mataram Row

Statutory Obligation Cannot Be Bypassed: CM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday defended the singing of the full version of 'Vande Mataram' at official events, saying it is a statutory obligation that cannot be bypassed.

Abdullah was responding to criticism from the Congress over the singing of the full national song at the inauguration of the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the issue had been unnecessarily politicised, asserting that the law applied across the country and was not specific to Jammu and Kashmir.

"They should have stopped this in Parliament. But, a law has been enacted," Abdullah told reporters.

The chief minister said that at an official function attended by two governors, a lieutenant governor and the acting chief justice of the High Court, the national anthem would obviously be played, and the statutory requirement regarding the national song would have to be followed.

"This is not just for Jammu and Kashmir; it applies to the entire country. In states governed by the Congress, the same will happen at government functions," he said.

Abdullah also said legal action could be taken against those who failed to stand for the full national | More on P10

'Historical Fact': CM Defends Tanvir Over Pyjama Remarks

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday defended National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq over his recent remarks, saying the statement was historically accurate and that neither Tanvir nor the party needed to apologise or issue any clarification. Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, CM Omar said the poverty and hardships faced by Kashmiris in the past were well documented | More on P10

J&K Plans ₹482-Cr PM-SETU Push to Modernise 10 ITIs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is set to modernise 10 government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme, with an indicative investment of around 482 crore over five years.

The initiative was reviewed at the first UT-level Steering Committee meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, who stressed that the upgradation of ITIs should go beyond physical infrastructure and focus on creating an industry-aligned ecosystem that equips youth with skills leading to quality and well-paid employment.

Under the proposed model, the 10 ITIs will be organised into two hub-and-spoke clusters, with one Hub ITI in each administrative division serving as a central technology and resource centre for four Spoke ITIs.

Each hub-and-spoke cluster is proposed to receive 241 crore, while the average estimated cost is around 81 crore for a Hub ITI and 40 crore for a Spoke ITI.

The upgraded institutions will provide access to advanced technologies, modern training infrastructure, incubation facilities and capacity-building support for trainers. The scheme has set an institutional placement target of 75 per cent.

Dulloo said industry partners selected for the initiative should contribute not only financially but also bring technology, domain expertise, modern training practices, exposure to industrial processes and credible employment pathways for | More on P10

'Zero Casualty' Goal

Shah Calls For Disaster-Resilient Villages, Cities

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday directed the establishment of dedicated cells in all concerned departments to implement measures for building disaster-resilient villages and cities in the face of climate change and global warming.

Shah issued the direction while chairing the third meeting of the Governing Body of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

In a post on X, Shah said NIDM had emerged as a national centre for research, innovation, policy support, training and cooperation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Zero Casualty" in disasters.

"Directed the setting up of a cell in every concerned department for implementation of the agenda of building villages and cities resilient to disasters caused by climate change and global warming," Shah said.

He stressed the need for proactive adaptation to emerging environmental risks and strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience across urban and rural areas.

NIDM | More on P10

Modi to Meet Xi, Putin, Pezeshkian Amid Geopolitical Churn

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to India for the BRICS summit, his first in seven years, will present a key opportunity to further normalise bilateral ties through expanded trade and investment as Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares to host him for bilateral talks on Saturday at a time of global geopolitical uncertainty.

Xi's two-day visit to New Delhi follows a series of recent high-level exchanges, including the Special Representative dialogue in Beijing between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, even as lingering concerns remain over aggressive Chinese military posturing along the Arunachal Pradesh sector.

Modi is set to hold separate bilateral talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and several other global leaders on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. The talks with Putin are scheduled to be held at 3.30 pm and those with Pezeshkian at 6.15 pm on Friday.

Xi will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising government officials and top business leaders. Both sides have rolled out a series of confidence-building measures over the past year to repair ties frayed by the more than four-and-a-half-year military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Other key leaders arriving in the national capital for the two-day summit starting Saturday include Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali.

Although Saturday's Modi-Xi encounter

is drawing the primary spotlight, the prime minister's Friday discussions with Putin and Pezeshkian are emerging as equally critical, given the ongoing West Asia crisis and Moscow's continuing standoff with Western powers over Ukraine.

In their talks, Modi and Xi are expected to review the overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) besides exploring more ways, including by expanding trade and investment ties, as part of efforts to normalise bilateral relations, people familiar with the matter said.

The meeting is slated to take place at 6 pm on Saturday, they said. The Chinese president is set to land in New Delhi on Saturday. Modi and Xi held wide-ranging talks on August 31 last year on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin.

The Modi-Putin meeting is expected to focus on enhancing cooperation in a range of areas, including defence, energy, technology, pharmaceuticals and people-to-people exchanges.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday said both sides are also exploring BrahMos missile upgrades, and that Moscow remains committed to fulfilling its remaining S-400 system deliveries and discussing the proposed supply of Su-57 fighter jets.

The Russian official said the energy ties between the two countries remained robust and that both sides are looking at holding negotiations for India's plan to set up new civil nuclear reactors.

Modi and Putin previously met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek last week, where the prime minister called for an immediate end to the conflict and urged the Russian leader to shift from an "endless war towards the end of war". The Ukraine conflict and the road map to peace are expected to feature prominently in their upcoming talks. There have been renewed efforts, including by the Trump administration in the US, in the last few days to find a way to resolve the conflict.

The meeting between Modi and Pezeshkian assumes greater significance as it is taking place against the backdrop of sudden escalation in the West Asia conflict after a period of of relative calm. Modi had met the Iranian leader in Bishkek on August 31 and conveyed that India supports all efforts toward ending the conflict.

Pezeshkian, on his part, had urged Modi to use India's extensive contacts with various parties to help them move away from the path of war and bloodshed and return to the path of dialogue and agreement.

In the upcoming talks, the Indian side is expected to again underline the importance of ensuring the freedom of navigation and the protection of civilians and civil infrastructure in the region.

Global oil supplies have suffered severe disruptions following Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, considered the world's most critical energy chokepoint, through which roughly 20 per cent of global petroleum flows.

Modi is also likely to hold separate bilateral meetings with South African President Ramaphosa Egyptian President Fattah El-Sisi, Indonesia's Subianto, Malaysian PM Ibrahim, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Al Nahyan, and Ethiopian PM Ahmed Ali.

UN Secretary General AntÃ³nio Guterres, WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, New Development Bank (NDB) President Dilma Rousseff and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank Chief Zou Jiayi will also attend the BRICS summit. However, it is not clear whether PM Modi will have any one-on-one meetings with them.

India is hosting the BRICS summit in its capacity as its current chair.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan Meets Modi, Shah

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, the 50th Imam of the Ismaili Muslims, on Thursday held a series of high-level meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, with discussions focusing on expanding cooperation with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in social and sustainable development.

During his meeting with Modi, the two discussed strengthening India's partnership with the AKDN in healthcare, agriculture, rural development, youth and women empowerment, besides other areas.

Modi recalled the contributions of Prince Rahim's late father, Aga Khan IV, to India's development efforts and appreciated the AKDN's longstanding work in sustainable urban development, water conservation, healthcare, rural sanitation, skill development and preservation of India's cultural heritage.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V also called on President Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President appreciated AKDN projects in water and sanitation, education, maternal health, urban redevelopment, women's empowerment and employment generation, describing them as examples of effective public-private partnerships.

In his meeting with Shah, discussions centred on cooperation in social development, irrigation, cooperatives, natural farming, millets and solar energy. Jaishankar separately said he discussed AKDN's work in social development and heritage preservation and explored further opportunities in India and abroad.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V began his India visit on September 9 following an invitation from Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and will remain in the country till September 15. He is also scheduled to visit Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad, where the AKDN is involved in various development and community initiatives.

This is his first visit to India since succeeding Aga Khan IV as the 50th Imam of the Ismaili community.

Britain's India Envoy Promoted as FCO Head

Press Trust Of India

London, Sep 10 (PTI) British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron was on Thursday promoted to take charge as the first female head of the UK Foreign Office.

Cameron has been appointed as the new Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in one of Andy Burnham's major foreign policy moves since taking over as British Prime Minister in July.

The civil servant and diplomat comes in at the FCDO at a time of turmoil following former PM Keir Starmer sacking Olly Robbins as its head over the scandal of Peter Mandelson's appointment as US ambassador amid allegations of impropriety.

"I am especially pleased to welcome Lindy as the first female Permanent Under Secretary at the FCDO," said UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband.

"Lindy brings enormous experience across the fields of diplomacy, development and national security, and a reputation for dynamic leadership in postings across the world, most recently as High Commissioner in India.

Ansarallah Sweep Yemen Coast, Tighten Grip on Bab al-Mandeb

Agencies

SANAA: Iran-backed Ansarallah (Houthi) forces on Thursday took control of Yemen's strategic port city of Mokha, marking their biggest territorial gain since the 2022 truce and raising fresh concerns over shipping through the vital Bab al-Mandeb Strait.

Mokha, located about 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Bab al-Mandeb, is strategically important for controlling shipping between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. About 12% of the world's oil and other goods typically pass through the waterway.

The takeover was confirmed to The Associated Press by Ahmed Baash, a commander with the National Resistance Forces allied with Yemen's pro-West government based in Aden.

Residents told AP that Ansarallah forces had fanned out across the city, with markets and shops shut and roads from the western coast into Mokha closed. Some residents were reportedly fleeing south towards Aden.

Three doctors said they fled a Mokha hospital after it was seized by Ansarallah forces, citing fears for their safety.

YAF Claims Key Bab al-Mandeb Position

, Iranian news agency Tasnim, citing its correspondent in Sana'a, reported that the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF) had taken control of the key al-Ardhi port area on Bab al-Mandeb.

The report said the capture gives

the YAF control of Yemen's coastline overlooking the strategic strait and could allow forces fighting Saudi mercenaries to exert greater influence over maritime traffic between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Tasnim described the fall of al-Ardhi as the culmination of a rapid military campaign along Yemen's western coast against Saudi-backed mercenary groups.

Western Coast Becomes New Battleground

The developments follow recent advances by Iran allied fighters in Taiz province, where fighters have reportedly seized the al-Shaqira area, an important supply route linking Taiz city with Yemen's western coast.

Over the past several days, the Yemeni Armed Forces have also reportedly captured Hays and al-Khawkhah, seized the coastal town of Yakhtul and advanced towards the outskirts of Mokha.

Clashes have continued along the western coast, particularly towards southern Hodeida, near crucial supply routes.

Sana'a-controlled Al-Masirah TV claimed that Saudi-backed forces launched 40 airstrikes in Taiz, Jawf, Hodeida and Marib provinces. The claim could not be independently verified.

The rapid developments have raised fears that the 2022 truce could unravel, potentially drawing Yemen back into full-scale conflict—with consequences extending far beyond its borders.

With shipping through the nearby Strait of Hormuz already disrupted, the strategic importance of Bab al-Mandeb for global energy supplies has only grown.

Pak Locust Threat: Shah Tells Agri Dept to Stay Prepared

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, Sep 10 :: Union Home Minister Amit Shah asked the agriculture department on Thursday to maintain "permanent preparedness" to deal with locust swarm attacks originating from the Pakistan side.

Chairing the third meeting of the governing body of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Shah said the best practices being adopted in other countries to deal with such attacks should be implemented in India.

"The Department of Agriculture should focus on permanent preparedness to deal with locust swarm attacks originating from the Pakistan side," he said.

Addressing the meeting, which was attended by senior officials from the home ministry, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the National Disaster Response Force, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the agriculture ministry, the Delhi University and other central and state government institutions, Shah said the country has seen a comprehensive transformation in both the approach

and the methodology of disaster management over the last 12 years, adopting a "zero-casualty" approach and moving beyond an earlier emphasis on relief and rehabilitation.

Underscoring the Modi government's goal of building disaster-resilient villages and cities as a priority, he said the new approach rests on three pillars -- risk reduction, early-warning systems and "zero casualty".

"We have successfully tackled many disasters with zero casualty, which is a major achievement," Shah said.

He called for a "whole-of-government" approach, in which all government departments actively respond when disasters occur.

"Whenever a disaster occurs, all government departments actively respond. Now, with the

Afghan Students Challenge Expulsion in Pak Court

By M Zulqernain

Lahore, Sep 10 (PTI) Some Afghan students on Thursday filed a petition in a Pakistani court challenging the government's decision to expel them from medical and dental colleges and their "forced" repatriation to Afghanistan, amid deteriorating ties between the two countries.

The Pakistan government on Wednesday ordered medical and dental institutions across the country to expel Afghan students and stop admitting them forthwith.

The move threatens to disrupt the education and professional futures of hundreds of aspiring Afghan doctors and dentists.

The government linked the decision to ongoing tensions between Islamabad and Kabul.

The decision has particularly affected students in the final stages of their undergraduate medical and dental programmes, including some who are only months away from completing their professional degrees.

On Thursday, some 13 Afghan medical students filed a petition through Advocate Asad Jamal in the Lahore High Court.

The petitioners pleaded that they were removed from their medical institutions on the direction of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC).

"The PMDC's powers must be exercised within the bounds of the Constitution and Pakistan's international legal obligations, and that neither the 2023 Act nor constitutional or international principles permit the council to act arbitrarily, particularly against students who have already invested years in their medical education in Lahore and across Pakistan," said the petitioners.

One of the petitioners says she had completed two years of medical studies in Afghanistan before being forced to abandon her education there because of the Taliban restrictions on women's access to schooling.

"The sudden and disruptive process led to their evictions from hostels by their respective colleges and left them without accommodation as their academic futures hang in the balance. The PMDC's decision has caused significant distress among Afghan medical students studying across Pakistan," they said.

The petitioners urged the court for an early hearing of their petition as it is an urgent matter.

Bomb Threat: Emergency Landing by IndiGo's Saudi Flight

Press Trust Of India

Ahmedabad: An IndiGo flight from Lucknow to Dammam in Saudi Arabia made an emergency landing at the Ahmedabad airport on Thursday evening following a bomb threat but nothing suspicious has been found on board so far, police said.

