







YOUNG FILMMAKERS

Jammu & Kashmir

Share your original short film, Showcase your creative vision
IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition 2026



DIPK-4917/26 Dated: 22.08.2026



Scan to Register



www.iffjk.org

LG Sinha calls on PM Modi in New Delhi

Presents Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan Coffee Table Book, discusses key issues



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 22: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, on Saturday called on Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and presented the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan – 100 Days Campaign Coffee Table Book to him.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the book designed, curated and published by DIPR J&K, captured | [More on P6](#)

J&K power tariff hiked by 6.83%

Rs 500 crore extra burden on consumers

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Aug 22: Consumers in Jammu and Kashmir will have to pay more for electricity consumption as the power regulator for J&K has approved a 6.83% average hike in tariff across the Union Territory.

In an order, a copy of which is in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) approved a 6.83% average increase in power tariff-1.83% higher than what was proposed by the power distribution utilities.

In their separate petitions, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC) and the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC) had sought a 5% hike in electricity tariff.



The JERC justified the increase on the grounds that there was still a revenue gap of Rs 502 crore even after Rs 2420.78 crore in financial support committed by the J&K Government as subsidy under Section 65 of the Electricity

Act, 2003.

According to the order, the revised tariff will raise revenue to Rs 7854.94 crore, up from Rs 7352.87 crore at the existing rates, while the remaining unmet gap of Rs 2420.78 crore will be covered through

government grant-in-aid.

The Commission noted that the government's financial support helped avert a tariff shock to consumers. "If this entire gap was to be met through tariff alone, the hike would have been around 40%, which would have resulted in a tariff shock to consumers," the order stated.

As per JERC order, the new rates would be applicable to all consumers from September 01, 2026.

"The tariff and terms and conditions approved shall continue to apply until issuance of the next Tariff Order or until further orders of the Commission, unless amended, modified or extended earlier by an Order of the Commission," the order stated.

The JERC further directed KPDC and | [More on P6](#)

What happened to 200 free units: Opposition

Trade bodies call it 'betrayal', say hike will hit J&K economy, businesses

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 22: The 6.83 percent hike in electricity tariff has drawn sharp criticism from opposition leaders, a ruling party MP, and the business community, who questioned the government's unfulfilled promise of 200 units of free electricity to households.

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the J&K Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma termed the

hike a "betrayal" of the people, saying the NC came to power with a clear promise to provide 200 units of free electricity to every household.

"The NC government promised 200 units of free electricity to every household. But instead of fulfilling that commitment, people are now facing an increase in electricity tariffs. This is not relief; it is a betrayal of the trust placed in the government," Sharma said as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

Cross-Border Terror Conspiracy Case

NIA searches 10 locations across Kashmir

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 22: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at 10 locations across Srinagar, Kupwara, Anantnag, Pulwama and Budgam Districts as part of its ongoing investigation into a cross-border terror conspiracy case involving Pakistan-based handlers and a network of local Over Ground Workers (OGWs) accused of providing logistical and other support to infiltrated terrorists.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a NIA spokesman said, "The searches were aimed at recovering further

documentary, digital and material evidence linked to the conspiracy and determining the roles of individuals allegedly associated with the local support network."

"The case, which originated from FIR No. 0024/2026 registered at Police Station Zakoora, Srinagar, was subsequently re-registered by the NIA as RC-02/2026/NIA/JMU under Section 23 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Sections 7 and 25 of the Arms Act, 1959, and Section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908," the statement said, adding "The investigation began following the arrest of an alleged OGW | [More on P6](#)

IIM Jammu needs to convert its growth into new discoveries: LG Manoj Sinha

Attends institute's 10 years celebration, asks graduates to build something real before they leave campus

KT News Desk

Jammu, Aug 22: Stating that Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu needs to convert its growth into new discoveries, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday said the institute should define its own bold and distinctive ideas to turn the boardrooms of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh region into living case studies.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) LG Sinha joined the



Board of Governors, faculty, students, alumni and dignitaries today to celebrate 10 years

of IIM Jammu. While addressing the gathering LG Sinha | [More on P6](#)

Rain brings brief relief in J&K, MeT predicts more showers

Jammu records highest maximum temp at 32.7°C

Gulmarg coolest at 20.8°C; scattered showers forecast through Aug 28

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Aug 22: Intermittent rain lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, bringing some relief from hot and humid conditions even as the Meteorological Centre here warned of possible flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas due to intense showers.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the weather remained generally hot and humid across the Union Territory, with scattered to many places

witnessing rain and thunder-showers. Brief spells of intense rainfall were likely at isolated places, particularly in parts of the Jammu division, mainly during the early morning and afternoon hours, the MeT said.

According to the evening weather bulletin, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 32.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 20.6 degrees Celsius, while Jammu recorded a maximum of 32.7 degrees and a minimum of 24.9 degrees.

Pahalgam recorded 25.5 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 15.4 | [More on P6](#)

Confidence in our girl students augurs well for J&K's future: CM Omar

Attends Annual Day 'The Clock Tower Cosmos' function of Presentation Convent School

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that educational institutions are not merely producing educated girls but are nurturing confident young women, whose confidence provides a strong assurance that the future of Jammu and Kashmir is secure.

The Chief Minister was addressing the Annual Day function, titled 'Clock Tower Cosmos', organised by Presentation Convent Higher



Secondary School, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The school is also commemorating 250 years of the Presentation Congregation

and its own 90-year legacy in Kashmir.

Former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, MLA Zaidal

Tanvir Sadiq, Provincial Leader-North India Sister Gleetus Rani, Principal Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School Mary

Jarsi, faculty members, parents, students and other dignitaries attended the function.

Reflecting on the role of the institution in shaping generations of students, the Chief Minister said, "We are not just producing educated girls. We are producing confident girls. And this confidence gives me the confidence that the future of Jammu and Kashmir will be secure."

Recalling his association with the institution, the Chief Minister said he had started his schooling here as

a kindergarten student nearly five decades ago, when the school was a co-education school. He remarked that this often comes as a surprise to many, as Presentation Convent in Kashmir has long been perceived as an institution that has been exclusively for girls.

Expressing happiness at returning to his alma mater, Omar Abdullah said it was particularly heartening to witness the confidence, talent and composure of the students today.

"Fifty years ago, I was a student of this | [More on P6](#)

Fake job fraud case

EOW Kashmir chargesheets habitual offender

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 22: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K on Saturday said it had filed a chargesheet against a Kupwara man for allegedly cheating a person of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of providing a government job and furnishing a fake appointment order.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a spokesperson said the EOW Kashmir had filed the chargesheet against Abdul Majeed Mir, | [More on P6](#)

DLSCC Meeting

Several cases recommended for compassionate appointment, cash compensation under SRO-43



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 22: A meeting of District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, here

at the meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting conducted a detailed review of cases and claims submitted under SRO-43 by the next of kin (NoKs) of persons killed in terror-related incidents in Srinagar District. The meeting, as per an official

statement, was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Aakash Garg, SP headquarter, Umer Shah, Additional SP CID, Ashok Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, District Social Welfare Officer, Mohammad Yousuf, District Health Officer, Dr Rubeena, Tehsildars of South, Eidgah, Khanyar & Shalteng, senior officers from BSF, Army and other security agencies, besides Officials from the concerned departments.

At the outset, the Committee undertook a comprehensive deliberation on various cases/claims and supporting documents submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those killed in terror related incidents in Srinagar district. After a detailed examination, the Committee recommended cases to the Government for consideration for compassionate appointment under the SRO-43 while some cases were recommended for cash compensation.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner directed prompt scrutiny and speedy disposal of such cases, so that eligible beneficiaries receive timely relief and the cases are cleared without unnecessary delay. He stressed expeditious examination of eligible cases under the applicable provisions of SRO-43 and ensuring timely assistance to the affected families.

DC Srinagar lays foundation stone for additional accommodation block at Zila Sainik Bhawan

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, who is also the President, Zila Sainik Welfare Board Saturday laid the foundation stone for the construction of an Additional Accommodation Block at Zila Sainik Bhawan in presence of Director Sainik Welfare Department, J&K, Brigadier Pankaj Chib, SM, VSM.

The proposed block, as per an official statement, is aimed at strengthening the existing infrastructure of Zila Sainik Bhawan and providing additional accommodation and welfare facilities for ex-servicemen, war widows, serving personnel and their families from across the districts of the Kashmir Division.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the commitment of District Administration Srinagar towards the welfare and safe and comfortable accommodation for ex-servicemen and their dependents. He emphasized the need to ensure accessible and adequate support to members of the armed forces community through dedicated welfare infrastructure.

The DC said that the additional accommodation block will enhance the accommodation capacity of Zila Sainik Bhawan and facilitate better delivery of various welfare services to eligible beneficiaries, particularly wards of ex-servicemen and martyrs who temporarily stay in Srinagar for educational purposes.

He further stressed the need to incorporate a Skill Development Training Centre in the proposed block to impart skill-based training to wards of ex-servicemen and martyrs, besides local students, thereby enhancing their employability and self-reliance.

On the occasion, the DC appreciated the efforts of the concerned Officers, including the Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer R&B and the Zila Sainik Welfare Board, for their dedicated efforts in accelerating and completing

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Director Agriculture Kashmir visits S.M Farm Tapper Kreeri, takes stock of Agriculture activities



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 22:- Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah visited Seed Multiplication Farm Tapper Kreeri and took stock of various agriculture activities there.

The Director inspected different blocks, hi-tech poly houses at the farm and reviewed various innovative interventions and technologies adopted at the farm.

Speaking on the occasion, the director, as per an official statement, expressed satisfaction over the transformation of the farm and appreciated the concerned officers for their role in the successful implementation of different modern technologies.

The director said that the department is committed to transform all the seed multiplication farms of Kashmir into model farms so as to achieve the seed production at optimum levels. He said Tapper form is one of the most productive vegetable farms in the UT of J&K. He asked the concerned officers to strategize the cultivation operations in an environment friendly manner with minimum stress on natural resources.

Director Agriculture was accompanied by Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and Seed Production Officer Srinagar.

DC Budgam reviews progress under Mission YUVA, HADP, JKCIP & PMFBY

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, AUGUST 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Saturday reviewed implementation and progress under Mission YUVA, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, called for fast-track processing, sanctioning and timely disbursement of cases under Mission YUVA. He directed the concerned departments and agencies to ensure that eligible aspiring entrepreneurs receive the benefits under the scheme without unnecessary delay.

The DC emphasized the need for extensive capacity-building and awareness programmes among aspiring youth regarding various government schemes and flagship programmes.

He said that better awareness, handholding and capacity-building would enable the youth to avail available opportunities and improve their economic and employment prospects.

Reviewing the onboarding of businesses on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to register shopkeepers, business unit holders, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), grocery sellers and other eligible stakeholders on the platform to facilitate greater market access and better economic opportunities to them.

Emphasized maximum enrolment of farmers under Daksh Kisan, with focused efforts towards their skill development and capacity-building, the DC directed the concerned departments to undertake sustained awareness and mobilization campaigns to ensure wider participation of farmers and enhance their skills for improved productivity and livelihoods.

While reviewing the implementation of HADP and JKCIP, the DC asserted that the concerned departments must focus on timely approval and establishment of units under agriculture and allied sectors. He stressed upon the officers to work with a target-oriented approach and ensure that the approved targets are achieved within the stipulated timelines.

"All officers need to assert for both physical and financial progress under these flagship programmes," he said.

The meeting also reviewed the progress under PMFBY and other interventions aimed at strengthening the agriculture and allied sectors in the district.