The flight 6E97 landed at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Ahmedabad Airport at 5:45 pm, an official said, adding that all passengers and crew members were disembarked safely.

"A crew member found "bomb" written on a piece of paper on the flight, after which it made an emergency landing at Ahmedabad Airport. The flight was carrying 107 passengers and six crew members. They were made to disembark," Airport police inspector A D Chavda said.

The local police and CISF were carrying out a search on the plane and nothing suspicious had been found so far, officials said.

Earlier on August 31, an Air India Express flight from Dammam to New Delhi carrying 32 passengers had made an emergency landing at the Ahmedabad airport after a crew member found a tissue paper bearing a message that there was a bomb on board. It turned out to be a hoax.

BJP Slams Karnataka Order on Vande Mataram

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI) The BJP on Thursday termed the Karnataka government's order to limit the singing of Vande Mataram to just two stanzas at its official events "illegal" and said this is "direct evidence" of the Congress' policy of "total surrender" to fundamentalist forces and the Muslim League.

"The Congress has now effectively become a 'dimaagi Naxal and the Muslim League Congress," BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said.

This came after the Congress government in Karnataka ordered that only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram be sung at its programmes, except those attended by the president, vice president, prime minister or governor.

The order follows a decision taken by the state cabinet on the playing or singing of Vande Mataram at government programmes and functions held in the state.

Terming the Karnataka government's move "illegal", Trivedi said it reveals the "true character" of the Congress that it wants to keep the Constitution in its pocket.

Completely isolated from all its alliance partners except the Muslim League, the Congress has begun using its state governments to carry out an "unlawful act" with regard to the singing of the full version of Vande Mataram, the BJP leader charged.

"Every Indian citizen knows that no state law can contravene a law passed by Parliament, nor can any state government defy a law passed by Parliament by issuing an executive order," Trivedi said.

Lal Ded's Vakhs Find a New Canvas in Kashmir's Pashmina

Masood Hussain's 'Vakhs of Silence' brings together mystic poetry, visual art and Kashmir's traditional craft

Dabirah Hassan

Srinagar: Centuries after Lal Ded's mystical verses first emerged from Kashmir's spiritual and literary tradition, her voice has found a new canvas—hand-spun, hand-woven Pashmina.

Titled 'Vakhs of Silence', the ongoing exhibition by noted visual artist Masood Hussain brings together poetry, spirituality and traditional craftsmanship, reimagining the Vakhs of Lal Ded through colour, imagery and contemporary visual language.

At the heart of the exhibition are around 20 Vakhs selected by Hussain from the large body of poetry attributed to Lal Ded, one of Kashmir's most revered mystic poets. Each verse has been transformed into a visual composition and painted onto delicate Pashmina shawls, creating works that straddle the worlds of art, literature and craft.

For Hussain, the choice of Pashmina was not merely an artistic experiment but a natural extension of Lal Ded's poetic universe.

Hussain, whose artistic practice has largely centred on mixed media and canvas, said painting on Pashmina was an entirely new experience for him.

The idea emerged when Mustafa Qadri, founder of Me&K, the organisation behind the exhibition, approached him with a hand-spun and hand-woven Pashmina shawl and suggested that he paint on the fabric.

The proposition initially posed a challenge. Unlike canvas, Pashmina is an exceptionally delicate and expensive material, leaving little room for error. Yet, as Hussain explored the possibilities of the medium, he found a deeper connection between the fabric and Lal Ded's poetry.

Kashmir's Pashmina tradition, he noted, resonated with Lal Ded's frequent references to thread, wool and weaving. The relationship between the mystic poet's imagery and one of Kashmir's most celebrated crafts eventually became the conceptual foundation of the project.

Lal Ded is believed to have composed hundreds of Vakhs, brief mystical verses that explore spirituality, self-realisation and the search for truth. Hussain chose a selection of these verses and translated their philosophical and symbolic dimensions into visual art.

The result is a collection in which the shawl serves not simply as a surface for painting but as an integral part of the artistic narrative.

Qadri said the project developed from an earlier experiment involving painted Pashmina shawls and a French artist, which encouraged him to explore the possibility of collaborating with a Kashmiri artist.

Musicians perform during the concluding ceremony of the four-day International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) at SKICC in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

SMC Launches Online Waste Bin Booking Service in Srinagar

Residents can now submit requests digitally without visiting SMC offices

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Thursday launched an Online Waste Bin Booking Service aimed at simplifying and streamlining the process of requesting waste bins for residents across Srinagar city.

The service was launched by SMC Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb, IAS, in the presence of Joint Commissioner SMC Suhail Ul Islam, JKAS.

The new digital facility will allow residents to submit requests for waste bins online, eliminating the need to visit SMC offices physically. The initiative is part of the Corporation's broader efforts to expand digital civic services and make municipal service delivery more transparent, efficient and citizen-friendly.

The online system will also enable the SMC to maintain structured digital records of requests, track their status and improve the deployment of field staff and other resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb said the initiative reflected the Corporation's commitment to citizen-centric governance and technology-driven service delivery.

"Our focus is to bring municipal services closer to citizens through technology. The Online Waste Bin Booking Service is a simple yet significant step towards ensuring that residents can access essential civic services conveniently, while SMC is able to respond to their requirements in a more efficient, transparent and accountable manner," he said.

Residents can submit their waste bin requirements along with necessary details, including their location and contact information, through the official SMC website.

The Commissioner directed the concerned officers and field functionaries to ensure timely and efficient implementation of the service. He also stressed the need for greater public awareness to encourage residents to make use of the new digital facility.

The initiative forms part of SMC's ongoing efforts to strengthen sanitation and solid waste management through technology, transparency and accountability, while encouraging greater citizen participation.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR

28 Rabi-Ul-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 47
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	4: 58
Magrib	6: 53
ISHA	8: 15

اہلیہ مرحوم عبدالرشید ریشی انتقال کر گئیں

اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی آج انجام دی رہی ہے

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ **مسماۃ محمودہ** اہلیہ مرحوم عبدالرشید ریشی ساکنہ ڈولہ باغ صورہ سرینگر **09** ستمبر **2026** بروز بدھوار کو اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں جگہ عطا فرمائیں۔ مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی آج یعنی **11** ماہ ستمبر **2026** بروز جمعۃ المبارک دن کے اڈھائی بجے (**2:30**) اُن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع فقیر مقبرہ دانہ مزار سرینگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران: غلام نبی ریشی، محمد عمر ریشی (فرزندان)

موبائل نمبرات: **8491020631, 9953634232**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR

Tel- 0194-3510830

Notice Inviting Tender

e-NIT No.: - ED-III /20 of 2026-27 Dated: 09-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies Registered with ROC of INDIA, Original Manufacturers or relevant class A registered electrical contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPDD for

"1. Augmentation of 63 KVA to 100 KVA Distribution Transformer at Kauser Colony Palpora falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Nawa Kadal, ED-3rd (Turnkey Basis)"

2. Augmentation of 100 KVA to 200 KVA Distribution Transformer at Gassi Mohalla Veer Side falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Nawa Kadal, ED-3rd (Turnkey Basis)" as details below:

Name of the work.	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	EMD	Cost of Tender Document	Completion Period	Status of funds
"1. Augmentation of 63 KVA to 100 KVA Distribution Transformer at Kauser Colony Palpora falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Nawa Kadal, ED-3rd (Turnkey Basis)" 2. Augmentation of 100 KVA to 200 KVA Distribution Transformer at Gassi Mohalla Veer Side falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Nawa Kadal, ED-3rd (Turnkey Basis)"	9.65	2% of estimated Cost Rs.19300	Rs. 500/-	15 days	Available Under Capex Budget 2026-27

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2. The tender document is available on website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/ Sale of Bid Document (Start)	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 09-09-2026; 04:30 PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (End)	24-09-2026; 04:00 PM
C	Clarification start date	09-09-2026; 04:30 PM
D	Clarification End date	15-09-2026; 02:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	09-09-2026; 04:30 PM
F	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	24-09-2026; 03:00 PM
G	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
H	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	25-09-2026; 02:00 PM
I	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
J	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
K	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender)	Treasury Receipt of Rs. 500.00/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)

No.: - ED-III/TS/ Sd/-
DIPK-NB-1598/26 Date: 10-09-2026
Executive Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION)

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR/JAMMU.

***

Subject: Fixation of seniority of Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Atar in the final seniority list of Senior Lecturers of School Education Department as it stood on 01.01.2024.

NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Atar Senior Lecturer approached this Department through the medium of a representation, seeking his inclusion in the final seniority list of Senior Lecturers issued vide Government Order No. 183-Edu (JK) of 2024 dated 13.03.2024; and

Whereas, vide Government Order No. 168-JK (Edu) of 2026 dated 27.04.2026, Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Atar was placed as Senior Lecturer in Pay Level-9 (52,700-1,66,700) with two advance increments, on a notional basis with effect from 15.03.2021, i.e., the date his immediate junior was promoted, and on a regular basis prospectively; and

Whereas, the matter has been examined in detail and, upon consideration of the relevant records, it has been found that the applicant is entitled to be assigned Seniority No. 2146-A in the final seniority list of Senior Lecturers issued vide Government Order No. 183-Edu (JK) of 2024 dated 13.03.2024; and

Whereas, the applicant is required to be placed at Seniority No. 2146-A, between his senior counterpart, Smt. Seloni Khajuria, holding Seniority No. 2146, and his junior counterpart, Shri Jewan Singh, holding Seniority No. 2147, in the said final seniority list; and

The details of the applicant and the two corresponding incumbents are given hereunder: -

Name	Discipline	Place of Posting	DOB	Date of 1st aptt.	Date of regularization as Lecturer	Date of placement as Senior Lecturer	Fixation of seniority in the final seniority list of Senior Lecturers of School Education Department issued vide Government Order No. 183-Edu (JK) of 2024 dated 13.03.2024.
Seloni Khajuria **Senior Counterpart**	Computer Science	HSS (B) Akhnoor	26.06.71	13.12.96	05.03.09	15.03.2021	**2146**
Fayaz Ahmad Atar **Applicant**	Computer Science	HSS Akingam	20.04.69	07.08.97	05.03.09	15.03.2021	**2146-A Proposed**
Jewan Singh **Junior Counterpart**	Computer Science	GHSS Salmerhi	04.06.78	05.06.02	05.03.09	15.03.2021	**2147**

Now, therefore, before fixing seniority of Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Atar, Senior Lecturer Computer Science in the final seniority list of Senior Lecturers issued vide Government Order No. 183-Edu (JK) of 2024 dated 13.03.2024, the concerned members of the cadre who are likely to be affected by the proposed assignment of seniority to the applicant, are hereby called upon to submit their objections, if any, within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of this notice in the print media. No objection shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated time period.

Further, in case no objection is received within the stipulated time period, it shall be presumed that no member of the cadre has any objection and necessary orders will be issued.

Sd/-(Ram Niwas Sharma) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
School Education Department.

No: Edu-HRM/25/2026-01 (7730841)
DIPK-5540/26
Dated: 10.09.2026.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-13 (1)(a)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

CASE NO:- OA/521/2026

SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE ACT, READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

Exh. No.: 35611

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
V/s
M/S FROZEN ITEMS

To,

(1) M/S FROZEN ITEMS
AT JOGI LANKAR RAINAWARI SRINAGAR THROUGH ITS PROP GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAIE
SRINAGAR JAMMU AND KASHMIR -190003

(2) PROP. GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAIE (SINCE DECEASED)

NOW REPRESENTED THROUGH HIS FOLLOWING LEGAL HEIRS:

Legal heirs: 1
MRS HAMIDA
R/O MALKHA RAINAWARI NEAR CRICKET GROUND SRINAGAR-JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Legal heirs: 2
AIJAZ AHMAD GANAIE
R/O MALKHA RAINAWARI NEAR CRICKET GROUND SRINAGAR- JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Legal heirs: 3
SHABIR AHMAD GANAIE
R/O DAGGA MOHALLA RAINAWARI SRINAGAR-JAMMU AND KASHMIR.
Legal heirs: 4
MUSHTAQ AHMAD GANAIE
R/O NOWSHEHRA SRINAGAR, SHOP AT MALARATA SRINAGAR- JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Legal heirs: 5
IMTIYAZ AHMAD GANAIE
R/O DAGGA MOHALLA JOGI LANKER RAINAWARI SRINAGAR- JAMMU AND KASHMIR
(3) SHABIR AHMAD GANAIE
S/O LATE GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAIE R/O DAGGA MOHALLA RAINAWARI, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR
(4) HILAL AHMAD MALLA
S/O MR. ALI MOHAMMAD MALLA R/O HABBAK
SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR
(5) TARIQ AHMAD GANAI
S/O GHULAM QADIR GANAI R/O NAIDBONI RAINAWARI,
SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR
(6) AIJAZ AHMAD GANAIE
S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAIE R/O MALKHA RAINAWARI
NEAR CRICKET GROUND SRINAGAR JAMMU AND KASHMIR
(7) MOHAMMAD NADEEM KULLU
S/O MR. MOHAMMAD SHAFI KULLU R/O BAGDADI, MOHALLA, KHANYAR, RAINAWARI, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/521/2026 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on **14/08/2026**.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. **4327900.27/-** (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on **01/10/2026 at 10:30A.M**. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 01/09/2026.

SD/ AUTHORISED OFFICER

NOTE : STRIKE OUT WHICHEVER IS NOT APPLICABLE.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Literacy Illusion

Jammu and Kashmir has been declared fully literate after recording 98.43 percent literacy under the ULLAS programme. The achievement is significant, but it should not become an excuse for declaring the education system successful.

Literacy is a threshold, while education is measured by what children can understand, calculate and apply after years in school.

On that test, the evidence is far less reassuring.

The 2024 Annual Status of Education Report found that only 16.6 percent of Class 3 children in J&K could read a Class 2-level text. Among Class 5 students, only 37.7 percent could read text meant for the previous class.