The Deputy Director, DE&CC Budgam, gave a detailed presentation on Mission YUVA, highlighting the status of cases and progress made under the programme. The Chief Agriculture Officer, Budgam, presented a detailed overview of the progress and implementation of HADP, JKCIP and PMFBY.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all concerned officers to work in close coordination, ensure regular monitoring and address bottlenecks promptly for the effective implementation of the flagship programmes on the ground.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam Vivek Agarwal, General Manager DIC, SDMs, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Agriculture Extension Officer, Lead District Manager and other concerned officers And officials.

DC Budgam visits Qazibagh, Ichgam for land Identification for development of playfields



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, AUGUST 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Saturday visited Qazibagh and Ichgam areas to identify and survey suitable land patches for the development of playfield facilities for the local youth and sports enthusiasts.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various potential sites and shall explore the availability and suitability of land for the establishment of playfields in both areas.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, directed the concerned officers to undertake the necessary survey and complete other requisite formalities for taking forward the development of sports infrastructure

in both villages.

During visit and inspection of land patches, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local youth delegations and sports lovers, who apprised him of their demands regarding the development of playfields and other sports facilities, including construction of approach roads, boundary walls and augmentation of essential infrastructure.

Urging the younger generation to embrace sports for positive growth and development, the Deputy Commissioner said, "Sports play a vital role in channelising the energy and potential of our youth in a positive direction. The District Administration is committed to creating better sporting infrastructure and providing adequate facilities to enable young people to participate and excel in sports."

He further said that the development of playfields and sports infrastructure remains a priority of the District Administration, with focused efforts being made to provide youth with appropriate platforms to showcase their talent and promote a vibrant sports culture in society.

"We want our youth to have safe, accessible and well-equipped spaces where they can pursue and nurture their sporting talent. The District Administration will continue to work in coordination with the concerned departments and local communities to develop and improve sports facilities at the grassroots level," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- hakeemmushtaq.75316@jk.gov.in

Tel./Fax No:- 0194-2411285

Corrigendum 1st.

(For Sl. No. 10 viz 27)

Subject: Correction in class of contract for the work.....

"Installation of Submersible pump to Borewell near Masjid Alnoor Nambal-A(Nambal-A, Khoveripora in District Anantnag)."

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 41-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./5255-67, dated: 21-07-2026, Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_318498_10.

Refer to the above-mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No. under reference. In this connection, it is hereby notified that the Class of Contractor for the work figuring at Sl. No. 10 of the above-mentioned e-NIT shall be read as:

"Registered Experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells / Electro-Mechanical."

This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the above-mentioned e-NIT. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged as laid down in the original e-NIT.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE)
Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK-4885/26
DATED: 22-08-2026

Kashmir Thunder IS AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STALLS



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IRRIGATION DIVISION, TRAL

Phone/Fax No. : 09132922823

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Corrigendum to this office e-NIT No. 04 of 2026 – 27 Date: 10-08-2026 issued under No. IDT/CC/1506-10 Date: 10-08-2026.

In continuation to this office e-NIT No. 04 of 2026-27, issued under No. IDT/CC/1506-10 Date: 10-08-2026, it is hereby notified that the following amendment shall be made with regard to the mode of submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and nonrefundable Tender Document (TD) fee.

1. The tenderers who have already participated in the above-mentioned tender up to 21-08-2026 shall be governed by the conditions stipulated in the original e-NIT, including the revised mode of submission of EMD/ TD fee.

2. With effect from 22-08-2026, the earlier/ old procedure of submission of EMD/ TD fee through physical deposit of CDR/Treasury Challan shall be restored and followed.

Accordingly, the tenderers participating in the tender with effect from 22-08-2026 shall submit the requisite EMD/TD fee in the form of physically deposited CDR/ Treasury Challan, as per the conditions of the tender.

All other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the aforesaid e-NIT.

No:IDT/CC/1654-58
Date: 22-08-2026

DIPK-4869/26

DATED: 22-08-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Tral.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE BARAMULLA

www.gmcbaramulla.ac.in | Tel: 01952-238140

Subject: Extension of Last Date for the submission of applications/modification of applications for the post of Junior Residents.

NOTICE

In view of the representations received from various candidates, regarding extension of last date for submission of applications for the post of Junior Residents, the online link for the submission of applications/modification of applications for the post of Junior residents advertised vide No. 05 GMCB of 2026 dated 18-06-2026 on the official website of GMC Baramulla shall be available from 22-08-2026 to 25-08-2026 (6 PM)

All other terms and conditions of the recruitment shall remain same as notified earlier through the said advertisement.

Note: This shall be the last chance and no further representations shall be considered.

Bibi Rehana Kazmi JKAS
Administrative officer Govt. Medical College Baramulla

DIPK-4868/26
DATED: 22-08-2026

Modern grading boosts Kashmir apple returns

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 22: The growing adoption of modern apple grading and packing technology across Kashmir is bringing a significant change to the region's traditional fruit trade, with growers reporting better returns, improved quality control and more efficient post-harvest handling of their produce.

Horticulture remains one of the main pillars of Kashmir's rural economy, with thousands of farming families depending on apple cultivation either directly or through allied activities such as packaging, transportation, storage, trading and labour. However, despite producing large quantities of apples, growers have for years struggled to realise the full value of their produce, particularly because of inconsistent grading, packaging and quality standards.

Stakeholders in the industry believe the introduction of modern grading lines could help address several of these longstanding challenges. The technology enables apples to be mechanically sorted according to size, quality and other parameters before they are packed, allowing growers and traders to present a more uniform product in the market.

Several modern grading facilities have now been established at different locations in the Valley, with some units coming up with government assistance. While such technology was earlier largely associated with large cold-storage and



controlled-atmosphere facilities, its increasing availability at smaller and localised units is making mechanised grading accessible to a wider section of growers.

The shift is also expected to reduce the time and labour involved in traditional manual sorting and packing. More systematic handling can help minimise damage to fruit, improve presentation and ensure that apples of similar quality are packed together, factors that can influence buyers

and market prices.

"With modern grading lines, apples are sorted and packed in a much more organised manner. The fruit reaches the market in better condition and in less time. Properly graded and well-packed apples naturally attract buyers and can help farmers get better prices," Basit Ahmad, a grading-line unit holder in Pulwama, told said.

Growers and entrepreneurs associated with the sector said the benefits extend

beyond the farm gate. Improved grading and packing are creating demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers while also generating business for transporters, packaging suppliers, traders and other people associated with the horticulture supply chain.

Azhar Ahmad, owner of a cold-storage facility, said the difference between conventional and modern packing methods was becoming increasingly visible.

"Earlier, growers had to depend largely on manual sorting and packing. It consumed considerable time and labour, while maintaining uniform quality was difficult. With grading lines, the process has become faster, more systematic and efficient," he said.

He added that the lack of adequate grading infrastructure had previously put Kashmir's growers at a disadvantage compared to producers in other parts of the country.

"For a long time, Kashmir was behind in terms of modern grading and packing facilities. Even when the quality of the fruit was good, inconsistent grading and packaging affected its market value. With more such units being established, that gap is gradually narrowing," Ahmad said.

For growers, the technology is also being viewed as an important tool to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market competitiveness. A local apple grower said farmers could no longer depend entirely on traditional practices if they wanted to compete in increasingly organised domestic and international markets. "Farmers have

to adopt modern technology and improve the way their produce is handled after harvesting. Grading lines are an important step in that direction. We are already seeing that properly graded and packed apples receive better attention from buyers," he said.

Industry stakeholders, meanwhile, maintain that modern grading should be accompanied by improvements across the entire horticulture supply chain, including scientific storage, packaging, transportation, marketing and market linkages.

Experts said standardised grading and packaging could play a crucial role in establishing a stronger identity for Kashmir apples in major domestic markets and eventually expanding their presence in international markets.

They said uniform quality classification would also make it easier for buyers to assess the produce, strengthen consumer confidence and reduce discrepancies in pricing. Better post-harvest management, they added, could ultimately increase the share of value reaching growers.

The expansion of grading infrastructure is therefore being seen not merely as a technological upgrade but as part of a broader transformation of Kashmir's horticulture sector. With greater investment in modern handling, scientific storage and organised marketing, stakeholders believe the Valley can add more value to its world-renowned apple crop while creating new employment and business opportunities—(KNO)

Final leg of Amarnath Yatra begins

Chhari Mubarak leaves Srinagar



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 22: The annual journey of the holy Chhari Mubarak, the sacred mace of Lord Shiva, began from Srinagar on Saturday.

The Chhari Mubarak left Dashnami Akhara Building for Pahalgam, marking the final and spiritually significant leg of the Amarnath Yatra.

The Chhari Mubarak was taken out after traditional prayers and rituals at the Dashnami Akhara, with devotees and

followers participating in the ceremonies as the sacred mace embarked on its customary route towards the Holy Cave.

Custodian of Chhari Mubarak, Mahant Deependra Giri, said the sacred mace would reach Pahalgam on Saturday after symbolic prayers at traditional stopovers along the route. The Chhari Mubarak will halt at Chandanwari on August 24 and Sheshnag on August 25 before proceeding towards Panchtarni, where it will stay on the nights of August 26 and 27. On August 28,

coinciding with Raksha Bandhan, the sacred mace will be taken to the Holy Amarnath Cave Shrine, nestled in Himalayas, and installed amid traditional prayers and Vedic chanting.

The rituals at the Holy Cave are associated with the age-old belief that Lord Shiva narrated the tale of immortality to Goddess Parvati at the sacred site. Following the prayers and rituals at the cave, the Chhari Mubarak will return to Panchtarni on August 28 for the night halt. On August 29, it will proceed back via Sheshnag and Chandanwari to Pahalgam.

The traditional journey will conclude on August 30 with prayers and the Visarjan ceremony of the Chhari Mubarak at Pahalgam, bringing the annual sacred pilgrimage to an end.

Pertinently, the Chhari Mubarak procession is a centuries-old tradition and remains an important part of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, with the sacred mace being carried to the holy cave shrine through the traditional route and religious ceremonies performed along the way—(KNO)

MP Ruhullah throws down gauntlet to NC leadership

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Aug 22: National Conference (NC) Member Parliament (MP) Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday questioned his party leadership over its approach towards Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional rights, saying the party had given him a mandate to fight for those rights but was now asking him to resign for continuing the same fight. He challenged the leadership to issue him a show-cause notice if he had violated its ideology or stand.

Addressing reporters here, Ruhullah said the party leadership should follow a formal process if it believed he had violated the party's ideology. "They are failing to face accountability. I ask them, why are we not able to fight, why are we not able to follow the principles we have promised people? I get the answer from them: resign," he said.

"If they want me to resign, at least they should issue a show-cause notice. They should ask me, 'You have violated the ideology of the party in various places... you have violated the stand of the party'," Ruhullah said, adding that he is ready to answer any such notice.

The Srinagar MP questioned the party's present political approach, alleging that it had diluted the larger fight for constitutional rights. "We have taken votes from the people. They are missing there. They have weakened the fight themselves. They have diluted it," he said. "Instead of 370, instead of constitutional rights and guarantees, they have come to statehood and business rules," he said.

Mehdi said his position was based on the mandate received from the people and not



on any personal political interest. "If I wanted to deceive people, I would have changed my language. I am fighting to implement that mandate," he said, adding that he had received a people's mandate in addition to the party ticket.

Ruhullah said he had pursued the issue of constitutional guarantees both inside and outside Parliament, including through political advocacy and engagement with opposition parties. "For that, I have strived in Parliament, outside Parliament, on the streets, in Constitution Club, Jantar Mantar. I have tried lobbying with other political parties," he said.

The Member Parliament said restoration of statehood alone could not resolve the Kashmir

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Prang youth steps forward, retrieves body from Sindh

Raja Syed Rather

Kangan, Aug 22: A local youth from Prang area of Kangan, Owais Mushtaq Sheikh bravely retrieved a body from Nallah Sindh at Prang on Saturday.

The 21-year old, Owais stepped forward during the rescue effort and helped retrieve the body from the water, earning appreciation from locals for his selfless act.

Owais said, "At that moment, I did not think about my own safety. I felt it was my responsibility to help and retrieve the body. I only wanted to do whatever I could as a human being."

He added, "Losing a life is painful for any family. I just wanted to make sure that the deceased was brought out of the water and handed over to the family and authorities with dignity." A local resident, Jahangeer Ahmad Sheikh, appreciated Owais's courage and said, "He (Owais) has set an example. In such difficult circumstances, stepping forward to help others requires great bravery. We appreciate his selfless act."

He said such acts of courage and compassion deserve recognition and serve as an inspiration for others in the community—(KNO)

GMC staff end protest after minister's assurance

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Aug 22: The Coordinating Committee representing non-gazetted employees of the five newly established Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of Jammu and Kashmir has decided to temporarily suspend its ongoing peaceful protest following the intervention and written assurance of Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo that the final Model Recruitment Rules for non-gazetted employees will be framed and published by September 30, 2026.

The decision comes after nearly a week of agitation by employees, who had launched their indefinite peaceful protest on August 17, seeking finalisation of recruitment rules governing their service conditions, recruitment, promotions and other related matters.

The employees welcomed the framing process of the final Model Recruitment Rules and said they were suspending the protest in the larger interest of patients, students, medical education and uninterrupted

healthcare services.

The issue came up for detailed discussion after Health Minister Sakina Itoo invited representatives of non-gazetted employees of the five new GMCs for a meeting on August 20. The meeting, chaired by the Health Minister on August 21, was attended by senior officials, including the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings; Additional Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Director Finance, HME; Under Secretary, HME; and representatives of the concerned Government Medical Colleges.

During the meeting, the minister directed the concerned authorities to finalise and publish a Model Recruitment Rule applicable uniformly to all the newly established Government Medical Colleges.

According to the Coordinating Committee, the minister assured the employees that the process would be completed by September 30, 2026, providing a definite timeline for resolving the long-pending issue.

Following the assurance, the

Coordinating Committee held discussions with representatives of employees from all five newly established GMCs and decided to suspend the protest temporarily until the stipulated deadline.

The committee said the decision had been taken in good faith and keeping in view the larger public interest, particularly the need to ensure that patient care, medical education and essential healthcare services at the institutions remain unaffected.

Among the key issues the employees expect to be addressed through the final rules are the existence of multiple nomenclatures for similar posts, lack of a clearly defined hierarchy, delays in convening Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and the demand for notional benefits for the seven years of service rendered by employees.

The committee maintained that a comprehensive and uniform framework would not only provide clarity to employees but also help streamline the functioning and

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Aug 22: Phase-I of undergraduate admissions to the Government Degree Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir for the academic session 2026-27 has concluded with 47,150 candidates admitted, as against about 40,800 in the corresponding phase of the preceding session — an increase of about 16 per cent. Of these, 35,040 candidates were admitted through direct allocation and 12,110 through the walk-in mode.

Admissions were conducted on the basis of 10+2 merit through the Centralised Admission Portal, jkadmissions.in, developed in-house by the Directorate of Colleges, J&K. The portal placed a single Union Territory-wide merit list before every candidate, allowed continuous upgradation of the allotted seat through successive rounds, managed the migration of fee automatically, and enabled a meritorious candidate from any part of the Union Territory to compete for a seat in the programme of their choice.

The entire process, from registration to payment, was completed online by the candidate.



As per the statement of Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Director of Colleges, J&K, merit at every stage—whether allocation of college or allotment of Major, Minor, Multidisciplinary, and Skill Enhancement Courses—was the bedrock of the entire admission process. He stated that 106 colleges recorded a rise in enrolment over the preceding session and most other colleges have retained their enrolment figures. This is a remarkable achievement in view of the national trend of declining enrolments across subject

domains in higher education.

The Department of Higher Education, J&K, achieved this milestone under the visionary leadership of the Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo.

Her consistent reviews and directives that the admission process be conducted transparently, strictly on merit, and as per student convenience, gave the Department clear direction and confidence.

Decisive leadership by Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, Higher

Education Department, ensured the admission timeline remained on schedule throughout.

His confidence in the Directorate empowered the team to fulfill its mandate and deliver these visible outcomes.

The dedication of college Principals, Admission coordinators, and verifiers ensured seamless execution on campus. Ultimately, strong student feedback regarding the quality teaching imparted by our hard-working faculty served as the biggest draw for prospective applicants—far outperforming traditional publicity.

Similar to the procedure adopted in the previous session, the Phase-II of admissions, against leftover seats, will open for candidates qualifying the biannual/supplementary examination at the higher secondary level as their results are expected to be declared in the coming days. The schedule will be notified separately upon declaration of results, and candidates are advised to monitor the Centralised Admission Portal, jkadmissions.in, for updates.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission: Unlocking India's Tribal Forest Economy

PMJVM embodies Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas- ensuring India's growth story reaches its most remote forests and the communities who call them home. This will eventually contribute to India’s vision of a Viksit Bharat@2047.

Press Information Bureau

Many of India's 10.4 crore Scheduled Tribes derive 20–40% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce (MFP). Historically, tribals sold this produce to middlemen at distress prices, earning below the cost of their own labour. To address this, the government runs the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM). The mission organises tribals into community-owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs), moving them from raw produce sellers to value-adding entrepreneurs. So far, 4,172 VDVKs have been sanctioned, linking 12.48 lakh tribal members to the scheme. The government also buys MFP at a pre-determined Minimum Support Price (MSP). PMJVM provides enterprise funding and helps tribals access markets through fairs, e-commerce platforms, and exhibitions.

Protecting Tribal Forest Economies

For millions of forest-dwelling tribal families, Minor Forest Produce (MFP)—such as honey, tendu leaves, mahua flowers, tamarind, lac, bamboo and wild herbs—is not merely a forest resource. It is a primary source of livelihood. About 20% to 40% of their annual income is from selling MFP. Yet, despite directly procuring and selling MFP, tribals receive only a fraction of its market value. This is because they often sell MFP to intermediaries at low prices.

The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) seeks to change this equation. Launched in 2021-22, the Mission provides a systematic way for them to improve MFP's value by skilling the tribals in newer technology and practices. The scheme links the communities to the larger national and digital markets to help them get more exposure and sell more products. It also guarantees Minimum Support Prices (MSP) to tribals by directly procuring the produce from them.

These efforts are helping forest gatherers become owners of their community enterprises while strengthening India's tribal economy at the grassroots level.

Minor Forest Products & Minimum Support Price

While the government manages most of India's forests to preserve ecology and wildlife, tribals and other traditional forest-dwelling communities are given access to these areas for the preservation of their livelihoods.

In 2006, the government enacted the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional

Some Minor Forest Produce With Minimum Support Prices	
Name of MFPs	MSP Notified by Govt (INR/Kg. Per Kg.)
Raw Cashew	450
Cashew Nut	800
Jack Fruit Seed	45
Tree Moss (Bryophytes)	350
Van Jeera	70
Bamboo Brooms	60
Wild Honey	225
Guggul (exudates)	812
Jamun dried seeds	42
Marking Nut	9

Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act — also called the Forest Rights Act. The Act defines minor forest produce as “all non-timber forest produce of plant origin including bamboo, brush wood, stumps, cane, tussar, cocoons, honey, wax, lac, tendu or kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers and the like.” The government has notified Minimum Support Price for 87 MFP items under PMJVM.

The Forest Rights Act recognises that forest-dwelling communities have historically depended on forest products for sustenance and livelihood. The Act gives tribals rights to procure and sell non-timber minor forest produce. Separately, the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (1996) grants tribal Gram Panchayats ownership rights over minor forest produce.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), mandated with the marketing and

development of tribal products, purchases non-timber forest produce at the pre-determined price (MSP) regardless of the market price of the product. It does so through a network of state implementing agencies — including tribal development cooperatives and forest development corporations. Since 2013–14, state governments have procured 2,67,954 metric tonnes of MFPs worth Rs. 693.98 crore under the scheme.

How Does PMJVM Support Tribals?

Beyond MSP procurement, the PVJM scheme also provides skilling, technological, marketing, and infrastructural support to tribals.

Organising Tribals into Van Dhan Vikas Kendras

The Mission mobilises tribal gatherers into self-help groups (SHGs). A group of 15 SHGs, comprising about 300 tribals, are clustered together into one Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK). At least 60% of VDVK members must be from Scheduled Tribe communities.

The Van Dhan Yojana, launched on April 14, 2018, is a part of PMJVM. It forms the foundation of the VDVK model and powers its implementation across tribal communities.

Skilling, Funding and Technological Support

The Government organises skilling and other training programmes for MFP gatherers, including trainings on scientific harvesting practices, at Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs).

The SHGs are also provided with:

Infrastructural support, established in a beneficiary's home or a government or gram panchayat building

Primary processing equipment — cutting and sieving tools, decorticators, dryers, and packaging tools — based on locally available MFPs

Training for 30 members on sustainable harvesting and value addition, with raw materials and trainee kits provided

Working capital, facilitated through tie-ups with financial institutions, banks, and the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

Storage and transportation support on a rental basis.

Marketing and Business Support

Apart from value addition, VDVKs are also centres for market linkages – both local and distant – for the final products.

VDVKs are established around local Haat Bazaars, the primary MFP procurement points, to make it easier for tribals to sell products they produce.

There are over 5,000 Haats in tribal areas.

Haats are being modernised in a phased manner— with permanent structures, storage, drinking water, shade, and weighing equipment.

VDVKs may partner with private entities or non-profits for value addition or marketing of their products.

TRIFED disseminates market intelligence — including daily rates and e-commerce avenues —to VDVKs to improve their decision-making on business deals.

PMJVM also provides:

Branding, promotion, and advertisement of tribal products through festivals, exhibitions, and artisan melas

Geo-tagging of VDVKs and other scheme assets

Geographical Indicators for tribal produce (GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin)

Building and upgrading IT and e-commerce

platforms

Research and development support Under the PMJVM scheme:

4,172 VDVKs have been sanctioned and 2,911 VDVKs are functional, with reported sales of around Rs. 168 crores (as on July 31, 2026).

12.48 lakh tribal members have been linked to the VDVKs.

VDVKs Help in Tribal Women Empowerment

Most collections and sales are carried out by women, making PMJVM a key instrument of tribal women's financial empowerment.

The Nyigamane, Ho Yorbe, Medumhagdum VDVK in Arunachal Pradesh's Leparada district was established in October 2021 with 300 women SHG members and farmers. This VDVK converts locally available non-timber forest and agricultural produce into processed, marketable goods. The products created are:

King Chillii Pickle from King Chillis (Bhut Jolokia — a north eastern Indian specialty)

Bamboo Shoot Pickle from bamboo shoots (a common MFP in north-eastern India)

Turmeric Powder from locally grown turmeric

Ginger Powder from locally grown ginger

Pineapple Jam from Pineapples (abundant in Arunachal Pradesh)

Pineapple Squash from Pineapples

Orange Squash from Oranges

The VDVK has sold Rs. 11 lakh worth of these products from 2022-23 onwards. It has empowered the women, who no longer need to depend on only seasonable agriculture for income throughout the year. The women jointly own the business – they are not mere workers but also have a stake in the brand and the enterprise.

Towards A Sustainable Forest Economy

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) provides livelihood opportunities to forest-dwelling tribals, offering a systematic way to produce and market non-timber forest produce. These products are locally sourced and rooted in traditional practices — representing a forest-based economy balancing community ownership with market competitiveness.