These figures expose a serious contradiction.

A system can record near-universal literacy while a large share of children remains behind the learning level expected of them.

Enrollment and infrastructure do not resolve that contradiction.

J&K has 24,192 schools, 26.5 lakh students and 1.67 lakh teachers. The pupil-teacher ratio is about 16 to 1, suggesting that the shortage of teachers alone cannot explain weak learning. The presence of 1,371 single-teacher schools points to staffing problems in some places, while 28 percent of schools have fewer than 30 students.

The system therefore faces a more specific challenge: turning access to schooling into actual learning.

The figures on early education make the problem harder to dismiss as a late start. About 80.7 percent of Class 1 children had prior pre-school experience, compared with 47.8 percent nationally. Children are entering school with substantial exposure to early learning.

If many still struggle with basic reading several years later, attention must shift toward what happens inside classrooms.

Policy language already recognises this need. J&K has aligned its curriculum framework with competency-based learning under the National Curriculum Framework, with learning outcomes covering reading, comprehension, mathematics and other subjects.

The 2026-27 budget allocates 1,513 crore in capital expenditure to school and higher education. Public spending and curricular reform are necessary, but neither can substitute for evidence showing that children are learning.

The education system should therefore judge progress through learning outcomes rather than administrative milestones. District-level results should be published and weak-performing schools identified. Teachers need training and time to work with children according to their actual learning levels rather than simply moving them through grade-level textbooks.

The 98.43 percent figure should be recognised for what it is: evidence that J&K has made substantial progress in basic literacy. It should not be mistaken for proof of educational success.

A child who can read a sentence but cannot understand a passage remains poorly served by the school system.

Kashmir's next education target should be measurable learning, because certificates can record attendance and literacy, while only learning can show whether schooling has fulfilled its public purpose.

Two Septembers in Kashmir

Thirteen years apart, Zubin Mehta's concert and Rang-e-Cinema offer two very different pictures of Kashmir. The more important story lies in what gets built between such occasions.

Dr. S. Bashir Ahmad Veeri

On September 7, 2013, Zubin Mehta stood before the Bavarian State Orchestra in Shalimar Bagh and led Beethoven, Haydn and Tchaikovsky against the Zabarwan range while Dal Lake carried the sound.

The city outside the garden walls was closed. A strike had been called, soldiers lined the approach roads, and the audience inside sat on invitation only.

On September 7, 2026, the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir opened four kilometres away at SKICC under the banner Rang-e-Cinema. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah welcomed Dr Farooq Abdullah, Dr Jitender Singh, several governors and a room full of filmmakers and dignitaries. The festival promised 135 films from 41 countries.

Two evenings, one lake, and two atmospheres feel almost impossible to connect, but the distance between them calls for more than a simple note on how much has changed.

I sat in that hall at SKICC and thought about Ehsaas-e-Kashmir.

Security in the valley has eased since 2013, something few would have imagined then. The bigger question is whether our idea of what cultural spending should achieve has changed too, or whether we are still satisfied with a well-lit stage and a strong guest list.

Large events are not the problem. An international film festival can place Kashmir in debates it might otherwise never enter. Music and films can travel further than official statements and speeches.

But the problem is that a single event cannot build something that lasts beyond its closing ceremony.

Visibility and development are separate achievements, and a place chosen again and again as a stage is owed an honest accounting of which one it is actually receiving.

That accounting should be based on what is left standing after the festival, rather than on how the inauguration looked.

Kashmir has supplied cinema with its mountains, lakes, gardens and meadows for decades. Films have used the valley as a backdrop since long before most of the crews or investors involved ever slept a night here.

Being filmed in is not the same as being built up.

A place that genuinely serves an industry needs trained local crews, production managers, location scouts familiar with permissions and terrain, equipment suppliers, editors, sound engineers, costume designers and post-production houses that do not require a flight to Mumbai for the smallest fix.

None of that exists in the valley in any working form.

The absence has a specific cause. Militancy closed cinema halls across Kashmir, and almost none reopened. Their disappearance took away more than ticket booths.

A cinema hall builds an audience over years, provides young people paid work, and gives a town a place to sit together in the dark and watch something unfold.

> **The comparison between 2013 and 2026** is not a complaint against either event. An orchestral evening and a film festival answer to different histories and different purposes. Their nearness in date and geography simply gives Kashmir a fair measuring

Losing that space removed a whole apprenticeship system that other film regions take for granted, the informal chain by which projectionists become editors and ushers become production assistants.

IFFJK-26 could help rebuild some of that, but only if it stops being a single week in September.

The test is what happens in October. Does a young filmmaker who attended a masterclass find someone willing to answer a phone call afterward? Does a script that impressed a jury get any development money? Does a technician trained this week get hired next month? Do producers come back because skilled local crews are actually available, or only because the scenery photographed well?

These questions decide more about the festival's worth than the number of films screened or the fame of the guests who attended.

The money involved is not small, and the potential returns are not either.

A working film industry pays wages in hotels, transport, catering, tailoring and set design long after a festival ends. Independent films, documentaries and streaming productions can run alongside the bigger commercial shoots.

A film can sell a place to travellers more honestly than a tourism advertisement ever could, because it shows the place doing something rather than merely posing for it.

None of that follows automatically from an opening ceremony, however large.

What Jammu and Kashmir needs now is unglamorous: faster film permissions, a public database of locations, trained crews on payroll rather than borrowed for a week, incentives for producers who hire locally, script-development support, technical training, small grants for short films, and cinema halls rebuilt where they once stood.

Public spending on culture earns its justification through the institutions and livelihoods it leaves behind, rather than through the applause it collects on opening night.

The comparison between 2013 and 2026 is not a complaint against either event. An orchestral evening and a film festival answer to different histories and different purposes. Their nearness in date and geography simply gives Kashmir a fair measuring stick.

A spectacular evening can change how a place is seen for a few hours, but a functioning institution can change what is possible there for years.

Walking out of SKICC, I kept returning to those two Septembers: Mehta's orchestra carrying over Dal Lake in 2013, and Rang-e-Cinema lit up at SKICC in 2026.

Thirteen years and four kilometres sit between them. What Kashmir builds in the years between such evenings will say more about it than either evening alone.

If a young filmmaker can one day say plainly that this is where the work began, IFFJK-26 will have done something a successful festival rarely manages.

The hope, this time, is that the lights stay on after the festival ends.

The author is a serving legislator from South Kashmir's Bijbehara constituency and contributes occasionally to public policy discourse and the discussion of contemporary political challenges. He can be reached at drveeri2@gmail.com.

Kashmir Cannot Remain a Film Set

Rang-e-Cinema has brought international cinema to the valley. The next step is giving Kashmiri writers, directors and crews the means to build an industry of their own.

Muhammad Arbaaz Niazi

Kashmir has spent half a century as someone else's set.

A camera crew arrives, frames the poplars and the houseboats, shoots a song sequence beside Dal Lake, and departs with footage that will sell a story to millions of people who never set foot in the valley.

The people who actually live among those poplars rarely got a turn behind the lens.

That imbalance is what makes Rang-e-Cinema, the first international film festival held in Jammu and Kashmir, worth more scrutiny than the press releases suggest.

The four-day event is a genuine achievement. Whether it becomes anything more depends on choices nobody will make on camera.

Before the years of militancy, going to the pictures in Srinagar was an unremarkable errand, the kind families ran without a second thought.

Then the halls closed, one after another, and something more than entertainment disappeared with them.

A cinema is a place where strangers sit shoulder to shoulder and laugh at the same joke or fall silent at the same scene.

Losing that space meant losing a small, ordinary form of collective life.

The 1999 attack on the Regal cinema in Srinagar made plain how far violence had reached into the most unremarkable corners of civilian routine.

Theatres have since reopened, in fits and starts, and those reopenings get described, almost automatically, as evidence of healing.

A building can reopen in a season, but a film culture, with its writers and editors and sound designers and audiences trained to expect something beyond spectacle, takes decades.

The landscape did most of the talking for Kashmir in the meantime.

Bollywood found in the valley a shorthand so reliable it barely needed dialogue: a song filmed against snow, a couple wandering a garden, and romance was established.

Later the same landscape became shorthand for grief and siege.

Both versions flattened the place into scenery, but neither had much use for the people actually inhabiting the frame, the shopkeepers and students and civil servants whose lives run alongside politics rather than through it exclusively.

> **Judge the** festival by what exists in three years: whether a Kashmiri editor is cutting a feature that travels to Busan or Rotterdam, whether a producer in Srinagar has greenlit a script nobody outside the valley wrote, whether next year's festival has more local names on its program than this one did.

A twenty-five-year-old spending years preparing for a government exam, watching the vacancies dry up, questioning his own worth in the process, is not a story that photographs Dal Lake can tell. A statistic on youth unemployment cannot tell it either. Cinema can.

That difference between the postcard, the headline, and the lived hour is the real subject here, and it is why the composition of the festival's audience should worry organizers more than the guest list of its jury.

Bringing filmmakers from Iran, Poland, or Argentina into a Srinagar hall for four days is genuinely valuable. It lets a local audience see how other societies handle love, exile, and family without translating everything through the lens of conflict.

But an exchange that runs only one direction, with visiting directors admiring the locations and flying home, changes almost nothing.

The more difficult project is building the apparatus that lets a Kashmiri student become the director instead of the backdrop: workshops that teach screenwriting from the ground up, technical training so a local crew can compete for the same jobs as a crew from Mumbai, producers willing to bankroll a script that has no bankable star attached, and critics willing to argue about the results in public.

None of that exists yet in any durable form.

A festival can be organized in months, but the institutions behind a functioning industry cannot.

There is a second trap worth naming, because Kashmir has fallen into it before with roads, elections, and shopping malls.

Every visible sign of ordinary life gets pressed into service as proof that the underlying politics have been resolved. Cinema is too interesting to be reduced to a certificate of normalcy. Nor does its absence explain everything that has gone wrong in the valley.

If Kashmiri filmmakers are only permitted, implicitly, to make films about controversial topics, that becomes its own kind of confinement, trading one imposed script for another.

A film about a craftsman watching his trade disappear, or two people trying to build a life against their families' wishes, has its own politics.

Judge the festival, then, not by the count of films or countries, figures that flatter organizers and cost nothing to produce.

Judge it by what exists in three years: whether a Kashmiri editor is cutting a feature that travels to Busan or Rotterdam, whether a producer in Srinagar has greenlit a script nobody outside the valley wrote, whether next year's festival has more local names on its program than this one did.

The lights will come back on in Srinagar's halls regardless. What remains uncertain is whether anyone in that audience gets handed a camera.

—

The author studies socio-economics, environmental issues, public policy, and education. He can be reached at arbazniyaz011@gmail.com.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®
SRINAGAR | FRIDAY | 11.09.2026

Kashmir's Search for Job Creators

The IIM Jammu professor says local success stories could change how young people view entrepreneurship and careers.

Ashiq Hussain Andrabi

Jammu and Kashmir needs stronger links between its institutions, departments and businesses to address unemployment, build skills and support entrepreneurship, believes Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development at IIM Jammu's Srinagar campus.

Burhan, who has worked with leading institutions including MIT Sloan and EPFL, says the region can learn from countries that built effective systems with clear purpose.

He has been involved in developing the Srinagar campus's business incubator and training programmes for government departments and corporate executives.

In this interview, he discusses entrepreneurship, skill development, institutional collaboration and the role of IIM Jammu in the region.

Dr. Burhan, could you provide a brief introduction about yourself and your motivation to embrace roles that encompass IIM Jammu's Srinagar Campus and the Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development?

I was born and brought up in Anantnag town of Kashmir. Like most of the people of my age, I saw lot of turmoil during school days that, generally, have long lasting impact. It can result in variable response on individual behaviours and many times a more close relationship with the place. I was moved outside Kashmir during school days by my parents for better opportunities that I could, probably, cash. I studied at IIT Delhi and also got a good job in the corporate.

However, that tendency to be back, among the people with so many scars and pain, could never die. I found my way through IIM Jammu where I joined as faculty and developed a proposal, with the support from my Director, to develop Srinagar Campus which can primarily focus on promoting Entrepreneurship, Innovations and Skill Development in the region.

We could set up a business incubator also at our transit campus and started working closely with various departments and institutes in the region to create a synergistic approach to finding solutions.

The IIM Jammu's Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Skill Development at its Srinagar campus is set up with an aim to benefit youth of Kashmir division largely through promoting and developing an ecosystem for Innovation and Skill Development that leads to enterprise development.

With international fellowships from esteemed institutions like MIT Sloan Business School and EPFL Lausanne, how have these global experiences shaped your perspective and ignited your commitment to fostering education, innovation, and empowerment in Kashmir?

I have been lucky enough to have an exposure of great institutes like MIT USA, Harvard University, EPFL Lausanne Switzerland, Nanyong Technology University Singapore apart from some good universities in Netherland, Moscow, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan. The exposure of working in such environment and with bright minds shapes your thought process. Seeing people work for the communities and for a purpose is always motivating. It creates great teams and a purpose for life.

Place like Kashmir has to take inspiration from nations built from scratch but with great intent and purpose. We need to set up systems and processes in place and that require help from those who have been lucky to get right exposure to the better systems and learn from them. I think I can be one of those with a responsibility to contribute.

Offering insights into the distinctive role played by IIM Jammu's Srinagar chapter, how does it foster management education, skill development, and entrepreneurship? How does the chapter aim to contribute to both Kashmir's economic development and academic excellence?

IIM is an institute of National importance with a setup that has focus on quality and execution in the field of Management education, research and consultancy. Place like Kashmir needs these institutes to come forward and work for the upliftment of the society which has been bruised by violence and underdevelopment for decades.

Management education, skill development and Entrepreneurship needs a different approach here considering the cultural and historic background of this place. An approach based on innovation, design thinking and systems thinking can lead to better solutions that will have good impact on economic development of the region.

Academic excellence is achieved through focus on the aspects like attracting better talent, applying good methodologies and research. When institutes like IIM collaborate with local institutes, these elements are institutionalized by the system.

As you hold key roles at IIM Jammu's Srinagar Campus and the Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development, how do you envision leveraging the transformative power of management education to empower individuals, uplift communities, and drive economic growth in Kashmir?

Management education plays a crucial role in bringing a change at any place and it will have a more important role in Kashmir region owing to its long history of disturbances and its impact on the economy. IIM Jammu has a vision that is focused on transformation through management education. We started Srinagar campus of IIM Jammu in 2021 which was the year when all of us were dealing with COVID crisis. However, we used the time to develop some infrastructure for the campus that includes communication network, classroom facilities, library, sports facilities, residential facilities and Business Incubator.

The focus, at the outset, is on corporate training, consultancy, skill development and entrepreneurship. The campus in Kashmir region is important for us to have a broad outreach in the region. We intend to benefit the region through training programs that support livelihood, promote entrepreneurship in the region through incubation and training support, give consultation to government in bringing transformative change.

We recently concluded a 2 year fellowship with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship where very competent fellows were placed in all districts of J&K to work with district administration in supporting skill ecosystem at district level. The fellows were trained and mentored by IIM Jammu to do the job and the J&K administration benefited immensely from that.

We did several Entrepreneurship Orientation Programs for students of J&K Govt. colleges here in Srinagar, programs for faculty members of these colleges also, Management skill development programs for Principals and superintends of Polytechnics and ITIs, Management Development Program for Managers of J&K Bank, Employees of PNB in J&K. We are doing Leadership development programs for principals of degree colleges and Skill to Enterprise Module (STEM) which is a one year long program to create super 30 entrepreneurs from Kashmir region.

We work closely with various departments of Government of J&K including Skill Development Department and Higher Education Department. We intend to work closely with other educational institutions in J&K to create synergy that supports livelihood, quality education, innovations, skill development and entrepreneurship in the region. I am sure all this is going to have a positive impact on J&K and bring a transformative change.

The Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development (CEISD) seems to be a hub brimming with possibilities. Could you share its core objectives and elaborate on how it aims to ignite innovation, skills, and entrepreneurship in the region?

Entrepreneurship, innovation, and skill development are interconnected concepts that play a crucial role in economic growth, job creation, and societal advancement. Entrepreneurship, innovation, and skill development are interconnected drivers of economic and social progress. Encouraging entrepreneurship, fostering innovation, and investing in skill development initiatives can lead to job creation, economic growth, and a more competitive and resilient society.

It is crucial for governments, educational institutions, and businesses to collaborate in promoting these concepts to unlock their full potential for societal benefit. Through CEISD we aim to develop an ecosystem that promotes favourable interaction between various stakeholders to ignite and promote innovation, skills, and entrepreneurship in the region.

In J&K there is a need to bring more awareness about these ideas and train the workforce accordingly. We developed an idea of creating Small Business Development Units in each district of J&K where these units act as a part of larger platform connected through the portal which centralizes the information to be made available to youth of J&K. The units will act as centers of information about skill development and entrepreneurship and preferably set up in Polytechnics/ITIs to help the youth in converting their ideas into enterprises in addition to organize awareness programs, hackathons, competitions and gradually grow a network of mentors, incubation centers, financial institutions, local business on this platform.

We visited various colleges across Kashmir division to help the colleges develop Incubation and Innovation centers that can be connected with each other to create synergy within the higher education system to support innovation and entrepreneurship among youth. There are many projects/programs lined up for CEISD IIM Jammu to initiate that will have a meaningful impact, God willing.

With Kashmir's vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, how do you believe your academic and practical expertise can create an environment where local talent flourishes? How can innovative ideas be transformed into thriving businesses, enriching the region's economic fabric?

Entrepreneurship in Kashmir is being promoted through several measures but I don't see a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit awakened yet. It requires a confidence building measures where youth see this as something for which they can give up the urge to work as Government employee. We will have to create success stories for that and showcase them to motivate youth in that direction.

I see the interest of youth in Kashmir division drifting from one dominant role to another based on 'heroes' we produce in the society. I am sure with some good young entrepreneurs here, with a valuation of unicorns, we will see a change in the environment.

Striving to bridge the gap between education and job market needs, how do your efforts in Skill Development equip youth with skills that secure degrees and also open doors to impactful employment?

IIM Jammu envisions the idea of quality management education that supports economy and societies. We wish to create more job creators than job seekers. Entrepreneurship is taught as a core course in our flagship programs and we allow our students differed placements to take up entrepreneurship and come back for corporate placements in two years if they fail in that endeavour.

We offer short term cutting edge management programs to youth and corporate to fill the market skill gap. Our focus is on Industry 4.0 skill sets and we update ourselves on market trends to bring changes in our courses, syllabus etc accordingly.

Amidst rapid technological advancement, how do strategic approaches in Technology Management act as catalysts for economic growth in a dynamic region like Kashmir?

Changing market conditions require dynamic capabilities. Strategic approaches in technology management can indeed act as catalysts for economic growth in dynamic regions across the globe.

Kashmir region has its own dynamics and will require some deep thought by its think tank to bring a positive change. I am not sure if rapid technological advancement is the solution unless the workforce is aligned with it which takes time and if the two are misaligned, it will have negative effects.

However, if implemented effectively, these strategies can leverage technology to drive innovation, improve productivity, and create a competitive advantage. The strategic interventions that can reap results could include establishing and nurturing innovation ecosystems that bring together technology startups, established companies, research institutions, and government agencies.

These ecosystems encourage collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the development of new technologies, products, and services. It also brings investment in education and skill development programs to ensure that the workforce is equipped with the skills required to harness and manage advanced technologies.

A well-trained workforce can be a significant driver of economic growth; build and maintain modern infrastructure, including high-speed internet, transportation, and logistics, to support the growth of technology-driven businesses. A robust infrastructure is essential for facilitating efficient operations and market access; creating a favorable regulatory and policy environment that encourages technology adoption and innovation; foster a culture of entrepreneurship and support startups through incubators, accelerators, and access to venture capital.

It encourages the formation of new tech companies, which can create jobs and drive economic growth and promote collaboration between academia and industry to ensure that research conducted in universities is aligned with the needs of businesses. This can lead to the development of practical and marketable solutions. It encourages organizations and individuals to continuously learn, adapt, and stay updated with emerging trends and innovations; leverage data analytics and big data to make informed decisions and identify growth opportunities. Data-driven insights can enhance competitiveness, drive economic growth and promote sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies.

Investing in green technologies not only aligns with global trends but can also lead to cost savings and new market opportunities.

Collaborating with national and international institutions brings diverse insights. How do you intend to tailor these insights to Kashmir's unique economic dynamics, ensuring they resonate with local aspirations and needs?

Establishing partnerships and collaborations with other dynamic regions and global players is important for growth. These collaborations can lead to knowledge exchange, investment opportunities, and access to new markets.

We collaborated with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India to bring two National projects with J&K as priority. The projects focused on improving skill and Entrepreneurship ecosystem in J&K. The priority is to help small business units grow and convert unorganized businesses into organized businesses and benefit them from various government schemes.

We focus on bringing help of financial institutions like SIDBI here to help these businesses. Our collaboration with SIDBI led to projects like STEM that would help skilled youth to convert their skill into enterprise through handholding, training and incubation.

The institutions within J&K need to work together to create synergy. I see that missing. Collaborative approach will help the ecosystem develop in J&K that will support local aspirations and needs. Unemployment is on a higher side when it comes to National average and the focus also has to be on upgrading skills.

A convergence of departments, institutions and various sectors is needed for that and we, as institute of National importance, intend to play pivotal role in that.

Often considered a pathway to brighter futures, how can management education dismantle socio-economic barriers and empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to contribute to Kashmir's progress?

Socio-economic barriers are obstacles and challenges that individuals or communities face due to their social and economic circumstances. These barriers can significantly impact access to opportunities, resources, and overall well-being. Lack of quality education and educational resources can create a barrier to upward mobility. Financial constraints may prevent individuals from pursuing higher education. Limited job opportunities or inadequate employment conditions can hinder socio-economic progress and Underemployment, where individuals are overqualified for their current jobs, is common at places like J&K.

Disparities in income distribution can lead to unequal access to resources and opportunities. The wealth gap may perpetuate a cycle of poverty for some individuals and communities. We see different level of discrimination and bias in place like J&K which at times has basis in rural-urban divide and at times based on caste discrimination which leads to barriers to equal opportunities.

Implicit biases in hiring and promotion processes may limit career advancement. Lack of affordable healthcare services can result in poor health outcomes for economically disadvantaged individuals. Preventive care and timely medical interventions are also inaccessible to larger population in J&K. Socio-economic background can influence social mobility, limiting individuals' ability to move up the social and economic ladder. Access to networks and opportunities may be constrained. Lack of digital literacy may further exacerbate the condition. Stigmatization and social exclusion based on economic status can impact mental health and well-being. There are many issues that can aggravate the situation. I could just recall few and place like J&K has its own complexities.

Addressing socio-economic barriers requires comprehensive and inclusive strategies that focus on education, employment opportunities, healthcare access, and policy reforms to create a more equitable and just society.

We, at IIM Jammu, work for underprivileged and marginalized and believe in creating inclusive societies which work in the direction of removing socio-economic barriers. This needs proper structures and processes in place that are aligned to these goals. At IIM Jammu we created Center for Diversity and Inclusiveness to bring awareness about such ideas, work for these societies and help government achieve these goals.

Striking a balance between economic evolution and cultural preservation can be delicate. How do you envision achieving this equilibrium, where progress harmonizes with tradition and modernization pays homage to heritage?

This is complex but important issue. Kashmir has a unique culture that is preserved throughout its historical ups and downs. Any conflict between culture and economic evolution will face resistance and opposition. However, if there is alignment between the two, it is the best model to follow.

Things change with time and we too should change for good but cultural sweet spots, which I believe are many in Kashmir, need to be protected. There is a tendency to blindly import ideas and innovations, at times in search of modernization or as a result of cultural incursions, that disrupt the existing systems.

If we can have sustainable innovation in Kashmir to protect these cultural facets with improvements to match the growing customer needs, there will be less conflict between the culture and economic evolution. For example, Hamam has to compete with electric alternatives. It survived over the years due to sustainable innovations, unlike mud/clay plastering in houses. Same is happening to art in Kashmir and survival becomes problematic.

The potential for transformative change lies within the youth. How does your expertise inspire them to embrace roles as entrepreneurs, creators, and catalysts of economic transformation in Kashmir?

We will have to create success stories for youth to follow and develop a conducive environment that gives positive vibes. Entrepreneurship, Innovation or role of youth as catalyst to transformation should not appear a distant dream to them, when youth in Kashmir doesn't lack talent but good exposure. We will be organizing events and programs that will give them the right exposure and promote networking.

Partnerships with international institutions offer fresh perspectives. How will you leverage these collaborations to enrich educational offerings and infuse renewed energy into Kashmir's economic landscape?

This certainly does but we will need first to create an atmosphere which can support such interactions. We must also leverage the experience of people from the region who are working outside and create a database of mentors for the youth. Such interactions will inspire the youth and motivate them to do well and also learn from their domain knowledge.

Economic diversification is a shared objective. How does innovation, strategy, and entrepreneurship contribute to carving new economic pathways beyond conventional sectors, enhancing Kashmir's resilience?

Economic diversification would mean expanding and broadening the economic base of Kashmir region by reducing its reliance on a particular sector or industry. This, in larger sense, creates a more resilient and sustainable economy by developing multiple sources of income and reducing vulnerability to external shocks.

Diversification can enhance a region's resilience to economic shocks and crises. A diversified economy is better equipped to absorb and recover from disruptions. Economic diversification is a complex and long-term process that requires strategic planning, investment, and collaboration between the public and private sectors. By embracing diversification, regions can build more resilient and adaptive economies that are better positioned for sustained growth.

Innovation, better planning and promotion of entrepreneurship in diverse sector having great potential in Kashmir will lead to economic diversification and growth. The youth should be motivated to think beyond government service, Govt. should promote emerging industries and sectors with high growth potential and skill youth accordingly. A well-educated and skilled workforce is essential for diversification. Investing in education and training programs that align with the needs of new and growing industries can enhance the workforce's adaptability.

Building and upgrading infrastructure, including transportation, communication, and energy facilities, can attract new industries and support existing ones. Infrastructure development is crucial for the overall competitiveness of a region and I think that Government is already working on that.

Innovation is a key driver of economic diversification and promoting the same in colleges, universities and elsewhere will be helpful. Collaboration with other institutes outside J&K will help the regional institutes grow and that should be part of institutional strategy.

Also, supporting entrepreneurship and small businesses can contribute to economic diversification. These enterprises often bring innovation, agility, and diversity to the economic landscape. Identifying new markets and promoting the export of non-traditional goods and services can enhance economic resilience. A robust financial sector is essential for economic diversification. Access to finance, venture capital, and investment opportunities can facilitate the growth of new industries.

Moreover, developing the tourism industry is important for J&K. Tourism often creates jobs and stimulates growth in various sectors, including hospitality, transportation, and entertainment. Embracing sustainable practices and investing in environmentally friendly industries can contribute to both economic diversification and long-term sustainability. Governments play a crucial role in promoting economic diversification through the formulation of supportive policies, incentives, and regulatory frameworks that encourage the growth of diverse industries. Government has to play its role here.

Finally, extending beyond classrooms, how can education foster a lifelong pursuit of knowledge that equips individuals to navigate economic shifts, adapt to change, and continually contribute to Kashmir's growth story?

In essence, learning extends far beyond the confines of classrooms, embracing a lifelong, diverse, and continuous journey of discovery and growth. Beyond classrooms, learning takes on a multifaceted and dynamic form. It encompasses real-world experiences where learning occurs through hands-on experiences, internships, and apprenticeships, where individuals apply theoretical knowledge in practical, real-world situations. Informal learning happens through everyday activities, discussions, and interactions. It includes self-directed learning, exploring interests, and acquiring skills without a formal curriculum.