In a world increasingly driven by mass-manufactured and plastic-packaged goods, they are India's distinctive offering: natural, community-owned, and forest-born. PMJVM embodies Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas- ensuring India's growth story reaches its most remote forests and the communities who call them home. This will eventually contribute to India's vision of a Viksit Bharat@2047.

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA): Strengthening MSP-Based Price Support To Empower Farmers

Press Information Bureau

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is the Government's flagship price-support framework for remunerative prices for farmers. It includes various schemes to strengthen the implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and reduce distress sales. Procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and copra is undertaken by the Central and State Governments through agencies such as NAFED and NCCF. With a 7,200 crore Budget allocation for 2026–27, PM-AASHA strengthens effective price-support interventions. Digital reforms, including Aadhaar-enabled authentication, e-NAM, e-Samridhi, and e-Samyukti, have improved transparency and procurement efficiency. Support from the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and expanded procurement coverage have further strengthened the scheme.

Ensuring Remunerative Prices to Farmers

The government has taken several initiatives to ensure that the benefits of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) reach all farmers, including small and marginal farmers. One major initiative is the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM AASHA). The Government launched the scheme in September 2018. It was designed to ensure remunerative prices for farmers while maintaining price stability for consumers.

PM AASHA brings together multiple price support mechanisms under a unified framework. Each mechanism is implemented according to the crop and market conditions. The scheme strengthens MSP implementation and reduces distress sales among farmers. It also stabilises farm incomes while ensuring food price stability for consumers.

Under PM AASHA, procurement arrangements begin before each marketing season. Central nodal agencies and state governments prepare procurement infrastructure before crops reach the markets. This coordinated approach ensures timely procurement operations and strengthens effective MSP

implementation across the country.

Policy design and institutional framework PM AASHA broadly consists of four key components: Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Funds (PSF), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

1. Price Support Scheme (PSS)

This scheme ensures procurement of crop at MSP when market prices fall below MSP during harvest. It mainly covers pulses, oilseeds, and copra. Procurement is carried out through agencies such as the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) at the request of state governments. Only registered farmers with valid land records are eligible, which ensures direct benefit without intermediaries. This helps prevent distress selling and ensures income stability for farmers during price crashes.

From the 2024–25 procurement year, under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and copra is initially allowed up to 25% of a State/UT's production. Additional procurement beyond this limit may be approved by the Committee of Secretaries up to 25% of national production. However, to boost domestic pulse output and reduce imports, procurement of Tur, Urad, and Masur is permitted up to 100% of State production.

2. Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)

The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) protects consumers from price volatility by maintaining buffer stocks of essential commodities like pulses, onions, and potatoes. It was set up to stabilize the prices of key agri-horticultural products. Commodities are procured during harvest and released in lean seasons to control price spikes and ensure affordability. PSF is now merged with PM-AASHA but continues to be managed by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

3. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

Under PDPS, farmers' produce is not

physically procured. Instead, they are paid the price difference between the MSP and the actual market price in the notified market, up to 15% of the MSP value, directly into their bank accounts. This scheme is mainly used for oilseeds and reduces the need for large procurement infrastructure. It promotes market-based selling while still ensuring MSP protection to farmers.

4. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

The Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is designed to procure a range of perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities. It targets products such as tomatoes, onions, and potatoes for which a Minimum Support Price does not apply. The scheme activates when market prices drop by at least 10% over the previous normal season's rates. It operates through cost-sharing between the Centre and State governments for the operations undertaken by Central Nodal Agencies like NAFED and NCCF. This scheme is especially useful during glut situations when supply exceeds demand.

Enhanced Financial Support Under PM-AASHA

Under the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojana (PM-AASHA), the budget allocation has steadily increased over the years. In 2024–25, the actual expenditure under the scheme was 5437.99 crore. The budget increased to 6,941.36 crore in 2025–26 and was further raised to 7,200.00 crore in 2026–27. This reflects the government's focus on ensuring income support for farmers and strengthening price assurance mechanisms.

From Cost to Confidence: Strengthening Farmer Remunerative Returns

Higher Minimum Support Prices over production costs strengthen farmers' income security while encouraging sustained cultivation of key crops, supported by schemes under PM-AASHA. In 2026–27, paddy (common) cost 1,627 per quintal, while its MSP was 2,441 per quintal, yielding a margin of 814. Soybean (yellow) cost 3,805 per

quintal, while its MSP was 5,708 per quintal, yielding a margin of 1,903.

In 2026–27, wheat has a production cost of 1,239 per quintal and an MSP of 2,585 per quintal, ensuring a 1,346 margin. Meanwhile, jute has a production cost of 3,662 per quintal and an MSP of 5,925 per quintal, providing the highest margin of 2,293. These remunerative MSP margins reinforce the objectives of PM-AASHA by strengthening price assurance and improving farmers' confidence in agricultural markets.

Overall, MSP consistently exceeds the cost of production across crops and years, and PM-AASHA further strengthens this system by ensuring better price realization for farmers. This highlights a supportive framework that promotes stable income and growth in the agricultural sector.

Strengthening Farm-to-Market Connectivity

The Government has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen agricultural marketing and post-harvest infrastructure, such as AIF and e-NAM. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) has sanctioned loans worth 96,426 crore for 2,14,437 projects, mobilizing investments exceeding 1,66,179 lakh crore. The e-NAM platform has integrated 1,656 mandis across 23 States and 4 Union Territories, facilitating trade worth 4,94,847 crore. It has registered 4,776 FPOs on e-NAM and onboarded 7,334 FPOs onto Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The government has also sanctioned 50,249 warehouses with 992.6 lakh metric tonnes storage capacity alongside 25,081 agricultural marketing infrastructure projects.

Recent PM-AASHA reforms introduced biometric farmer authentication, direct procurement from pre-registered farmers, transportation support for Tomato, Onion, and Potato (TOP) crops, and price differential payments under the Market Intervention Scheme.

Bihar and Chhattisgarh: Advancing

PM-AASHA Implementation

In Bihar, organized procurement of masoor (lentil) has been initiated for the first time through the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF). This marks a significant step towards strengthening pulse procurement under PM-AASHA through 48 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). As of 10th August, 2026, NCCF has procured 1042.65 MT of masoor, registering 358 farmers and benefiting 285. During the same period, NAFED has also procured 1,814.13 MT of masoor, registering 495 farmers and benefiting 455 farmers.

In Chhattisgarh, procurement operations under PM-AASHA have been strengthened through a network of 200 operational PACS and 12 FPOs. As on 10th August, 2026, NCCF has procured 18392.228 MT of chana, 22.231 MT of masoor, and 1035.0205 MT of Mustard. It registered 21,721 farmers and benefited 13,790 farmers. During the same period, NAFED has procured 17,020.65 MT of chana and 355.05 MT of masoor. It registered 46,146 farmers and benefited 13,673 farmers. These initiatives have strengthened MSP procurement, improved market access, and supported region-specific pulse self-sufficiency goals.

Securing Farmer Incomes, Strengthening Markets

PM-AASHA has emerged as a strong and structured mechanism to support farmers through assured procurement, price stabilization, and effective market interventions. This enables the timely procurement of key crops like pulses, oilseeds, and copra through agencies such as NAFED and NCCF. The establishment of additional procurement centres has further strengthened market access and collective empowerment of farmers.

Digital reforms and infrastructure support have improved transparency, efficiency, and reach of procurement operations across states. Collectively, these efforts ensure better price realization for farmers, reduce distress sales, and promote a stable and resilient agricultural economy in the country.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

GI QR labelling begins at Quality Control Lab of Handicrafts Dept

Deptt urges artisans, weavers, other stakeholders to approach QCD Laboratory to get their products labelled at nominal user charges

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 22: In a significant boost to Geographical Indication (GI) testing and certification, particularly for non-textile and languishing crafts, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Saturday formally launched the GI QR Code Management System at its Quality Control Division (QCD) in Srinagar.

Following the NABL-accredited IICT and PTQCC laboratories, the QCD, as per an official statement, has become the third GI Lab in Jammu & Kashmir. It will now test and affix GI labels on a range of products including Wagguv, Gabba, felted Namdah, Walnut Wood Carving, Chain Stitch, Khatamand and Crewel.

The introduction of GI QR labels for fading crafts such as Wagguv and Namdah is expected to provide a major fillip to these traditional skills, enhancing their brand value in domestic and international markets. "This initiative marks an important expansion of GI certification beyond premier,



high-value products such as Kashmir Pashmina, hand-knotted carpet, and Kani and Sozni embroidered shawls," he added.

The Chief Minister had recently inaugurated the refurbished QCD Laboratory, which has been equipped

with a High-Resolution Digital Microscope and other required paraphernalia. The upgradation was funded by the Ministry of Textiles under the National Handicrafts Development Programme as well as the UT Capex Budget. Until recently, the lab had been labelling only non-GI handmade products from Kashmir.

The GI QR labelling system will certify the authenticity of selected handmade products and help them capture the affordable market segment. It will complement the Department's ongoing efforts in capacity building and improved packaging, with special focus on languishing crafts such as Namdah, Gabba and Wagguv that hold strong market potential both within and outside the Union Territory.

The Department has urged artisans, weavers, and other stakeholders to approach the QCD Laboratory to get their products labelled at nominal user charges, thereby adding much-needed brand value to Kashmir's exquisite middle-segment handmade crafts.

DC Doda reviews mining plans for quarry sites

KT News Desk

DODA, AUGUST 22: Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal Saturday chaired a meeting at DC Office Doda to deliberate upon and review mining plans and progressive mine closure plans for two quarry sites in the district.

The meeting discussed the Mining Plan and Progressive Mine Closure Plan for a quarry licence at Village Kandhote, Tehsil Thathri, as well as the Revised Mining Plan and Progressive Mine Closure Plan for the quarry site at Moza Chadota, Jattar, Tehsil Assar.

The Office of the District Mineral Officer, Doda, Geology and Mining Department convened the meeting, with the departments concerned participating in the deliberations and providing necessary inputs and relevant records.

During the meeting, the officers concerned examined the proposed and revised mining plans, focussing on compliance with applicable rules and regulations, scientific and regulated mineral extraction, environmental safeguards and progressive mine closure measures.



The Deputy Commissioner stressed that mining activities must be carried out in a regulated, transparent and environmentally responsible manner, with strict adherence to all statutory requirements. He directed the officers concerned to ensure that all necessary approvals and clearances, including Environmental Clearance, Change of Land Use (CLU) permission, NOCs and Consent to Operate (CTO), besides other mandatory clearances wherever applicable, are obtained before the commencement of any mining activity.

The DC further directed the departments concerned to review surveillance teams

at the Tehsil level for regular monitoring of mining activities and to maintain close vigil over vulnerable locations to prevent violations.

He also called for strict action against illegal mining and the unauthorised extraction and transportation of minor minerals, directing the officers concerned to conduct regular inspections and act against violators under the applicable rules and regulations.

Among those present were ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi, the Member Secretary, Geology and Mining Department, Jammu, the Executive Engineer, I&FC, the EO Municipality and other officers concerned.

Jal Shakti clarifies water meter installation in Kathua

Metering limited to registered commercia, industrial consumers, no proposal for domestic connections

KT News Desk

KATHUA, AUGUST 22: Amid reports in print and digital media regarding the installation of water meters in District Kathua, the Jal Shakti PHE Division Kathua has clarified that the proposed metering exercise is strictly limited to registered commercial and industrial consumers and aims to introduce a fair, transparent and usage-based billing system.

The clarification, as per an official statement, follows reports suggesting the installation of meters on domestic connections. The Division has categorically stated that there is no proposal to install water meters for domestic households.

Under the initiative, eligible commercial and industrial consumers will transition from the existing flat-rate system to

usage-based billing, with charges linked to actual water consumption. The measure will also promote judicious use of water and minimise wastage in commercial and industrial areas.

The metering directive applies only to registered commercial and industrial consumers having connection pipe sizes ranging from 15 mm to 32 mm.

The Division has urged eligible commercial and industrial establishments to extend necessary cooperation and complete the installation process promptly. It has also advised the public not to heed rumours or misinformation regarding metering of domestic connections.

For any clarification regarding meter specifications, installation procedure or related matters, consumers may contact the Office of PHE Division Kathua on any working day.

Senior Citizens Day 2026 celebrated in District Kishtwar

KT News Desk

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 22: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the Department of Social Welfare, Kishtwar Saturday organised a programme at TRC Kishtwar to mark Senior Citizens Day 2026, with the active participation of prominent citizens, beneficiaries of the department and members of the Senior Citizens Council.

Members of the Senior Citizens Council, Kishtwar, including AM Bichoo, Dr Sanjay Sen and Prehlad Sharma, along with several other members, participated enthusiastically and shared their views on matters concerning the welfare and well-being of senior citizens.

On the occasion, the Department of Social Welfare, as per an official statement, organised a health check-up camp in collaboration with the Department of AYUSH.

An assessment camp was also conducted in collaboration with ALIMCO to provide



prosthetic aids to eligible persons and senior citizens under the ADIP and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) schemes.

The event was conducted under the overall supervision of DSWO Tariq Parveaz Qazi.

During the camp, 142 beneficiaries were assessed. Of these, 124 were assessed under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) and 18 under the ADIP Scheme.

It is pertinent to mention

that the Department of Social Welfare is organising assessment camps in far-flung areas under the ADIP and RVY schemes. The upcoming camps will be held at Panjdihara, Dachhan on 22-08-2026; Panchayat Ghar, Tiyaari, Paddar on 24-08-2026 and Nali Bunjwah on 25-08-2026.

Among those present were Medical Officers from the Department of AYUSH, TSWO Chetna Sharma and the assessment team from ALIMCO.

National Senior Citizens Day celebrated in Samba

KT News Desk

SAMBA, AUGUST 22: The Department of Social Welfare, Samba organised a programme to mark National Senior Citizens Day at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Samba, with Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan as the Chief Guest.

The programme was held under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) Action Plan 2026-27, focussing on promoting the dignity, health, well-being and social security of senior citizens.

On the occasion, an ENT Medical Check-up Camp and an AYUSH Health Camp were organised for senior citizens.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, highlighted the invaluable contribution of senior citizens to society and stressed the importance of ensuring their dignity, respect, healthcare and social security.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Vidhi Kohli and AYUSH Department Nodal Officer Renu Tikku underlined the importance of regular health check-ups, preventive healthcare and healthy ageing.

Muskaan Foundation State Nodal Officer Parveen Sangral was also present.

A large number of senior citizens took part in the programme, which provided a platform for health assessment, awareness and interaction while recognising the valuable experience and contribution of the elderly.

The Department of Social Welfare informed that several activities for senior citizens have also been planned under the AVYAY Action Plan, including vocational training, a recreational trip to Jamboo Zoo, awareness drives on welfare schemes, protection against elderly abuse and sports activities for ex-servicemen.

Mohd Ayaz Raina of Rajouri selected for National Award to Teachers 2026

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, AUGUST 22: Mohd Ayaz Raina, Lecturer in Botany at Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Dalhori, District Rajouri, has been selected for the National Award to Teachers 2026, becoming the only awardee from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir this year. The award will be conferred on Teachers' Day on September 5.

The selection is a moment of immense pride for Rajouri and the entire education fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir. For the awardee, it also recognises 13 years of dedication, commitment and contribution to education.

Expressing gratitude over the recognition, Raina, as per an official statement, said the award is not merely a personal honour but a recognition of the collective efforts of his students, fellow teachers, educational institutions, family and all those



who supported and encouraged him throughout his journey.

The awardee has previously earned several recognitions, including the National ICT Award 2017, the J&K UT Best Teacher Award 2021, the Global Teacher Award 2021 and the Global Best Educational Poster Award 2020.

The selection of Mohd Ayaz Raina has brought immense pride to Rajouri and Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the remarkable contribution of teachers working in remote and challenging geographical areas.

26 RR organises free medical camp at COB Thathri

KT News Desk

THATHRI, AUGUST 22: 26 Rashtriya Rifles (Indian Army) organised a free medical camp at COB Thathri on 22-08-2026 to provide accessible healthcare services, medical screening and health awareness to the local population.

During the camp, Thathri Block CHO Dr Shamaila Orussa, under the guidance of BMO Thathri Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, actively participated and provided medical services to the beneficiaries. A number of people were screened and examined for various health conditions, while the health staff also provided health counselling and necessary guidance.

The medical team from the Indian Army also actively participated in the camp and extended support in delivering healthcare services to the people.

Free medicines were distributed among the beneficiaries as per their medical requirements. The camp received a positive response from the local community and served as an important initiative towards strengthening healthcare outreach and promoting preventive healthcare among the people of the area.

The Health Department appreciated the efforts of 26 RR, the Indian Army and all the healthcare personnel involved in making the medical camp successful.

DC Doda reviews preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi celebrations

KT News Desk

DODA, AUGUST 22: Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal Saturday chaired a preparatory meeting to review the arrangements for the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi in Doda district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner issued necessary directions to all departments concerned to ensure coordinated and comprehensive arrangements for the smooth, peaceful and successful conduct of the celebrations.

He directed the Police Department to put in place adequate security arrangements and ensure effective traffic management, particularly at important locations and along routes witnessing religious gatherings.

He directed the Jal Shakti



Department to ensure the adequate availability and uninterrupted supply of drinking water at all designated locations.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to make necessary medical arrangements, including the deployment of medical teams and the availability of essential medicines and emergency services during the celebrations.

The Executive Officer, Municipality Doda/Bhaderwah

was directed to ensure proper sanitation, cleanliness and waste management in the town, particularly around markets, mosques and other congregation points.

The officers concerned were also directed to conduct market checking, ensure the availability of essential commodities at fair prices and take strict action against illegal stocking, overcharging and unfair pricing.

The Food Safety Department was directed to conduct regular inspections of food establishments and ensure that the quality and safety of food items sold to the public are maintained in accordance with prescribed standards.

The Chair stressed upon all departments to maintain close coordination and ensure that all arrangements are in place well in advance. The officers were directed to remain vigilant and responsive to public needs throughout the celebrations.

Among those present were the ADC, ASP, CMO, Executive Officer Municipality, the Executive Engineers concerned and other district officers. ADC Bhaderwah, SDMs, Tehsildars and other officers concerned participated in the meeting virtually.

DC flags off 'Swachhata Sankalp' awareness rally in Ramban

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, AUGUST 22: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan Saturday flagged off an awareness rally at Ramban under the 'Swachhata Sankalp' programme, launched by the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration Ramban, to

promote cleanliness, hygiene, responsible waste management and environmental awareness among the public.

Among those present were CPO Dr Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, CEO Oneel Bhat and Municipal Council Ramban CEO Sudershan Singh Jamwal, besides other officers and officials, students, local residents and participants.

The awareness rally was



taken out through Ramban town, with students, officials

and local residents participating enthusiastically.

The campaign featured a series of activities, including a cleanliness drive, an awareness programme, a cleanliness pledge and an awareness rally, aimed at encouraging greater public participation in cleanliness and environmental protection initiatives.

Addressing the participants, the dignitaries emphasised that cleanliness should be embraced as a continuous

community responsibility rather than being limited to a one-day campaign. They stressed the importance of responsible waste disposal, protection of public spaces, personal hygiene and active citizen participation in creating a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The programme concluded with the message: 'Swachhata Apnao, Swachh Jeevan Pao.'

Rana calls for sustainable water conservation, timely completion of dev projects

Holds public outreach prog at Rajpora Koular, Samba

KT News Desk

Samba, Aug 22: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Saturday held a public outreach programme at Rajpora Koular, Bari Brahmana, Samba where he listened to the grievances and development concern raised by the people.

The outreach programme was aimed at directly engaging with the people and taking feedback on developmental issues concerning the area.

The camp was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti/I&FC, Chief Conservator Forest (East) Jammu, Executive Engineer I&FC & PHE Samba, SDM Vijaypur, BDO Bari Brahmana, Executive Engineer Ground Water Jammu, DFO Samba and people from different areas.

The people projected several developmental demands and apprised the Minister of various issues requiring the intervention of the concerned departments.

During the public outreach programme, water conservation



emerged as a key concern, with people highlighting issues related to water availability and urging the Minister to initiate sustainable, long-term measures to address the problem.

Responding to the concerns, the Minister emphasised that water conservation must be approached as a long-term priority rather than through temporary interventions.

“Water conservation cannot be treated as a short-term response to water scarcity; it has to be a sustained and collective priority. We must move beyond temporary arrangements and focus on long-term measures, including water conservation,

rainwater harvesting, ground-water recharge and efficient management of our available water resources,” Rana said.

He directed the concerned officers to formulate a comprehensive plan so that the concerns of the people are addressed effectively and a lasting solution to water availability is ensured.

The people also highlighted the need for strengthening the flood protection measures and sought the Minister’s intervention for effective measures to safeguard the area against flood-related risks.

They also raised concerns regarding infrastructure damaged

during recent rains and flash floods, urging swift restoration, particularly permanent of roads to ensure safe and smooth connectivity.

The people also called for upgradation of the existing water supply infrastructure to ensure reliable and adequate drinking water supply to the area. They sought availability of quality timber for their genuine requirements. They also urged proper and effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, ensuring that the legitimate rights and concerns of forest-dependent communities are duly addressed.

The Minister assured the

public that all their genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner, adding that the administration remains well aware of area-specific development needs and public concerns. He said sustained efforts are underway to meet the public aspirations through a well-coordinated strategy.

Addressing the gathering, Rana said that public outreach programmes and direct interaction with people remain central to the government’s approach of ensuring responsive and accountable governance. He appealed to the people to participate in large numbers in such outreach camps so that their issues and concerns could be resolved without delay.

He called upon the field functionaries to remain proactive and ensure that government initiatives and benefits reach the people effectively. He stressed the importance of greater public awareness and responsive administration so that every eligible person can avail the benefits and services available to them.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates new AYUSH building at Khaloora, DH Pora

Addresses public gathering, listens to local issues, grievances

KT News Desk

Kulgam, Aug 22: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Saturday inaugurated the newly constructed AYUSH building for Government Ayush Dispensary at Khaloora, D.H. Pora.

The inauguration of the healthcare centre in the village was much needed demand towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and enhancing access to AYUSH based healthcare services for the local population and people from adjoining areas.

Constructed at a total cost of 30 lakh, the AYUSH facility is aimed at strengthening the delivery of AYUSH healthcare services at the grassroots level and complementing the existing healthcare infrastructure in the region. The facility will provide an important platform for promoting traditional systems of medicine and ensuring wider availability of AYUSH services, particularly for people living in rural and adjoining areas.

The Minister highlighted the

significance of strengthening the primary healthcare structure in the rural areas. She said the government is taking several steps towards the direction of ensuring accessible and quality healthcare services for all citizens of J&K.

Sakeena Itoo also addressed a public meeting at Khaloora and interacted with the local residents, listening to their concerns and taking feedback on various developmental and public service-related issues. She assured the people that their genuine concerns would be examined on priority and necessary action would be taken by the concerned departments.

Later, the Minister handed over engagement letters to recently engaged Anganwadi helpers of Zone DH Pora by the ICDS (Poshan Abhiyaan).