Technology enables learning beyond physical classrooms. Online courses, webinars, and e-learning platforms provide opportunities for individuals to access educational content from anywhere. Learning is enriched through community involvement, volunteering, and civic engagement. Engaging with diverse communities exposes individuals to different perspectives and fosters social awareness.

We need to create an environment for such activities in Kashmir which promote good work culture, support internships and apprenticeships for students and motivate them to go beyond course syllabus to upgrade and upskill themselves.

Travel is another important aspect which we ignore. Traveling and immersing oneself in different cultures provide valuable learning experiences. Exposure to new environments fosters adaptability, cross-cultural understanding, and a global perspective.

Learning is facilitated through mentorship and networking. Building relationships with experienced individuals allows for the exchange of knowledge, advice, and guidance.

Pursuing hobbies and passion projects encourages self-directed learning. Whether it's art, sports, or personal projects, individuals acquire skills and knowledge driven by their interests.

Learning in natural environments promotes environmental awareness, problem-solving, and a sense of connection to the world. Outdoor education can complement classroom-based learning.

Developing reading habits among our youth is so important. We should develop a culture where libraries, in our localities, are considered as essential as religious places. Books, articles, and literature are powerful sources of learning. Reading exposes individuals to diverse ideas, cultures, and perspectives, fostering critical thinking and empathy.

Engaging in artistic pursuits fosters creativity and self-expression. Whether through visual arts, music, or performing arts, individuals learn to communicate and innovate.

— The author is a senior scribe from Pulwama, and can be reached at cj.saha.18@gmail.com.

FDA Finds 35 Food Products Non-Compliant in Labelling, Packaging Drive

455 food samples scrutinised across J&K; notices issued to erring food business operators

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K has conducted a special enforcement drive across all districts of the Union Territory to check compliance with prescribed standards governing the labelling and display of food products.

During the drive, 455 food samples were scrutinised, of which 35 were found non-compliant with mandatory labelling requirements. Notices have been served on the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs), directing them to rectify the deficiencies within the stipulated period.

The FDA said further action would be initiated in accordance with law in cases where the violations are not rectified.

The inspection covered a wide range of packaged food products, including spices, edible oils, dairy products, bakery and confectionery items, honey, rice, beverages, coffee and dry fruits, among other food articles.

The labels were examined for compliance with the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, including mandatory declarations such as the name and nature of the food, ingredients, nutritional information, batch or lot number, date of manufacture or packing, Best Before or Expiry Date, MRP, details of the manufacturer or packer, FSSAI licence or registration number and vegetarian/non-vegetarian logo.

The scrutiny also covered health, nutritional and other claims made on food labels under the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018. Food business operators were directed to remove or rectify claims found to be misleading or inconsistent with regulatory requirements.

The FDA said penal action would be taken wherever violations are established under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Under Section 52 of the Act, misbranding of food can attract a penalty of up to ₹3 lakh, while Section 53 provides for a penalty of up to ₹10 lakh for misleading advertisements. Section 61, dealing with furnishing false information, also provides for a penalty of up to ₹10 lakh.

Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers concerned have been directed to ensure compliance by the FBOs and initiate further proceedings, including adjudication or prosecution, wherever warranted under the law.

13 of 14 Ventilators at GMC Baramulla Non-Functional for 9 Months: RTI

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Thirteen of the 14 ventilators available in the Department of Pediatrics and Neonatology at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla have remained non-functional for the past nine months, an RTI response has revealed.

The information was furnished in response to an RTI application filed by Inam Un Nabi Soudagar, seeking details about the availability, procurement and functioning of ventilators at the medical college.

According to the response, accessed by KNO, only one of the 14 ventilators is currently functional, while 13 are out of service due to the non-availability of consumables and pending replacement of certain components.

The hospital stated that five Hamilton C1 ventilators were procured in 2020, five Evolution 3e ventilators in 2021 and four ventilators under a Central Government scheme through NHM in 2022.

The RTI response further revealed that no expenditure had been incurred on repair and maintenance of ventilators since January 2020. It also stated that none of the machines had been declared condemned or beyond repair.

An official from GMC Baramulla said that repair work has been ordered and the hospital is awaiting some spare parts from outside.

"Some spare parts are required from outside and have been ordered. Once these are received, the non-functional ventilators will be made operational at the earliest," the official said—(KNO)

16 sheep killed, 17 injured in suspected leopard attack in Chadoora

BUDGAM: Sixteen sheep were reportedly killed and 17 others injured after a wild animal attacked a flock at Badipora village in the Chadoora area of Budgam district during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Chopan, who owns the flock, said he suspected that a leopard had entered the livestock enclosure during the night and attacked the sheep. The identity of the animal, however, has not been independently confirmed.

Chopan said the incident caused significant losses to his family, which depends on livestock for its livelihood. He appealed to the government and the concerned departments to assess the loss and provide compensation and immediate assistance to the affected livestock owner.

Locals have also urged the Wildlife Department to inspect the area and take necessary measures to prevent any further attacks on livestock or possible encounters with the wild animal. [KNT]

Qazigund Traders Protest Continued Closure of Twin Crossings to Upper Bazar

SRINAGAR: Traders of Upper Bazar Qazigund, the gateway of Kashmir, on Thursday observed a shutdown and staged a protest against the continued closure of twin crossings connecting the market with the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The traders said the crossings were closed during the Amarnath Yatra as part of security arrangements but have not been reopened despite the conclusion of the Yatra.

They said the closure has severely affected vehicular movement towards the market, hitting shops, hotels, restaurants and the livelihoods of hundreds of traders and workers.

Qazigund traders' president Mohammad Shafi said that they have no objection to the ongoing road construction but demanded a proper and safe alternative crossing.

"Our only demand is that a proper and safe crossing should be provided so that people and vehicles can reach the market without facing difficulties," he said, urging the administration to intervene and reopen the crossings at the earliest.

The traders said the closure of the crossing near the Walnut Factory Levdora has particularly affected vehicles coming from the Srinagar side.

"Vehicles are unable to enter the market, which has directly impacted our daily business. Hotels, restaurants and other small businesses are also suffering due to reduced movement," they said.

Another shopkeeper said Upper Bazar Qazigund is an important commercial and tourist centre and cannot remain disconnected from the National Highway.

"We understand the importance of road construction and development, but connectivity to the market must be maintained. Keeping an alternative crossing open will help revive business activity and ensure that people can reach essential services, including hospitals, without unnecessary difficulties," he said—(KNO)

Ladakh Safeguards, Elected UT Body under Discussion: Kundra

Press Trust of India

LEH/JAMMU: Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra on Thursday said the Centre and representatives of Ladakh are moving towards a framework for constitutional safeguards for the region under a special provision in Article 371 and the formation of a Union Territory-level elected body vested with legislative, executive and financial powers.

Kundra made the announcement after a sub-committee meeting with representatives of the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), where discussions focused on taking forward progress made in earlier rounds of dialogue.

Explaining the proposed political architecture, Kundra said the panchayat would remain the foundational unit, followed by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs), with the proposed UT-level body above them.

Speaking to reporters here, the chief secretary noted that the Centre was not seeking to impose any political model on Ladakh and wanted to proceed only after consulting and deliberating with stakeholders and people of the Union Territory.

"It was discussed that for providing constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, a special provision under Article 371 would be made, which could provide safeguards for the people here. And what would the safeguards be? The basis of the democratic movement that has started here is that safeguards should be provided for the land of the people of Ladakh, their culture, their environment and their natural resources, all these things", Kundra said.

"Now the process of discussion and negotiations is continuing. The next meeting is scheduled for October, and we hope that by the next meeting an advanced draft of the Constitutional Amendment Bill will be ready," he added.

The representatives were also briefed on the parliamentary process involved in the constitutional amendment and the legislation required for details regarding the proposed body's powers.

"So, from the UT administration and the Ministry of Home Affairs, we are making every effort so that the aspirations of the people, their democratic aspirations, can be fulfilled", he added.

Briefing reporters on the ongoing political dialogue, Kundra said the previous meeting on July 3 had decided to take the process forward on the understanding that such a body would be constituted.

"There was a discussion about whether there should be direct elections from constituencies to this body or indirect elections through the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC). All those who attended from the Apex Body and the KDA were of the view that there should be direct elections from constituencies, and there was agreement on this issue," he said.

Kundra said the dialogue was aimed at addressing the aspirations of the people of Ladakh, particularly their demand for protection of land, culture, heritage, mineral resources, environment and jobs.

"As far as jobs are concerned, a reservation process has already been provided. This is a unique reservation system for Ladakh, and there is no similar reservation system anywhere else in the country," he said. For the remaining issues, the Centre has conveyed that constitutional protection would be provided, he said.

"There are therefore some questions regarding the relationship between the LAHDC and the UT-level body—what powers would fall within the jurisdiction of the LAHDC and what powers would fall within the jurisdiction of the UT-level body," he said.

A list of eight to ten such questions was shared with the leaders at the meeting, who were asked to deliberate on them, consult among themselves and with the people before conveying their views to the government, Kundra added.

He stressed that the exercise involved a Constitutional Amendment and not an ordinary law and, therefore, required the requisite parliamentary majority and political consensus.

"A constitutional amendment requires a majority. Therefore, there has to be political consensus across political parties, including among the Members of Parliament who will be involved in the process," he said.

Kundra said the process would essentially have two stages, with major provisions incorporated through the constitutional amendment, followed by detailed legislation and regulations for Ladakh.

He said the proposed amendment would have to undergo the full parliamentary process.

He said legal drafting of the constitutional amendment bill would follow only after consensus was reached on the underlying principles.

"The central government does not want to impose any model that is not acceptable to the people. The intention is to move forward only after consultation and deliberation among everyone," he said.

ACB Arrests ASI for Accepting Rs 5,000 Bribe in Reasi

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) in Reasi district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000, officials said.

The accused, Talib Hussain, was allegedly demanding illegal gratification from a complainant for presenting a charge sheet against the accused persons in a case before a court, they said.

Following the complaint, the ACB conducted a discreet verification which corroborated the allegations of demand for bribe. Subsequently, a trap team headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police-rank officer was constituted, the officials said.

During the trap operation, Hussain was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting Rs 5,000 from the complainant, they said.

The bribe money was recovered from the possession of the accused in the presence of independent witnesses and he was arrested on the spot following due legal procedure, they said.

A case under the Prevention of corruption act has been registered against him by ACB. Further investigation into the case is underway, they added.

This is the second successful trap operation conducted by the ACB at Police Post Talwara in Reasi in 2026, the officials said.

Jal Shakti Department Finalises Reform Plan Under JJM 2.0

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jal Shakti Department of Jammu and Kashmir has finalised its Comprehensive Implementation and Reform Plan (CIRP) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, aimed at strengthening rural drinking water infrastructure and service delivery in the Union Territory.

The plan provides a time-bound operational framework for implementation of JJM 2.0, covering scheme-wise completion timelines, financial allocations, reform commitments and governance milestones, officials said.

The CIRP focuses on timely completion of ongoing water supply schemes, improved service delivery, operation and maintenance, source sustainability, water quality and institutional reforms.

Under the plan, all new schemes will be completed within the timelines prescribed by the National Jal Jeevan Mission, while retrofitting schemes will be completed using Union Territory resources.

Officials said the approach would help optimise existing infrastructure and improve the functionality and service delivery of rural water supply schemes.

To facilitate implementation, funds amounting to Rs 128 crore, including Rs 116 crore as the Central share and Rs 12 crore as the UT share, have been released to Public Health Engineering (PHE) divisions across Jammu and Kashmir.

The process for releasing payments against eligible works has also been initiated by the concerned divisions, officials said.

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER EXTRACTION DIVISION ANANTNAG

SHORT TERM QUOTATION.

Subject:- Invitation of Short Term Quotations for Extraction and Transportation of Converted Timber Stocks from Compartment No:- 54-L of Extraction Range Lidder:-

Sealed/ Short Term Quotations are hereby invited from "**Small & Dee**" FDC registered contractors for undertaking the work for Execution timber logging Operations Viz Extraction & Transportation of stocks available below mentioned Compartment of Extraction Range Lidder. The details of the Work is as under:-

S.No	Name of the Compartment	Description of Work	Volume in lakh cfts		Norms Rate	Estimated Contract	EMD required (In lacs)	Date of completion of work
			Std.	Convtd:				
1	54/L	Extraction & Transportation, Road upto Sales Depot Sangam.	0.010	0.006	Rs 85.50/ Cft.	0.513	0.010	11.2026

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- ► The Quotation shall be submitted in the Office of the undersigned by or before 15.09.2026.
- ► The intrested party must be registered with FDC/Forest Department
- ► The quotated Rate is inclusive of all operations upto Sales Depot Sangam.
- ► The contractor shall comply with all rules and regularisations of the FDC/Forest Department
- ► Payments shall be made on the actual quantity of the timber duly reconciled from the destinated quarters.
- ► The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason.
- ► The contractor shall complete the work within the prescribed time period of two months from the date of issuance of Work Order.

No:- 940-47 /DM/FDC/Ang/Esstt
Dated:- 09 /09/2026.

DIPK-NB-1597-26
DT: 10/09/2026

Sd/
Divisional Manager
JKFDC Ext. Division Anantnag

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF T-HE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION DOORU.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT 33 OF R&B/Dooru/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/2370-75 DATED 09-09-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of School Building for girls' middle school Mantipora	56.06 lacs (47.51+ 8.55)	1600	112120	9 months	District Capex (Health UT)	AAY Class only/
2	Construction of HWC at Shankerpora Verinag.	61.42 lacs (52.05+ 9.37)	1600	122840	10 months	District Capex (Elementary education)	AAY Class only/

Position of AAA ; Accorded.
Position of TS: Accorded.
The date of completion is subject to the availability of funds.

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		09-09-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	10-09-2026	(09:00 AM)
		To	21-09-2026	(06:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	10-09-2026	(09:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	21-09-2026	(06:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		22-09-2026	(11:30 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru.		

2. Bids must be accompanied with a Receipt of cost of Tender document/Tender Fee deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned in the Remarks of the Receipt/Transition ID or DC no (The Date of transaction should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and Receipt of EMD (2% of advertised Cost), also deposited in a Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account bearing No. 0470010200000099 (Division Name, NIT No. and Item No/ Name of Work to be mentioned in the Remarks of the Receipt. (The Date of receipt of EMD and Tender Fee should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date). The same EMD/Tender Fee receipt should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
3. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost). Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs500/-whichever is lowe b. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower

4. The Bid security amount of the successful Bidder shall, upon completion of the bidding process be transferred from single Centralized Designated Pooling Bank Account to Performance Security Deposit Head on Authorization from HoD during the currency of contract agreement including defect liability period. In addition, the differential amount of performance security shall be furnished by the Bidder in cash to the designated Authority. Failure to produce differential amount of Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
5. The rates quoted in the BOQ are exclusive of GST. GST @18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
6. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through 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 PWD(R&B) Division Dooru.
7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
34. Performance Security shall be released 60 Days after DLP is over successfully.
35. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

DIPK-5556-26
DT: 10/09/2026

(Er Mohd Ashraf Khan)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Dooru

Nationwide Bank Strike Today To Impact Banking Services

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Banking services like cash withdrawals and deposits at public sector banks will be impacted on Friday as unions have decided to go on strike to press for five-day banking and other pending demands.

With the strike, banking services, especially in public sector banks, would be impacted for four days in many parts of the country. September 11 is a Friday, and the subsequent two days are bank holidays.

September 14 is a holiday in some states for Ganesh Chaturthi.

Meanwhile, most public sector banks have informed their customers of the likely impact of the strike on operations.

In an advisory to customers, SBI said, "We advise that while the bank has made all necessary arrangements to ensure normal functioning of the branches and offices on the days of strike, it is likely that work in the Bank may be impacted by the strike".

UFBU, an umbrella body of seven bank employees' and officers' unions, has also threatened a three-day subsequent nationwide strike beginning September 28, coinciding with the half-yearly closure.

The issue of five-day banking has been pending for a long time, and even during conciliation meetings before the Chief Labour Commissioner, the government could not give any commitment on the introduction of 5-day banking.

Hence, the agitation has been forced on the unions due to the actions of the government and management, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) general secretary Rupam Roy said.

"A 5-day working week is already followed by central and state government offices, the RBI, LIC, GIC, NABARD and several other institutions. The stock market, money market and foreign exchange market also function on a 5-day basis," National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) general secretary L Chandrasekhar said.

The other residual demands, including updation and improvement of pension, a uniform dearness allowance formula for all pensioners and an option for employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS) to switch to the old pension scheme (OPS) also remained unresolved.

IMF Welcomes India's Efforts to Modernise Statistical Framework

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON- Amid the ongoing debate over the credibility of India's latest GDP estimates, the IMF has welcomed the country's efforts to modernise its statistical framework, saying the incorporation of a new Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Producer Price Index (PPI) series should help improve the accuracy of GDP estimates.

"The latest GDP release that we just talked about incorporated both a new index of industrial production, and a new producer price index series, and those two new series should help improve India's GDP estimates," Julie Kozack, Director of the Communications Department, IMF, said in response to a question from PTI.

She said the IMF welcomes these important steps that India is taking to modernise its macroeconomic statistics.

"We, of course, encourage the authorities to continue to further strengthen the statistical framework and data quality along the lines that they're progressing," Kozack said at the monthly briefing here.

She said India's real GDP in the second quarter grew by 7.8 per cent which was above the IMF's staff expectations, and also the consensus among other observers.

"This upward surprise was driven by stronger-than-expected activity in the services sector, and also in exports," Kozack said.

"I think what we would say is the outcome also underscores the resilience of the Indian economy, despite the energy price shock. And it also means that, as we've been saying for quite some time, that India does remain a key growth engine for the world," the IMF official said.

A political row broke out over the better than expected GDP growth figures – 7.8 per cent for the June quarter – released by the government which were contested by former Finance Secretary S C Garg.

Garg claimed the GDP data was artificially boosted by compressing the previous year's figures.

Garg claimed that the current prices GDP last year was Rs 86 lakh crore, which was revised down to Rs 80 lakh crore, and that had that not been done GDP growth would have been only 2.6 per cent.

The former finance secretary's claims were latched on by the opposition parties, who questioned the integrity of the government's GDP data.

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageshwaran termed Garg's approach as "cherry-picking" of data.

He said the latest GDP figures were compiled using the financial year ending in March 2023 as the new base, and a change in methodology led to revisions to last year's quarterly data.

Govt Amends E-Commerce Rules To Curb Price Manipulation, Dark Patterns

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- The government has amended the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, to tighten norms on price transparency, sponsored listings, search result manipulation and dark patterns, the Department of Consumer Affairs said on Thursday.

The Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, will come into force from January 1, 2027, it said in a statement.

Under the amended rules, e-commerce entities will have to disclose the reduced price and "prior price" whenever a price cut is announced. The prior price has been defined as the lowest price at which the product was offered in the 30 days before the discount was announced.

The rules bar e-commerce entities from manipulating search results that mislead users or affect the relevance of results to a search query.

Sponsored listings will have to be identified through clear and prominent disclosures, the statement said.

E-commerce entities will also be required to comply with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, undertake a yearly self-audit and display a certificate of compliance, the department added.

The amended rules mandate every e-commerce entity to become a partner in the convergence process of the National Consumer Helpline (NCH).

The department said the NCH received 17,71,622 grievances in 2025, of which 5,11,196, or about 29 per cent, related to the e-commerce sector. Every e-commerce entity will have to provide a complainant with a copy of the complaint as recorded by its grievance officer, the rules said.

Marketplace e-commerce entities will have to disclose key information such as best before or use before dates, and details on returns, refunds, warranty, delivery and payment, to help consumers make informed decisions, according to the rules.

For imported goods, the importer's details and country of origin will have to be disclosed, it said.

Apple's Foldable iPhone Duo Priced At ₹2.99 Lakh, Launching Oct 23

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- US smart devices major Apple on Wednesday unveiled its first-ever foldable smartphone iPhone Duo -- the most expensive mobile phone from the company's stable, which will be available in India from October 23 at a starting price of around Rs 3 lakh apiece, according to the company statement.

iPhone Duo is available in star white and night sky, and starts at Rs 2,99,900 in 256GB, 512GB, 1TB, and 2TB storage capacities.

"Customers in more than 70 countries and regions, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India...will be able to pre-order iPhone Duo beginning at 5 a.m. PT on Friday, October 16, with availability beginning Friday, October 23," the statement said.

The new edition of ultra premium iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max will be available in India from September 18 at starting price of Rs 1,64,900 and Rs 1,79,900 respectively, according to the statement.

Phone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max are available in four colours- black, silver, glacier, and an all-new burgundy.

"iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max will be available in 256GB, 512GB, 1TB, and 2TB storage capacities. Available in burgundy, glacier, silver, and black, iPhone 18 Pro starts at Rs 1,64,900 and iPhone 18 Pro Max starts at Rs 1,79,900," the company said in a statement.

The pre-booking of iPhone 18 series will start from September 12 across 65 countries including India.

RBI Guv Urges Fintechs To Treat Data As Fiduciary Responsibility

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday asked the fledgling fintech ecosystem not to treat data as a business asset but as a "fiduciary responsibility" to build trust.

Addressing the Global Fintech Fest here, Malhotra also cautioned against using gaps between regulatory categories to scale up and then seek forgiveness.

The comments from the central bank governor come amid increasing interest among the fintech ecosystem that places a lot of premium on data, increasing the ability of a business to grow, for which many also call "data as the new oil". "Treat data as a fiduciary responsibility, not a business asset," Malhotra said, adding that every fintech holds personal data of real people and the same should be treated the way a trustee treats assets held for a beneficiary.

Data has to be collected with a clear purpose, used strictly within the consent for which it is shared, and protected as though it is the fintech's own, the governor said.

"Where a firm treats customer data as a monetisable asset first and a responsibility second, trust erodes and once it does, it does not return easily," he warned.

On the issue of business structuring to exploit regulatory gaps, Malhotra reminded of tools like sandbox and pilot mechanisms and added that a firm that engages transparently not only earns regulatory goodwill but also gains faster, more durable pathways to scale.

"I would gently caution against a mindset of structuring a business around the gaps between regulatory categories, or of scaling first and seeking clarity or forgiveness later," the career bureaucrat-turned-central banker said.

Rules eventually catch up with a firm, which seeks to outrun them, leading to a much higher cost being paid by the entity itself and also by way of a dent in trust of customers it serves.

Malhotra also flagged that aspect of being diligent on investments in risks such as operational resilience, business continuity, and cybersecurity by firms that scale up in their size.

"As a firm's payment volumes, lending book, or user base grows to a point where its disruption could meaningfully affect the financial system, that firm acquires a responsibility that goes beyond its balance sheet or its shareholders. I would describe this as the obligation to be not just 'too big to fail' but 'too significant to be careless'," he explained.

Fintechs are outside the ambit of prudential regulation because regulation should not be a burden on early-stage innovation, Malhotra said.

There are also risks emanating from artificial intelligence adoption, he said, adding that issues such as opacity, bias and exclusion, concentration and herding, cybersecurity, data privacy and security, and erosion of human judgement must be mitigated.

Gold Snaps 3-Day Losing Streak, Rises ₹600 On Fresh Buying

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices rebounded after three sessions of losses, rising Rs 600 to Rs 1,58,600 per 10 gram in the national capital on Thursday on fresh buying by retailers and stockists.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 1.58 lakh per 10 gram in the previous session.

Silver also extended its rally for the third consecutive session, climbing by Rs 1,200 to Rs 2,44,600 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) from Wednesday's closing level of Rs 2,43,400 per kg, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

"Gold and silver are edging higher as market participants await US Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) numbers, scheduled for release on Friday, for clues on the Federal Reserve's September policy decision," said Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at brokerage platform Lemonn.

However, overseas markets turned cautious ahead of the inflation data, with spot gold falling USD 61.29, or 1.4 per cent, to USD 4,340.71 an ounce and silver tumbling 6 per cent to USD 64.54.

"Gold slipped under USD 4,400 and silver eased below USD 66 an ounce on Thursday as investors turned cautious ahead of the inflation print that will shape the Fed's September 15-16 decision," said Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities.

Crude extended its advance into Thursday's session too, with Brent near USD 102.5 a barrel, its highest since May, and WTI around USD 96.5, as the US-Iran conflict showed no sign of easing, she said.

Chainwala added that rising crude prices fuelled inflationary pressures and weighed on bullion rates globally.

Markets Recover After 3-Day Fall, Sensex Gains On Bank Stocks

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Snapping their three-session losing streak, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty edged higher on Thursday amid fag-end stock-specific buying despite the cautious market undertone.

However, elevated crude oil prices above the USD 100-per-barrel mark, amid persistent geopolitical tensions, kept risk appetite subdued throughout the day, traders said.

The market remained range-bound for the most part of the session as investors kept their exposure lower.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 138.36 points, or 0.19 per cent, to settle at 74,902.59 on last-minute buying. During the day, it hit a high of 74,910.96 and a low of 74,598.47.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 46.30 points, or 0.20 per cent, to end at 23,477.80.

"Indian equities ended marginally higher on Thursday, shrugging off weak global cues and Brent crude hovering near USD 102 a barrel, as selective buying in financials and oil & gas stocks offset broader caution," Hariselvan Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a Research Analyst firm, said.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Power Grid, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, and Larsen & Toubro were the major winners.

HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Trent, and ITC were among the laggards.

Apple iPhone 18 Pro, iPhone 18 Pro Max To Hit India On Sep 18

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The new edition of ultra premium iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max will be available in India from September 18 at a starting price of Rs 1,64,900 and Rs 1,79,900 respectively, the company said on Wednesday.

iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max are available in four colours - black, silver, glacier, and an all-new burgundy.

"iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max will be available in 256GB, 512GB, 1TB, and 2TB storage capacities. Available in burgundy, glacier, silver, and black, iPhone 18 Pro starts at Rs 1,64,900 and iPhone 18 Pro Max starts at Rs 1,79,900," the company said in a statement.

The pre-booking of iPhone 18 series will start from September 12 across 65 countries, including India.

"Customers in more than 65 countries and regions, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India...will be able to pre-order iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max beginning at 5 am PT this Saturday, September 12, with availability beginning Friday, September 18," the statement said. Apple has been posting record performance in India.

Apple's revenue in India is estimated to have crossed USD 10 billion due to record shipments of iPhone in FY26.

In Indian rupee terms, it was somewhere close to the Rs 1 lakh crore revenue mark. According to Counterpoint research, Apple's iPhone shipments for FY26 grew to 14 million units, up 24 per cent year-on-year. The iPhone accounts for the majority of Apple's revenue in India.

Apple Delays Watch Series 12 Hypertension Alert In India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- US technology major Apple has delayed the hypertension notification feature on Watch Series 12 in India to next year pending regulatory clearances, the company said on Wednesday.

Apple has opened pre-order options for customers across several markets including India, with the Watch Series 12 to become available across stores from September 18, at starting price of Rs 56,900 a piece.

"Hypertension notifications will not be initially available in India on Apple Watch Series 12 or Ultra 4, as additional regulatory clearances for the feature for these models is in process. Availability is expected next year," the company said in a statement.

Apple Watch Series 12 comes with higher-frequency heart rate and heart rate variability (HRV) measurements that powers an enhanced suite of health and fitness features including a new readiness score.

Apple Watch come with several advanced health and fitness tracking features such as workout tracking, sleep tracking, heart health notifications, the ECG app, sleep apnea notifications, fall detection, and emergency SOS.

The company claims Apple Watch Series 12 offers up to 24 hours of everyday battery life and up to 10 hours of battery life during an outdoor workout -- 25 per cent more than the previous model.