The Minister was accompanied by Director AYUSH, J&K, Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo; Chief Education Officer, Kulgam, Fayaz Ahmad Mir; Chief Medical Officer, Kulgam; Showkat Ahmad Parrey, CDPO, Saddam Hussain, Executive Engineer, PHE Division Kulgam; Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam/D.H. Pora, District Nodal Officer, AYUSH Kulgam and other concerned officers and officials.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Sinha calls

the journey, and collective efforts of the 100-day campaign towards building a drug-free Jammu Kashmir.

Pertinently, LG Sinha spearheaded the movement against the drugs in the Union Territory and led rallies across all the 20 districts in the region. The drive against drugs evoked a massive response from the people with thousands participating in the rallies and other programmes held in J&K.

Officials said that LG Sinha also apprised the Prime Minister about various matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir, including the prevailing situation and key issues related to the Union Territory. “Latest developments and the overall security, administrative and developmental scenario of Jammu and Kashmir were also discussed during the meeting,” they added. (KNO)

J&K power tariff

JPDCL to take immediate steps for implementation of the tariff order. (KNO)

What happened

The BJP leader said the 6.83 per cent hike, expected to come into effect from September 1, would further burden ordinary families already struggling with inflation and rising household expenses.

“The government must explain why the promises made to the people have not been fulfilled,” he said.

The LoP said the BJP would continue to raise the concerns of the people and hold the NC-led government accountable for the promises made during the 2024 Assembly elections.

Peoples Conference (PC) president Sajad Gani Lone said the 6.83 per cent hike is a “shock” for consumers who had been promised 200 units of free electricity in 2024.

In a post on X, Lone said the regulator had approved the 6.83 per cent hike while claiming to have avoided a tariff shock, but for the common consumer in Jammu and Kashmir, who was promised free power, the increase itself was a shock.

“Almost two years had passed since the Assembly elections, yet not a single rupee worth of benefit under the 200-unit free-power promise had been passed on to consumers,” he said.

The PC chief further alleged that apart from failing to deliver on the free-power promise, the government had increased the load in non-metered areas, pushing up monthly bills.

NC MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi also hit out at the government, saying the same Chief Minister who had promised to “throw meters into the river” had now raised the power tariff by nearly seven per cent instead of providing the promised 200 free units.

He said the tariff hike contradicted the promises made to people ahead of the 2024 Assembly elections.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Pulwama, Waheed Ur Rehman Parra said the tariff hike came at a time when “unemployment was at a peak, inflation was biting hard, and ordinary families were struggling to make ends meet”.

“From free tariff promises of relief to higher bills, what happened to the promise?” Parra said in a post on X. He questioned Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over the NC’s electoral commitments of 200 units of free electricity, free gas and free ration.

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari slammed the tariff hike, saying the move would further trouble the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He questioned the government’s approach at a time when people were already facing economic pressures.

Meanwhile, the Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) opposed the tariff hike, saying the increase would further hit the J&K economy and add to the burden on traders and businesses.

The KTA said the hike could have wider economic repercussions, particularly for the business community already dealing with rising operational costs. (KNO)

NIA searches

associated with the proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) during the late-night hours of March 31, 2026, at a naka point. A hand grenade and live ammunition were allegedly recovered from his possession. During the subsequent investigation, Pakistani terrorists allegedly linked to the conspiracy were arrested, while investigators also established the identities and alleged roles of members of the local support network.”

“According to the investigation conducted so far, Pakistan-based handlers allegedly maintained links with local associates who were being used for communication, logistical arrangements, movement and concealment of terrorists, provision of shelter, reconnaissance and other forms of facilitation. Investigators are also examining the financial trail, communication channels, movements of the accused, and the source of arms and explosives to establish the full extent of the alleged network and its activities,” it added.

“The searches conducted today were a part of the continuing investigation into the larger conspiracy and the alleged support mechanism facilitating cross-border terrorism. Further evidence recovered during the searches is being examined and corroborated with other material collected in the case,” the statement said, adding, “The investigation remains ongoing to identify all persons allegedly involved and determine their respective roles in the conspiracy. Further legal action, including arrests or recoveries, may follow based on the evidence and findings emerging during the investigation.” (KNO)

IIM Jammu needs

said, “IIM Jammu’s growth must now be converted into new discoveries. IIM Jammu must ask itself what can be done in the fields of administration, sustainable development and entrepreneurship in the economies of border areas. I believe that great institutions are great because, when the nation faces difficult questions, it looks to them for answers. If IIM Jammu continues to move forward with complete confidence over the next ten years, I am certain that its name will be spoken across the world with immense pride and respect.”

Reflecting on IIM Jammu’s remarkable journey, the Lieutenant Governor said that from a modest beginning to its current standing as one of India’s fastest-emerging business schools, the Institute has scripted a new history while setting out an ambitious roadmap for the decade ahead.

Recalling that IIM Jammu started a decade ago with just 56 students on a temporary campus on Canal Road, the Lieutenant Governor noted that the institute has since grown into a nationally recognised and internationally engaged centre for management education. He observed that IIM Jammu is now the fifth IIM in the country to hold both AMBA and EFMD accreditation, and it has built academic partnerships with institutions across France, Morocco, South Korea, Greece, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Poland, Sweden, Taiwan and, most recently, Brazil. He said the research output at the institute has also expanded sharply, growing from just two published papers in 2017 to close to 350 this year.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the hard work and a decade of consistent effort under the leadership of Director Professor B.S. Sahay, the faculty and the Board of Governors, describing the institute’s trajectory as a model that other business schools are beginning to look to for inspiration.

“I have seen details of one achievement after another, along with several distinctive initiatives that have become an inspiring example,

a role model, for other business schools. I am certain that, in the future, people will remember these achievements as a standard and an ideal, and will seek to emulate them,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor invoked the founding stories of three of the world’s most respected business schools - Harvard, built on the discipline of case-based learning; Stanford, built on connecting the classroom to real-world enterprise through Silicon Valley; and Wharton, built on mastering the complexities of global capital markets. Each, the Lieutenant Governor observed, succeeded not by trying to be everything, but by committing to one distinctive idea and pursuing it with patience over generations.

TODAY’S DECISIONS WILL SHAPE IIM JAMMU’S IDENTITY FOR DECADES TO COME

The Lieutenant Governor said that IIM Jammu now stands at a similar starting point and the decisions it makes over the coming years will shape its identity for decades to come. He emphasised four priorities for the IIM Jammu.

“A distinctive academic identity should be the priority. Rather than relying primarily on case studies drawn from Western business schools, IIM Jammu should build its own tradition of case writing rooted in the realities of Indian enterprise including the logistical and entrepreneurial challenges unique to Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

Experiential learning. We need to move education beyond the lecture hall. Every student to undertake a real, tangible project before graduation, whether through the institute’s Entrepreneurship Centre, a policy challenge, or direct engagement with local businesses supported by its Centre for Small Business Development.

Research with a sharp edge should be the focus. Building on the institute’s rapid growth in research output, a deeper focus should be on questions specific to border economies, sustainable development and frontier entrepreneurship, areas where IIM Jammu is uniquely positioned to lead. Placements should be seen as a nation-building exercise. I hope within a decade, IIM Jammu graduates would be recognised for reshaping major companies and founding leading enterprises. Each graduate should be seen as a contributor to India’s goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the real examinations take place in corporate boardrooms, markets and in life itself, where the data is often incomplete, stakeholders have differing opinions and there is no teacher to provide readymade answers.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released seven coffee-table books of IIM Jammu.

Padma Shri Dr. Milind Pralhad Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors (BoG), IIM Jammu; Sriram Dandekar, Former Chairman, BoG, IIM; Anand Kripalu, Member, BoG, IIM Jammu; Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director IIM Jammu; S. Shivakumar, Operating Partner, Advent International; Vice Chancellors of various Universities; Head of Departments, Faculty and students of IIM Jammu; prominent citizens and senior officials of Police and Civil Administration were present. (KNO)

Rain brings

degrees as the minimum, while Gulmarg remained the coolest among the stations, recording a maximum of 20.8 degrees and a minimum of 11.4 degrees.

Qazigund recorded 30.4 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 18 degrees as the minimum, Kupwara 31 degrees and 17.9 degrees, and Kokernag 30.6 degrees and 17.6 degrees, respectively.

Banihal recorded a maximum of 28.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 18.5 degrees, Batote 27.4 degrees and 19 degrees, Katra 31 degrees and 23.5 degrees, and Bhaderwah 29.6 degrees and 18 degrees.

During the 24 hours ending 8:30 am, Pahalgam received 1 mm of rainfall and Jammu

3.2 mm, while Srinagar recorded 0.0 mm. During the period from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Pahalgam received 4 mm, Srinagar 0.6 mm and Jammu 0.3 mm of rainfall.

The MeT said the weather is expected to remain mostly fine on August 23, though a few places could receive thundershowers during the early morning and afternoon hours. A short-duration shower is possible at a few places on August 24, while similar conditions are likely on August 25 and from August 26 to 28, mainly towards the afternoon.

From August 23 to 28, the overall weather is expected to remain largely hot and humid, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers at scattered places.

The department has also forecast another spell of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at scattered to many places from August 29 to 31, with brief intense showers likely, particularly in the Jammu division.

The MeT cautioned that localised heavy rainfall could trigger flash floods, mudslides and landslides in vulnerable areas and advised people to exercise caution during periods of intense rainfall.

“Risk of high-intensity showers will continue. As such, flash floods are possible in a few spots,” the weather department said.

Farmers have been advised to continue harvesting and other agricultural operations according to local weather conditions.

The MeT also advised orchardists to undertake spraying preferably during the morning hours. In hilly areas, spraying should ideally be completed by late morning, preferably by noon, to minimise the risk of showers developing during the afternoon.

In the plains, spraying can be extended into the afternoon if required, while farmers in hilly areas have been advised to complete the activity by late morning and, where possible, in installments.

The weather department said mostly dry conditions are expected over much of the coming week, but intermittent showers and the possibility of high-intensity rainfall at isolated locations will continue. (KNO)

EOW Kashmir

son of Ab. Rahim Mir, resident of Lashtiyal Kalaroos, Kupwara, before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kupwara, in case FIR No. 18/2026 under Sections 420, 468, 471 and 201 RPC.

He said the case pertains to a written complaint alleging that the accused had cheated the complainant of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of providing a government job and, in furtherance of the deception, had furnished him with a fake and forged appointment order purportedly issued by the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, J&K Bank.

“Accordingly, a probe was ordered, and on the basis of the facts and evidence brought on record during the investigation, the allegations were found to be established and the case was concluded as proved. Consequently, the chargesheet has been presented before the Hon’ble Court for judicial determination.”

The spokesperson said Abdul Majeed Mir is a known habitual offender and has been involved in 15 different criminal cases across the Kashmir Valley. He was arrested on July 18, 2026, and is presently lodged in Central Jail Srinagar in connection with FIR No. 12/2026 of Police Station Economic Offences Wing Kashmir, Crime Branch J&K.

“The Crime Branch has advised the public to remain vigilant against such economic frauds and report any suspicious activities to the SSP, EOW Kashmir. Victims may also lodge complaints through email at sspeow-kmr@jkpolice.gov.in,” the spokesperson said. (KNO)

Confidence in our

great institution,” he recalled. The Chief Minister also acknowledged the rich history of the Presentation Congregation

and the institution, saying that the ideals with which the congregation was founded 250 years ago and the ethos that led to the establishment of Presentation Convent School in Srinagar continue to remain alive.

He said the school had transformed over nine decades from being merely a school into a distinguished institution, with its reputation reflected in the demand for admission.

“Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School is one of those institutions where people seek recommendations for admission. That is a testament to the success that Presentation Convent School has been able to attain in its 90 years of history here,” he said.

Recalling his school days, the Chief Minister fondly remembered the school grounds where students assembled and marched to music, besides recalling the teachers and Sisters who had led the institution over the years.

He said Presentation Convent has contributed significantly to society by producing civil servants, doctors, police officers, engineers, business leaders, sportspersons and lawmakers.

The Chief Minister stressed that education must go beyond academic achievement and should encourage young people to think independently and speak up.

“We have to teach our children not just to follow, not just to obey, but to question, to ask, to demand,” he said.

Referring to the cultural performances presented by the students, Omar Abdullah said one of the most powerful messages of the evening came through a musical skit that questioned whether society was truly equitable and fair to its daughters.

The skit highlighted several serious social issues concerning women and girls, including child marriage, acid attacks, female foeticide, domestic violence, and gender based violence.

The Chief Minister particularly appreciated the message conveyed by the students that responsibility for violence and discrimination against women cannot be placed on the victims.

“It is not the girl who is responsible for what happens. It is us who have not been able to teach our sons how to be better human beings,” he recalled, describing the message as an eye-opening one for society.

He said the confidence, talent and composure displayed by the students were particularly encouraging.

“The talent that we saw here, the confidence, but also the ability to not get shaken, gives me immense confidence,” he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised that parents and society as a whole have a responsibility to ensure that girls grow up in a safe and equitable environment.

“I believe our girls are safe here. And I believe with such confident students of this school, the future of Jammu and Kashmir is safe with girls of this calibre,” he said.

Earlier, students presented a series of cultural performances showcasing the history and 90-year journey of Presentation Convent in Kashmir, as well as the legacy of its founder Nano Nagle and the Presentation Congregation. The performances combined music, dance, drama and storytelling to highlight the institution’s enduring contribution to education and society.

The Chief Minister congratulated the principal, faculty, students, parents and the entire Presentation Convent community for organising the Annual Day function and commemorating the institution’s remarkable journey.

“I wish the Presentation Congregation all the very best for the next 250 years. And I wish Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School all the very best for the next not just 90 years but many more after that,” he said.

He concluded by extending his best wishes to the school and its students for their continued success and contribution to Jammu and Kashmir.

'Nyaya-nomics' needed to promote economic growth through consistent adjudication: CJI

PTI

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday said enormous growth that nations are expected to sustain cannot solely arrive by the luck of geography and underlined the need for "Nyaya-nomics", or the economics of justice, to ensure a level playing field through consistent adjudication.

Addressing the 11th BRICS+ Legal Forum here, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said institutions are not scaffolding erected around growth, but they are its architecture.

The theme of the forum was 'Rule of Law Frameworks and Institutional Capacity Building for Economic Resilience,



Innovation and Sustainability'. The scale at which the country is progressing, and this holds true for each of the

BRICS+ nations, owes itself to the nature of institutions, the judiciary being chief among them, he said.

"The enormous growth that our nations are expected to sustain cannot solely arrive by the luck of geography or the accident of resources. It is built, deliberately, out of institutions strong enough to be trusted. Perhaps numbers and statistics can make the point better than words alone," CJI Kant said.

"Nyaya-nomics, or more simply, the economics of justice. It is a fact that consistent adjudication and trust in the process reduce the cost of each transaction built upon it, thereby levelling the playing field for market forces, and in turn, making way for growth," he said.

No BRICS+ economy, including India, has achieved growth

solely through its resources. Development in these countries has been proportional to the enforceability of their commitments, he added. Further, the CJI said, "If there is one phrase you absorb into your vocabulary this morning, let it be 'Nyaya Setu', a bridge of justice that connects 11 legal traditions which have mutually agreed that trust should be cultivated deliberately rather than awaited passively."

"Institutions are not scaffolding we erect around growth once it has already begun, but they are its arching- tecture. Take the architecture away, and in truth, what looks like a rising economy is a stack of good fortune waiting for its first storm," he said.

'Paise Ki Goonj': BJP claims Cong paid influencers to draw crowds for Rahul Gandhi's event

PTI

Mumbai: The BJP on Saturday dubbed Rahul Gandhi's student event in Pune as "Paise Ki Goonj", alleging that the Congress had paid social media influencers to mobilise crowds, triggering a fiery response from the Opposition, which claimed the saffron party feared the growing Gen Z support.

While BJP spokesperson Navnath Ban alleged that the Congress had spent nearly Rs 10 crore to buy attendance by paying up to Rs 35,000 per influencer for the "Chhatron Ki Goonj" programme, Opposition leader Sachin Sawant retorted that BJP leaders were terrified of Gandhi's growing influence among youngsters.

Gandhi is slated to hold a "Chhatron Ki Goonj" event specifically dedicated to female students in Pune on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's Maharashtra headquarters here, Ban alleged that the Congress was trying to create an impression of a spontaneous public response to Gandhi's 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme by paying people to attend it and promote it on social media.

He claimed videos had surfaced showing offers of Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 to social media influencers to promote the Pune event, covering their travel expenses and promoting the programme online.

"The programme is not 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' but 'Paise Ki Goonj'. The Congress is gathering crowds with money," Ban alleged.

He claimed that if around 3,000 people were paid Rs 30,000 to Rs 35,000 each, the total expenditure could work out to between Rs 9 crore and Rs 10 crore.

"Where has this money come from? Who is providing it and through whom is it being distributed? What is the official account of this money?" he questioned.

The BJP spokesperson demanded a detailed investigation into the source of the funds and questioned whether they had any link to foreign funding or money allegedly diverted through contracts, commissions or other financial transactions in Congress-ruled states.

He also sought an inquiry into the organisations and individuals allegedly involved in distributing the money.

BJP Maharashtra vice-president Keshav Upadhyay alleged that Gandhi's Pune programme was an attempt to create a political platform by using students' issues.

"Though the programme is called 'Chhatron Ki Goonj', it is actually Rahul Gandhi's political battle," Upadhyay said, claiming that the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition had lost 100 elections, but had still failed to find a clear political direction.

"Rahul Gandhi has not been able to find a concrete issue against the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. Despite making allegations and counter-allegations about fake narratives and trying various political experiments, people are not ready to trust him," he said. Hitting back at the BJP, State Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant claimed that the ruling party was "rattled" by the growing response Gandhi was receiving from the youth, particularly Gen Z.

Preventive healthcare future model, crucial for national economy, security: Rajnath

PTI

Noida, Aug 22: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday described preventive healthcare as the "future model" of the healthcare system, citing changing disease patterns, rising treatment costs and India's ageing population as key reasons for shifting the focus towards early detection and prevention.

Addressing the inauguration of a Mahajan Imaging and Labs facility here, Singh said non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, kidney failure and mental health disorders were increasingly becoming major health concerns.

"These diseases do not develop in a day. They develop gradually in the body over years. High sugar, high cholesterol, fatty liver and borderline blood pressure are all warning signs. The future of healthcare lies in identifying these warning signs in time," he said.

Singh said preventive healthcare also made economic sense as treating advanced diseases could cost lakhs of rupees, while annual health check-ups, lifestyle counselling, early screening and basic medication could cost hundreds or a few thousand rupees.

"As health expenditure



increases, the government, insurance companies and employers will all want diseases to be stopped at an early stage," he said.

He cited demographic changes as another reason for adopting the preventive model. India currently has a predominantly young population, but a large proportion of the population is expected to be elderly by 2050.

"If we do not adopt the preventive model now, the burden on hospitals will naturally increase in the future," Singh said.

He said preventive healthcare was a matter of "national economy and national security" and called for all stakeholders to contribute towards making it the "new normal".

Singh said the focus of

healthcare should not remain limited to treating diseases after they appear but should include prevention, early detection, risk assessment and personalised healthcare.

He said diagnostic medicine was undergoing a major transformation with artificial intelligence, advanced medical imaging, molecular diagnostics, digital pathology, automation, genomics and data-driven healthcare.

However, Singh cautioned that "technology alone could not define excellent healthcare" and stressed the "need to protect sensitive patient data, maintain transparency in the use of AI, avoid bias and give priority to patient safety".

"When a person comes for a test, he brings his

anxiety, fear and hope. Protecting that trust is the biggest responsibility of everyone in healthcare," he said.

Singh said India had a large pool of doctors, scientists, engineers and researchers, along with a rapidly expanding digital ecosystem and a vibrant startup environment, giving the country an opportunity to lead healthcare innovation.

He said the government had sought to connect a large section of the population with affordable modern healthcare and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with launching Ayushman Bharat, which he described as the world's largest health insurance programme.

He said around 35 crore people had so far received quality treatment under the scheme.

Singh said Uttar Pradesh had witnessed considerable improvement in healthcare over the past decade, with more than five crore beneficiaries enrolled under Ayushman Bharat and over 80 lakh having availed its benefits.

The former UP chief minister said the state now had more than 45 medical colleges, compared with 12 before 2017, while MBBS and post-graduate seats had increased more than threefold.

Bengal: Shah meets hill leaders to discuss 'permanent political solution' for Darjeeling



PTI

Siliguri (WB): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday held a key meeting with senior hill leaders at a hotel in Sukna in the Darjeeling foothills on his third and final day of north Bengal visit.

The meeting is expected to address the agenda of finding a "permanent political solution" to the long-standing issues of Darjeeling hills within the ambit of constitutional framework, officials said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari was present at the meeting, which was also attended by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) chief Bimal Gurung, and the party's senior leader Roshan Giri, Gorkha National Liberation

Front (GNLF) chief Mann Ghisingh, Darjeeling MP Raju Bista, several state ministers and BJP MLAs from the hills, besides senior officials of the state government.

The meeting is expected to focus on the BJP's pre-poll promise of a "permanent political solution" for the Gorkha community and other residents of the hills who have, for decades, demanded a separate Gorkhaland state.

Attempts made by previous state governments to address the issue through arrangements such as the establishment of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) have, arguably, failed to secure long-term peace, economic prosperity and political stability in the region.

Govt restricts fixed-dose combinations with two compounds for children below 4



PTI

New Delhi: The government has restricted the manufacture, sale and distribution of all fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, with a mandatory warning against their use in children below four years of age.

The move extends an earlier restriction imposed on certain FDCs containing the two chemical compounds.

In a notification dated April 15, 2025, the government had restricted specified fixed-dose combinations containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, subject to the same age-specific warning. The latest notification extends the requirement to all

formulations containing the two ingredients.

The decision follows recommendations from an expert committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).

The government said the use of such combinations may pose risks to children below four years of age and noted that safer alternatives are available.

Manufacturers have been directed to prominently display the warning: "Fixed Dose Combination shall not be used in children below four years of age" on the label, package insert and promotional literature associated with these formulations.

The notification has been issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and takes effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

India needs to become laboratory of world, not just pharmacy: Union Min

PTI

Ahmedabad, Aug 22: Union Minister Anupriya Patel on Saturday said India must evolve from being the "pharmacy of the world" to the "laboratory of the world" by leveraging artificial intelligence to discover drugs.

Addressing Healthcare Summit 2026 at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Patel noted that AI can serve as a force multiplier to overcome regional disparities and bridge the shortage of medical specialists.

The country is not going to be satisfied with the label of just being the pharmacy of the world; it now has the ambition of becoming the laboratory of the world, and which is why AI was necessary, the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare said.

"We don't want the Indian pharmaceutical industry to keep on manufacturing medicines that have been discovered elsewhere. It's been a long time. We've been hailed as the pharmacy of the world. We provide generic medicines and vaccines to countries around the world. We are fulfilling WHO's requirements, and India's capabilities are being applauded. But now we need to move



beyond that," she said. Patel noted that there are many challenges in building a healthy India and achieving the goal of becoming a developed

country by 2047, considering the population, diversity and geographical complexities.