Need More Indian Suppliers In Global Aerospace Sector: Naidu

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Indian aviation sector offers immense opportunities for MSMEs, and efforts are underway to have more Indian suppliers in the global aerospace market, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said on Thursday.

Global aerospace players have a strong interest in India's aviation sector, Naidu said and highlighted that Indian airlines have placed orders for over 1,600 aircraft.

Speaking at a conference organised by industry body CII in the national capital, the minister also said that India cannot be just a place for assembling aerospace components but a place for designing, certifying and manufacturing the components.

India is the world's third largest domestic aviation market.

Naidu said the country's aerospace and defence market is poised to nearly double from over USD 30 billion in 2025 to USD 61 billion by 2035.

Also, the commercial aviation fleet is expected to more than double to around 2,050 aircraft, creating a massive opportunity for Indian manufacturers and MSMEs to become part of global aerospace supply chains, he said.

According to Naidu, Indian airlines have an order book of 1,640 aircraft, which would translate into an estimated 80 crore parts and components that we need to manufacture. "Globally, Airbus and Boeing together have orders for over 15,000 commercial aircraft, and this is not just about what is coming to India.

Ladakh Groups Disappointed as MHA Meet Yields No UT Draft

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Ladakh groups on Wednesday expressed disappointment after a meeting with the MHA sub-committee, saying the government failed to produce the much-awaited draft on a proposed elected body for the Union Territory.

Climate activist and Leh Apex Body (LAB) member Sonam Wangchuk said there has been "no special progress" since the May 22 meeting.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) members said they had come to Delhi expecting the Ministry of Home Affairs to place before them a draft outlining the structure, powers and other details of the proposed elected UT-level body.

Instead, Wangchuk said, the delegation was given a list of questions for discussion at the next meeting.

"People had lots of expectations because four months have passed since the last meeting. And there was a lot of time with the MHA. A lot of work could have been done in the meantime. But today the draft also did not come in front of us," Wangchuk said after the meeting.

"In fact, a list of questions came, which we will discuss in the next meeting. It was a kind of joke," he said.

Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra, however, described the meeting in positive terms, saying it involved a discussion on a governance model based on Article 371 of the Constitution.

Wangchuk said the meeting essentially reiterated the understanding reached during the May 22 discussions that Ladakh would have an assembly, direct delimitation and elections.

"Whatever happened on 22nd May, there will be an assembly, direct delimitation and elections. Those things were repeated. No special progress was made," he said.

KDA representative Sajjad Kargili said the delegation had expected the draft to be ready.

"We had come from Ladakh with the hope that a draft would be ready for creating the UT-level elected body, an issue on which there is a consensus. We were hoping that the talks would go forward from there… But unfortunately, we were disappointed," he said.

Kargili said the meeting had reiterated that the proposed UT-level body would be elected, with separate delimitation and constituencies. They were also assured of constitutional safeguards covering land, mining, identity, culture and languages.

"However, we will consider these things satisfactory only when a draft of this will reach us and on that draft, we will see whether these things are coming down to the ground or not."

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

NHM Strike

status and future security continue to remain uncertain. We want a policy-based solution rather than repeated assurances," a protesting employee said.

Another employee said the agitation was not merely about an increase in salary but about securing basic service and social-security rights.

"Many of us have given years of our lives to the Health Department. We are demanding a fair remuneration structure, job security and benefits that can provide some financial protection to our families," the employee said.

The Joint Coordination Committee announced the 72-hour strike following its September 5 meeting, after the expiry of an ultimatum to the government without what employees described as a concrete or satisfactory response.

The employees said the latest agitation was preceded by repeated representations, meetings and assurances, but these had failed to produce a comprehensive policy addressing their concerns.

NHM employees had also observed a 48-hour strike earlier this year over similar demands.

The employees said the latest strike was undertaken only after other avenues of dialogue failed to yield a concrete resolution.

They appealed to the administration to initiate meaningful negotiations and resolve their demands through a time-bound mechanism.

"We do not want confrontation with the government. We want a written and sustainable solution to the issues that have remained pending for years. If our concerns are addressed seriously, there will be no reason to continue the agitation," another protesting employee said. (KNO)

IFFJK Concludes

Kashmir and partners in what we are trying to build," he said.

Festival creates connections across generations of filmmakers

Omar said 120 films from more than 30 countries were screened during the festival, but its deeper value lay in the connections created between filmmakers, young talent and audiences.

"A young writer meeting a director, an aspiring filmmaker learning from a professional or two people meeting here who may one day make a film together," he said.

He congratulated those recognised during the festival and thanked the jury, filmmakers, delegates and members of the film fraternity who participated in the inaugural edition.

Kashmir's cinematic memory returns to the screen

Recalling his remarks at the opening of the festival about Jammu and Kashmir's long association with cinema, Omar said the past few evenings had witnessed something special as films that shaped Kashmir's visual memory were screened again in the region.

"Those films and others from that era have returned to Dal Lake," he said.

He said films including Junglee, Arzoo, Kashmir Ki Kali and Kabhi Kabhie had been screened against the very landscapes that helped make them memorable.

"For decades, Kashmir travelled to audiences through a cinema screen. This week, in a sense, the screen came back to Kashmir," Omar said.

However, he said nostalgia could not define the future of Jammu and Kashmir's film industry.

He said J&K had far more to offer cinema than its landscapes, with stories rooted in its cities, towns and villages, as well as its languages, literature, music, craft, history and everyday lives.

"Our landscapes may bring filmmakers here, but our stories, our people and our professional filmmaking environment can bring them back," he said.

Young talent at the heart of J&K's film ambitions

The Chief Minister called for a two-way relationship with the film industry, saying Jammu and Kashmir should welcome filmmakers from India and across the world while creating opportunities for local talent to find audiences and collaborators beyond the region.

"At the heart of this must be investment in our young people," he said, describing their participation in the festival as particularly encouraging.

Omar said the success of IFFJK a decade from now should not be measured merely by the number of films screened or personalities attending, but by the careers launched, opportunities and collaborations created and the stories from Jammu and Kashmir that reach audiences across India and the world.

He said the presence of filmmakers and artists had given the inaugural edition its stature and expressed hope that the inspiration and opportunities created through the festival would help a new generation from Jammu and Kashmir find its place in cinema.

Omar seeks year-round platform for cinema

Omar said IFFJK should grow beyond a four-day annual event into a continuous platform for screening, learning, training and collaboration throughout the year.

"Government can provide a platform and an enabling environment, but a vibrant film culture must be sustained by the creative community itself," he said.

He said the future of the festival should be shaped by what organisers had learned from participants and audiences during its inaugural edition.

Film industry can drive jobs and local capabilities

Highlighting the wider economic potential of cinema, the Chief Minister said filmmaking could support professionals, local services, artists, jobs and businesses.

"Films coming to Jammu and Kashmir should therefore leave behind not only valuable images but also skills, employment and stronger local capabilities," he said.

He said the benefits of filmmaking should extend beyond the images captured on screen and contribute to building stronger local skills and professional capabilities.

Omar invites filmmakers to return to J&K

Addressing visiting filmmakers, actors and delegates, Omar extended an invitation to return to Jammu and Kashmir.

"Come back to shoot, write, teach, collaborate and discover more of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said the mountains and lakes may bring filmmakers to the region once, but the experience of working in Jammu and Kashmir, along with its stories and people, should encourage them to return.

Young storytellers urged to tell authentic local stories

Addressing young filmmakers and storytellers, Omar urged them to learn the craft, experiment and begin telling stories from their neighbourhoods, villages, families and generations.

"Some of cinema's most powerful voices are intimate and local. What matters is that the voice be authentic and the craft remain strong," he said.

He said the participation of young people in the festival had demonstrated the potential for a new generation of filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir.

Reflecting on the setting of the closing ceremony, Omar said Dal Lake had for centuries reflected the mountains, sky and changing seasons around it, while cinema had reflected the spirit of the world.

"Perhaps the opportunity before us now is for Jammu and Kashmir increasingly to reflect itself through cinema, to tell its own stories, its own voices with confidence and to share them with audiences across India and the world," he said.

He said this would allow Jammu and Kashmir not only to be represented on screen by others but also to tell its own stories and present its own voices to audiences across the country and the world.

Festival closes, but the larger journey begins

Omar said the curtain had come down on the first edition of IFFJK but expressed hope that it would not mark the end of the idea behind the festival.

He said if filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir were, years from now, participating in festivals across the world, the first IFFJK could be remembered as the beginning of that journey.

The Chief Minister thanked the filmmakers, artists, jury members, delegates, young filmmakers and audiences for being part of the inaugural festival and expressed hope of welcoming them back to Jammu and Kashmir.

Diverse programmes bring global and regional cinema together

The festival featured a diverse cinematic programme, including International Competition, Best Debut Director, Jammu & Kashmir Select, Bharat Panorama, Cinema of the World, Documentary/Hybrid and Short Films.

It also included masterclasses, in-conversation sessions, panel discussions, special screenings and retrospectives.

The programme covered areas including direction and screenplay, cinematography, editing, acting, sound, animation and AI, documentary filmmaking, regional cinema, industry development and co-production.

These sessions provided opportunities for interaction between established professionals and emerging filmmakers.

The festival opened on September 7 with Dead Dog, directed by Sarah Francis of Lebanon, while the closing film, Simsim, directed by Sondos Al-Smerat of Jordan, was screened at INOX Srinagar on Thursday afternoon.

The festival also featured the Floating Cinema programme, with screenings of films including Junglee, Kashmir Ki Kali, Arzoo and Kabhi Kabhie, adding a distinctive public-facing element to the programme.

Usha Uthup, Gulzar Ganie add musical note to closing

The closing ceremony was marked by a performance by veteran singer Usha Uthup, who enthralled the audience with her distinctive voice and energetic stage presence.

Adding a strong Kashmiri cultural touch to the evening, singer Gulzar Ganie performed the Kashmiri Sufi kalam "Yaar Doad Naar Khoth", penned by renowned Kashmiri poet and Sufi figure Wahab Khar.

The performance drew an enthusiastic response from the audience and added a local musical flavour to the closing celebrations.

With its inaugural edition, IFFJK brought international cinema to Jammu and Kashmir while placing the region's own stories, talent, culture and creative potential at the centre of its larger filmmaking ambitions.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and other dignitaries attended the closing ceremony of the event.

J&K Can Flourish

India was emerging as a major global hub for media, digital content and virtual reality, and highlighted government initiatives aimed at strengthening the creative economy.

He referred to initiatives including the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) and programmes supporting content creators and film production.

Emphasising the need to equip young people with industry-relevant skills, Murugan said the focus was on nurturing talent, strengthening industry linkages and providing quality infrastructure and opportunities.

He noted the growing participation of Jammu and Kashmir's youth in filmmaking, scriptwriting and digital storytelling and expressed hope that the festival would create new opportunities for local talent and foster greater collaboration with the wider creative industry.

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Chanchal Kumar said Jammu and Kashmir's landscapes, literature, music and traditions offered significant potential to position the Union Territory as a destination for filmmakers and a hub for creative enterprises.

He said the region's cinematic journey could be strengthened by connecting local talent with filmmakers, producers, mentors and audiences across India and the world.

"From Dal Lake to the landscapes of Poonch, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir have given Indian cinema some of its most memorable images," he said.

He said people in the region have grown up watching films depicting Kashmir and its landscapes, while the opening of Kashmir's first multiplex in 2022 marked a revival of the theatre experience. "Hosting an international film festival adds a promising new chapter to the journey," Kumar said.

He said J&K's cinematic potential also lies in its people, literature, music and traditions, with stories rooted in Kashmiri, Dogri, Gujjar and Pahari cultures having the potential to enrich Indian cinema and connect with audiences across the world. "Our aspiration is to see Jammu and Kashmir flourish both as a film destination and as a home for filmmakers, writers, technicians and theatre enterprises," he said.

Kumar said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, is looking at opportunities for young talent in J&K to develop skills, focus on original work and connect with the industry.

Referring to the World Audiovisual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), he said the government organised WAVES 2025 last year and, as a vertical of the initiative, the Create in India Challenge brings together competitions across fields including filmmaking, animation and music, along with opportunities for mentoring and industry exposure.

"Young creators from Jammu and Kashmir can use these platforms to develop and showcase works inspired by their language, folklore, music and everyday experience and gain recognition beyond the region," Kumar said.

He also encouraged young people from Kashmir to explore opportunities at the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Mumbai, and stressed the need to take such opportunities closer to youth through outreach programmes, workshops and guidance.

Kumar said professional film productions involving local talent as trainees and crew members could provide practical exposure and help strengthen their skills.

He expressed hope that the International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir would evolve into a sustained platform where local stories could connect with producers, creative talent with mentors and promising projects with new opportunities. (ONS)

August 2026

surpassed the previous August record of 20.98 degrees Celsius recorded in 2023.

The observatory said a strong El Niño was developing over the tropical Pacific, adding further warmth to oceans that have already experienced decades of warming due to human-driven climate change.

The latest data underline the continued rise in global temperatures and ocean heat amid persistent greenhouse gas emissions.

SC Collegium

will be issued by the competent authority.

Private School

would bring a resolution before the Assembly seeking withdrawal of the Teacher Eligibility Test for teachers in Jammu and Kashmir, while also promising action on other concerns raised by educators.

At the university auditorium, the discussion soon moved beyond approvals and paperwork to the people running the schools.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, vice chancellor of the University of Kashmir, praised PSAJK for creating a platform specifically for women school leaders and edupreneurs. She described the initiative as an important step toward women's empowerment, emancipation and leadership in education, and recognised the commitment of women educators involved in building institutions and educating children.

Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, president of PSAJK, said the association wanted the gathering to become the beginning of a larger movement.

"Women Edupreneurs Connect is our humble attempt to celebrate their success, recognise their leadership and provide them with a platform where they can connect, learn, collaborate and inspire one another," he said.

The programme brought together women education leaders for sessions on leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, early childhood education, professional management and the National Education Policy 2020.