Given India's vast and genetically

diverse population, a treatment that may work well for one patient may not work as well for another, she said, adding that a 'one-size-fits-all approach' is not possible.

AI is required to provide "personalised" treatment to every single patient, and can be a 'force multiplier' in addressing many challenges, the Union minister said.

"So many areas in our country are still inaccessible. There are variations in access to healthcare because a lot of places are unreachable due to geographical complexities," she said.

Patel further pointed out that despite establishing new medical colleges and increasing PG (postgraduate) and UG (undergraduate) seats, there was a shortage of specialists and advanced diagnostic facilities, and the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

"In the face of these multiple challenges, AI can be a force multiplier. It has the potential to help overcome these barriers and bring us closer to achieving health equity," she said.

The Union minister said that through the Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP), which has an outlay of Rs 5,000 crore, India is

trying to strengthen research.

"We are connecting our academic institutions with the industry, encouraging our country to move from cost-based manufacturing towards innovation-led growth," she said.

"AI tools are increasingly being used in the healthcare sector. Initiatives such as MadhuNetra AI and the National Telemedicine Network, eSanjeevani, are good examples of solutions that are making a meaningful impact. Three of our tertiary healthcare institutions have also been identified and designated as Centres of Excellence by the Government of India," Patel said.

Ultimately, all key stakeholders need to come together and collaborate to build a robust national AI ecosystem, she said.

AIIMS New Delhi, AIIMS Rishikesh and PGIMER Chandigarh have been designated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare.

During the summit, Patel also launched the India Pharma Archives, the first publicly accessible digital platform capturing 125 years of Indian pharmaceutical history, as well as a book on COVID-19 vaccine development.

European wildfires reveal a hidden danger: buried bombs and mines from WWI and WWII

AP

Elsenborn, Aug 22: The wildfires burning across Europe this summer have exposed a potentially deadly threat lurking beneath the blackened landscape: rusty bombs and mines from World War I and II that threaten crews responding to the flames.

Some of the weapons have exploded in the intense heat. Blasts have been reported in France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands, where a bomb-disposal team was dispatched to check a forest threatened by flames near a site of fierce fighting in the Limburg province in 1944.

Fueled by climate change, the fires and explosions show that the continent's "climatic luck" is running out, said Sarah Njeri, a peace and conflict scholar at London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Steady temperatures and predictable rainfall once ensured that most buried weapons stayed dormant.

"Climate change is now doing the work of unburying and reactivating what was previously stable," Njeri said. Fires can ignite old munitions but can also burn away the scrub and brush that hides them.



This wildfire season was supercharged by heavy rains in January that spurred vegetation growth, which became kindling when the summer heat arrived. Those temperatures, combined with drought

conditions, low humidity and stiff winds, offered an ideal environment for fire, according to a study issued last month by the World Weather Attribution group.

Flames chewed up old battlefields and set

off buried explosives

As they advanced, the flames moved over territory that has long been known to hold unexploded weapons, a lethal legacy that lingered long after the guns fell silent.

In a forest in tinder-dry France, a massive wildfire outside the southwestern city of Bordeaux uncovered a cache of what is believed to be World War II-era ammunition.

In the eastern Belgian province of Liege, Gov. Hervé Jamar said "a few sporadic detonations" were recently heard and that emergency services were adapting to account for munitions buried in a fire area. He said no fire crews were in danger, but local media published photos of a firefighter handling a rusted bomb.

During World War II, booby traps, bombs and mines were sprinkled throughout the province's dense peat-bog forest known as the High Fens. In the first four years after Germany's surrender in 1945, the munitions killed six civilians, said Bernard Collard, a local historian who runs the Truschbaum Museum near Belgium's border with Germany that houses a collection of found objects from the war. "When you go into a forest like

this, you are not sure where the explosives are," he said. He remembers his father detonating a found bomb in a quarry.

The fire in the High Fens, which stretches across the border with Germany, is smoldering atop a much-bloodied battlefield where Nazis fought Allied troops. The Battle of the Bulge was fought in and around the High Fens.

The fire is even closer to the sites of two lesser-known skirmishes along Elsenborn Ridge and in the Hurtgen Forest, which lasted 88 days and killed about 33,000 American and 28,000 German troops.

Every year, Belgium responds to thousands of calls about explosives

Collard is authorized to scan with a metal detector the former battlefields, now forests, pastures and farmland. He has found mortar shells, machine guns, helmets, cigarette cases, and once, a human skeleton.

"You never know what you might come across, and you shouldn't take it lightly," Collard said while standing in a field that was once a blood-soaked site. Nearby, blueberry bushes cover old foxholes, trenches and deep craters from artillery fire.

TikTok to pay \$400 mn settlement in US children's privacy case

AFP

San Francisco, Aug 22: TikTok has agreed to pay \$400 million to settle a lawsuit with the US Department of Justice over claims that the video-sharing platform violated federal children's privacy laws, the department announced on Friday.

Regulators around the world have been ramping up enforcement against social media companies that violate laws around protecting children's data, privacy and safety.

Chinese company ByteDance — which sold off a majority stake of its US entity earlier this year in order to avoid a ban by the Trump administration — is also named as part of the settlement. It has a 19.9 percent ownership stake in TikTok US, according to US media.

"Under the settlement, TikTok will pay \$300 million immediately and an additional \$100 million upon entry of an order vacating a prior consent decree entered against TikTok's predecessor, Musical.ly," the department said in a statement.

It's "one of the largest recoveries ever obtained" from a case involving the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), the statement continued.

My job is to win trophies and that's all I care for: Gambhir

PTI

Colombo, Aug 22: Gautam Gambhir isn't bothered by the "outside noise" and the brickbats hurled at him following a string of poor results, saying his focus firmly remains on "winning trophies for India".

Since Gambhir took over as head coach, India lost two home series against New Zealand and South Africa and were thrashed by Australia Down Under. The only silver lining in Tests under his stewardship has been a creditable 2-2 away series draw against England.

Asked about his criticism, Gambhir retorted in his inimitable manner.

"Criticism? My job is to win trophies. That's all I believe in and care for. That is the difference between me and everyone. I don't care about views or likes," Gambhir said during a pre-match press conference



on Saturday. Gambhir was also asked about his interaction with chairman of the selection committee Ajit Agarkar.

"It's only about how we want to move forward within cricket, what is important and what are the right decisions to make for betterment within cricket. So probably it's only around cricket

now, how we see it in the game going forward."

India are placed fifth in the World Test Championship ranking table behind Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and Bangladesh.

"Rankings do not matter. We are not struggling. Since the England tour, we have played reasonable Test cricket," Gambhir said.

Starc, Islam take 6 wickets each in wild 1st day of 2nd Aus-Ban test

AP

Mackay (Australia), Aug 22: Mitchell Starc removed Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam with the first ball of the match and the veteran Australian fast bowler took six wickets in the first innings on a wild first day of the second cricket test Saturday. Later, Shoriful Islam incredibly matched Starc's total with a six-wicket haul on a day which saw 18 wickets fall.

After Australia won the toss and decided to bowl, with captain Pat Cummins suggesting "the wicket looks pretty good, but if there is any moisture in it, it might be this morning," Starc proved Cummins correct and Bangladesh was bowled out for 64 runs shortly after lunch.

The wicket, however, continued to be a challenge for batters well beyond the morning.

In reply, Australia was 165-8 at stumps to lead by 101 runs despite

Shoriful Islam's 6-35 total. Cameron Green was one of the not-out batsmen on 51 with Nathan Lyon on 10.

Shadman Islam was caught in the gully off a leading edge to give Starc his record fourth career wicket on the first ball of a match. Starc removed Tanzid Hasan and had captain Najmul Hossain Shanto caught lbw in the third over to leave Bangladesh, which surprisingly won the first test of the two-test series, reeling. Starc got his fourth wicket when Cameron Green made a grass-top catch to remove Mominul Haque for 9, the only Bangladesh batter to score a run among the first four batters Saturday. His fifth wicket came when he had Litton Das trapped lbw and his sixth after lunch.

Starc's figures were 6-12 in 10 overs and Cummins finished with three wickets. The Bangladesh total was the lowest while batting first in Australia since 1932 when South Africa was dismissed for 36.

Starc, Islam take 6 wickets each in wild 1st day of 2nd Aus-Ban test



AP

Mackay (Australia), Aug 22: Mitchell Starc removed Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam with the first ball of the match and the veteran Australian fast bowler took six wickets in the first innings on a wild first day of the second cricket test Saturday.

Later, Shoriful Islam incredibly matched Starc's total with a six-wicket haul on a day which saw 18 wickets fall.

After Australia won the toss and decided to bowl, with captain Pat Cummins suggesting "the wicket looks pretty good, but if there is any moisture in it, it might be this morning," Starc proved Cummins correct and Bangladesh was bowled out for 64 runs shortly after lunch.

The wicket, however, continued to be a challenge for batters well beyond the morning.

In reply, Australia was

165-8 at stumps to lead by 101 runs despite Shoriful Islam's 6-35 total. Cameron Green was one of the not-out batsmen on 51 with Nathan Lyon on 10.

Shadman Islam was caught in the gully off a leading edge to give Starc his record fourth career wicket on the first ball of a match. Starc removed Tanzid Hasan and had captain Najmul Hossain Shanto caught lbw in the third over to leave Bangladesh, which surprisingly won the first test of the two-test series, reeling.

Starc got his fourth wicket when Cameron Green made a grass-top catch to remove Mominul Haque for 9, the only Bangladesh batter to score a run among the first four batters Saturday. His fifth wicket came when he had Litton Das trapped lbw and his sixth after lunch.

Starc's figures were 6-12 in 10 overs and Cummins finished with three wickets. The Bangladesh total was the

lowest while batting first in Australia since 1932 when South Africa was dismissed for 36.

The highest Bangladesh score was by No. 11 batter Shoriful Islam with 14.

"Six (wickets) in the first session, can't beat that," Starc told his wife, television commentator and former Australia captain Alyssa Healy while walking off the field at lunch. "Obviously a little bit of anger."

Australia announced a 13-man squad earlier this week, with only one change for the second test. It dropped Jake Weatherald and recalled Matt Renshaw, who opened the batting but was out for 8 early in the Australian innings.

The match began under sunny skies at the Great Barrier Reef Arena in Mackay, a coastal city in Queensland state about 800 kilometers (500 miles) north of the capital Brisbane.

Bangladesh's first test win in Australia put pressure on national cricket selectors for an overhaul, but the bulk of the aging squad was retained despite being outplayed in Darwin, where the likes of Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Hasan made the most of the tropical conditions.

The two-test "Top End" series starts a heavy 12-month schedule for the Australians that will feature 20 test matches, including tours to South Africa, India and England.

INOX
SRINAGAR

MOVIE
LIST

23 August 2026. Sunday

IRUMUDI
(TELUGU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLE) (U/A)
09:30 AM

AWARAPAN 2
(HINDI) (U/A 16+)
12:20 PM 03:10 PM 06:00 PM
HINDI ATMOS
10:55 AM 04:40 PM 07:30 PM

**INSIDIOUS:
OUT OF THE FURTHER**
(HINDI) (A)
04:05 PM
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
10:55 AM 08:20 PM

**SPIDER-MAN:
BRAND NEW DAY**
(3D ENGLISH ATMOS
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 13+)
01:45 PM

**PAW PATROL:
THE DINO MOVIE**
(ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
(U7+)
06:20 PM

**BETHLEHEM
KUDUMBA UNIT**
(MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
(U/A 13+)
01:05 PM

DIRECTOR

Every Movie,
A New Experience!

BOOK YOUR
TICKETS NOW!

+91 95416 13868

POP CORN