The NOC proposal carried the clearest consequence. Yatoo has given the private-school sector an assurance and a possible route to fewer approvals. The next test comes in the Assembly, where the proposed three-clearance system must take formal shape.

Women running schools could then spend less time seeking permissions and more time running their institutions.

Stay Vigilant, Respond

under challenging conditions.

The DGP directed the security personnel to remain vigilant and maintain close and effective coordination with all concerned agencies to ensure a prompt response to any potential security threat.

He stressed that maintaining a robust security grid in sensitive and strategically important areas was crucial for safeguarding peace and public order.

Shah Calls For

Executive Director Madhup Vyas welcomed the Home Minister and highlighted the institute's efforts in strengthening training, capacity building, research and knowledge development in disaster management.

During the meeting, Shah interacted with senior officials and members of the institute and reviewed NIDM's work in disaster management, training and capacity building.

The meeting was attended by Home Secretary Govind Mohan, NDMA Member and Head Krishna S. Vatsa, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Anuj Sharma, and other senior officials and members of the institute.

Those present included Agriculture Secretary Atish Chandra, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Naresh Pal Gangwar, Earth Sciences Secretary T. Srinivasa Kumar, and senior representatives of NDMA.

Assam Additional Chief Secretary L. Sweety Changsan, NDRF Director General Piyush Anand, India Meteorological Department Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, University of Delhi Vice-Chancellor Prof Yogesh Singh and Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, B. Rajender, also attended the meeting.

According to NIDM, the visit provided guidance towards strengthening the institute's contribution to disaster risk reduction, preparedness and building a safer and more disaster-resilient India.

J&K Plans 482-Cr

trained youth.

He called for closer collaboration between the government, industry and training institutions in designing courses and training programmes, saying the objective should be to align ITIs more closely with industry requirements.

Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, gave a detailed presentation on the proposed institutional architecture, funding pattern, upgradation plan and implementation roadmap.

The scheme will follow an industry-led implementation framework through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), facilitating industry participation in institutional governance, course selection, technology adoption, training and placement.

The training programmes will focus on areas including advanced and smart manufacturing, heavy engineering and automotive, electricals, electronics and telecom, process industries and food processing, textiles, garments, construction and building interiors, besides other emerging sectors with employment potential in Jammu and Kashmir.

The financial architecture envisages 74.7 per cent contribution from the Central Government, 8.3 per cent from the UT Government and 17 per cent from Anchor Industry Partners.

The prescribed baseline parameters for participating companies include an average annual turnover of at least 200 crore during the preceding three financial years, positive net worth and a regular workforce of 500 or more employees.

Dulloo said the success of PM-SETU would ultimately be measured by its ability to create a steady pipeline of industry-ready skilled manpower and connect J&K youth with better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Statutory Obligation

song, questioning whether the Congress wanted people in Kashmir to face legal consequences over the issue.

He said the National Conference had neither adopted the full song nor objected to any future decision by the Congress to revoke the provision.

"When the Congress comes to power, and I pray the Congress comes to power as soon as possible, they can revoke this in Parliament. Let them do it, we have no objection," Abdullah said.

He added that whatever the party's legal and statutory obligations were, they had to be fulfilled.

On criticism of NC spokesperson and Zadibal MLA Tanvir Sadiq over his remarks about poverty in Kashmir under the Dogra rule, Abdullah defended his party colleague and said the remarks were rooted in historical accounts.

Abdullah said Sadiq's comments were intended to highlight the level of poverty from which Kashmir had emerged, citing historian Walter Lawrence and other historical accounts.

"This is not Tanvir's personal opinion; it is a historical fact," he said, adding that Kashmir had since progressed in education and other fields.

The chief minister also accused the BJP and PDP of playing a "fixed match" by taking up common issues against the NC.

On the ongoing International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said the government's focus was to create opportunities for local youth in filmmaking by offering courses in camera work, production and related fields.

He said the government also wanted more films to be shot in Jammu and Kashmir so that local youth could get employment opportunities in the industry.

On protests by Kashmiri Pandit employees over accommodation, Abdullah said transit accommodation had been allotted wherever it was ready and maintained that no employee was homeless or living on the streets.

"If there is one or two individuals who need accommodation, let them inform us. Everyone else has been allotted housing," he said.

On the BRICS summit in New Delhi, Abdullah said the participation of leaders from major countries was a positive development and said the government would watch the proceedings.

Asked about the scheduled meeting of the Council of Ministers, he said the government holds a cabinet meeting at least once every month and that there was nothing extraordinary on the agenda requiring attention.

'Historical Fact'

by historians and were not Tanvir's personal opinion.

"What Tanvir said is historically accurate. He does not need to apologise or clarify what he said," Omar said.

He said Walter Lawrence and several other historians had written about Jammu and Kashmir, particularly about the poverty of Kashmiris and the manner in which people were trapped under the system of Zaildars, Chakdars and landlords.

"People did not have money. Tanvir did not talk about this first. Maybe there is a senior National Conference leader, from our President to General Secretary and others, who did not talk about this," Omar said.

"There was a time when Kashmiris were so poor that they had to come to the city with their pyjamas from the mosque. This is not Tanvir's own thinking. This is a historical fact," he added.

The Chief Minister said Tanvir's intention was perhaps to highlight the progress Kashmiris had made from those difficult circumstances, saying people were now educating their children and producing doctors and engineers.

He alleged that the BJP and PDP were playing the same "match" and had a common agenda in raising the issue.

"Tanvir does not need to apologise for this. Nor does he need to give any clarification. Nor does my party need to apologise for this. Tanvir did not do anything wrong," he said.

On the Congress objecting to the singing of the full stanzas of Vande Mataram, Omar said the government had to comply with the existing law and statutory obligations. "We have to follow the law. If Congress comes to power, they can repeal the law. But as long as the law exists, we have to follow it," he said.

Omar said the function involving two Governors, the Lieutenant Governor and the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court would necessarily have the National Anthem, while the existing provisions also require the full stanzas of Vande Mataram wherever the National Anthem is played at government functions.

He said the provision was not limited to Jammu and Kashmir but applied across the country, including Congress-ruled states. "If this does not happen, then people who do not stand on full stanzas, legal action can be taken against them. So what does the Congress want? For Kashmiris to be imprisoned with this excuse? This is a statutory obligation," he said.

On the film festival, the Chief Minister reiterated that the government is trying to create opportunities for local youth in filmmaking and production. "I said on the first day itself that we are trying to get our local kids to do camera work, production, all these things. They should do courses in this. And there should be film shootings here," he said.

Shafali Steers India To Women's Asia Cup Final

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Shafali Verma lived a charmed life for her stroke filled 64 off 40 balls as India marched into yet another Women's Asia Cup final with a comfortable 40-run win over Bangladesh here on Thursday.

On a slow surface where batting was a struggle for majority of the batters, Shafali stood out with her fluent effort to take India to 149 for six. The Indian opener was dropped as many as three times and she duly made Bangladesh pay for those mistakes.

Considering the conditions and India's bowling resources, the seven-time champions were expected to defend the target and they did rather comfortably, limiting Bangladesh to 109 for 7 in 20 overs.

Bangladesh never threatened India despite the aggressive intent of opener Juairiya Ferdous (14 off 18). Eventually Ferdous and her opening partner Dilara Akter (21 off 26) fell while attempting to clear the mid-wicket boundary. Kranti Gaud's running catch to get ride of Akter was a brilliant effort on an otherwise ordinary day for the fielders.

Like the last game, Pratika Rawal dropped a couple of catches.

The Indian spin trio of Deepti Sharma (3/26), Shree Charani (1/14) and Prema Rawat (1/21) too delivered in spin friendly conditions.

It has been a low scoring tournament mainly due to the slow nature of the pitches here. Considering that and Bangaldesh's batting, India knew deep down they had got enough on the board.

They play either Pakistan or Sri Lanka in the final scheduled for Sunday.

With seven titles (four in 50-over and three T20s), India are the most successful team in the tournament. They had a suffered a shocking loss to Sri Lanka in the previous edition.

Earlier, the Bangladesh bowling attack, which has been impressive in the tournament, was able to keep the accomplished Indian batters quiet for majority of the innings.

In total, four dropped catches let Bangladesh down else India would have struggled to get past the 120-run mark.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur (24 not out off 28), usually a good player of spin, struggled for majority of her innings only managing four runs off her first 16 balls.

Shafali single-handedly steered India to a competitive total notwithstanding her remarkable stroke of luck, having been dropped on 6, 11 and 56. While the batters in the top four batted at a sub 100 strike rate, Shafali ended with an impressive strike rate of 160 that included three sixes off the spinners.

The destructive opener played her shots all around the park and her innings included a front foot pull off pacer Marufa Akter, reverse sweep and massive hits down the ground off the spinners.

India did well to reach 45 for one in the powerplay but could not accelerate in the middle overs.

India's new number three Pratika Rawal (20 off 24) has been under pressure in the tournament but on Thursday she made a sizzling start, a copy book cover drive off Akter. Later in her innings, she came out of the crease to hit a six before falling to the same bowler.

Richa Ghosh (21 off 16) too was slow to get off the blocks but managed to add valuable runs. Skipper Harmanpreet redeemed herself with a couple of sixes towards the end.

'Absolute Champion' Mohammed Shami Not Being Neglected, Asserts Sourav Ganguly

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Former captain Sourav Ganguly on Thursday dismissed the suggestion that out-of-favour veteran pacer Mohammed Shami is being "neglected" by the Indian selectors, insisting that the veteran pacer “has played a lot” and remains “an absolute champion”.

Shami has been out of the national team since the Champions Trophy 2025, where he played a key role in India’s title-winning campaign. The 36-year-old pacer has since continued to turn out in domestic cricket, including helping East Zone win the Duleep Trophy after 13 years on Thursday.

“What makes me happy for Shami is that he turns out day in and day out in domestic cricket and performs. It is terrific to see. He has achieved so much," Ganguly said.

Asked about Shami’s chances of making a comeback for the 2027 ODI World Cup, Ganguly said it was too early to make a prediction.

“That's a long way. I can't comment. It's in October (next year). It's a long way," he said.

Ganguly also pushed back when asked about Shami being neglected by the senior men's selection panel, drawing a parallel with his own experience of being left out of India’s World Cup plans despite having scored more than 10,000 international runs.

“He is not being neglected. He has played a lot. He is an absolute champion. But as you grow older, this happens. When I got left out from World Cup one-day cricket for a year, after scoring 10,000 runs, I found my way to come back. So this happens with everyone.”

Talking to reporters at the Eden Gardens, the CAB president further congratulated the East Zone side for winning the Duleep Trophy after a long wait.

Ganguly optimistic about Ishan's Test comeback

Ganguly also hailed East Zone skipper Ishan Kishan for his performances in the Duleep Trophy and backed the wicketkeeper-batter to target a return to Test cricket.

“I spoke to Kishan this afternoon. It's terrific and remarkable. Every young player wants to play Test cricket, and hopefully he will. He played exceptionally well in all the finals of the Vijay Hazare, Syed Mushtaq Ali, and Duleep Trophy.”

“If he performs, I think for every young player Test cricket should be important. They must want to play Test cricket and hopefully he will. He gets runs in big matches.... Vijay Hazare final, Mushtaq final, Duleep Trophy final.”

Kishan last played Test cricket for India against the West Indies in July 2023.

Absolute Transparency In Cab: Ganguly Hits Back At Age-Check, Ticketing Rows Ahead Of AGM

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: With the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) annual general meeting and elections approaching on September 24, it's president Sourav Ganguly has hit back at the controversies surrounding the state association, defending its age-verification process and World Cup ticket distribution system.

Elections for the posts of secretary, joint secretary and an Apex Council members will be held at the AGM, with September 16 the deadline for filing nominations.

The run-up to the elections has seen allegations of irregularities in Bengal cricket, including over age discrepancies and complimentary World Cup tickets.

BJP MLA from Kashipur-Belgachia Ritesh Tiwari had alleged corruption in the Bengal cricket administration and questioned Ganguly's responsibility as CAB president.

Responding to the allegations, the former BCCI president in a media interaction at the Eden Gardens said he had known Tiwari since 2017 and insisted that CAB had a transparent system to deal with age discrepancies.

"I have known Ritesh Babu for a long time. Since 2017. He loves cricket. Keep track of cricket on the field. The award ceremony was held last year. Not this year. This is the first time that the BCCI has introduced the Aadhaar update system. On the 27th of last month, the BCCI held an age verification seminar," Ganguly said.

"Representatives of all state agencies go. Many people from the KMC have also played with fake birth certificates. Age is a problem in all sports. Football, cricket – all sports."

"The CAB has a transparent set of rules for verification of age. Rohit Yadav has been dropped from the national team. We didn't include Rohit and Ravi Kumar in the probable squad.

"Not only them, but many players who have reached the age limit, have been dropped. It will be verified every year. The CAB has a 10-member verification cell. Those who are caught are not allowed to play."

On whether CAB could act against networks involved in obtaining fraudulent documents, Ganguly said the association's role was limited to verification and exclusion.

"CAB can't do anything. The CAB can only verify and exclude it. I don't know where they come from, whether they get fake certificates from KMC or from hospitals or boroughs. The CAB will not be able to reach that far," he said.

"But if submitted, it will be captured in the Aadhaar update system. No one will be spared. The CAB has 10 people on salary for this job. They're checking everything."

Ganguly also addressed allegations surrounding the distribution of complimentary tickets for the World Cup, insisting that CAB had followed BCCI and ICC guidelines.

"Whatever happened was in accordance with the rules. Complimentary tickets in CAB are happening for last 30 years and it has continued to do so.

"Even when the Test match against South Africa was held this year, CAB followed its old policy of giving tickets to its honorary associate and life members plus the exact amount of complimentary tickets required to be distributed to various agencies," he said.

"But in case of World Cup, that does not exist because there is a strict guideline by the BCCI and ICC saying that if you have to host matches, this is what the guidelines are.

"We distribute tickets in a transparent manner. Various controversies are being created in the name of CAB with the elections ahead. We know who or what is doing it."

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