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International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir

## J&K set for grand cinematic homecoming from tomorrow

135 films from over 40 countries to be screened

Rs 96 lakh prize purse, over 300 delegates, global jury lined up

Our attempt is to institutionalise this festival like Cannes, Jt Dir DIPR

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 05: A film fever is set to sweep across Kashmir from Monday, with the maiden International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) 2026 bringing 135 films from over 40 countries to the Union Territory from September 7 to 10 under the theme 'Rang-e-Cinema', as J&K seeks to revive its cinematic legacy and emerge as a destination for filmmaking and cultural exchange.

Organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of J&K, the four-day festival aims to revive the region's cinematic legacy, promote local talent and build a sustainable film economy.



Joint Director DIPR Shah Nawaz Bukhari, speaking to reporters, said the festival was a well-intentioned effort to strengthen the natural connection between Bollywood and Kashmir and revive film tourism in the region. "The connection between Bollywood and Kashmir is a natural one and should be strengthened. The rise of Bollywood coincided with

a time when films were extensively shot in J&K, but due to unfortunate circumstances, that activity declined. We are now trying to promote film tourism here," he said, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Bukhari said the government intends to institutionalise the festival as an annual event and use it as a platform to bring

filmmakers, industry professionals, academicians and students together.

"Our attempt is to bring Kashmir back into the frame. We would like J&K to become the film frame, rather than merely being a backdrop for films," Bukhari said.

He said around 1,100 films from 92 countries were received for the festival, while the preview committee selected 135 films representing more than 40 countries for screening.

"The response has been encouraging. We received around 1,100 films from 92 countries, and the preview committee has shortlisted 135 films representing more than 40 countries," he said.

Bukhari said the festival would also provide local students and aspiring filmmakers an | More on P6

## Kashmir upper reaches receive season's first snowfall, rain lashes plains



Srinagar records 26.6°C, Jammu settles at 32.7°C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 05: Rain lashed parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, while Kashmir upper reaches recorded the season's first snowfall, bringing a nip in the air and signalling the gradual onset of autumn.

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

the rainfall was accompanied by hailstorms and gusty winds at a few places, including parts of Srinagar, while light snowfall was reported from the extreme higher reaches, including the mountains around Zojila Pass, Gumri, Gulmarg and the Pir Panjal range.

Snowfall was also recorded over the higher reaches of Srinagar, with Mahadev Peak seen covered in fresh snow. Moreover, there were also reports of snowfall from Kaobal Gali, Tulail Valley.

"Snowfall today has remained confined to | More on P6

## Pak LeT terrorist killed in Budgam linked to 3 major attacks in 2024

Involved in IAF convoy ambush at Poonch, Sonamarg killings, Bota Pathri attack; hunt on for second terrorist

Naveed UI Haq Ganaie

Budgam, Sep 05: Terrorist killed during a joint operation in the higher reaches of Yusmarg in Central Kashmir's Budgam district has been identified as Yasir, a Pakistani national, affiliated with the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), officials said here on Saturday.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Yasir's presence was first detected in 2024 and he was part of a LeT group allegedly involved in several attacks across Jammu and Kashmir.

On May 4, 2024, terrorists ambushed an IAF convoy near Shahsitar in the Surankote area of Poonch when the personnel were returning to their base at Sanai Top. One IAF personnel was killed and four others were injured in the attack. Yasir was a part of the terrorist group that attacked the convoy.

The slain terrorist was also involved in the killing of seven people, including a local doctor, on October 20, 2024 at Gangangir in Sonamarg. | More on P6



# 1<sup>ST</sup> | INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

September 7-10, 2026

Srinagar | Jammu | Gulmarg

*Floating Cinema*

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Dated: 05.09.2026

DIPK-5376/26

## 25,000 MTs of apples transported by rail from Kashmir last season

Director says railways emerging as alternative mode of horti transport

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Sep 05: Around 25,000 metric tonnes of apples were transported from Kashmir by rail during the last season, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing Ghulam Jeelani Zargar said on Saturday, calling railways an emerging alternative for transporting horticultural produce to markets across the country.

"About 25,000 metric tonnes of apples were transported by rail from Kashmir during the last season," Zargar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said the establishment of rail connectivity between Kashmir and



different parts of the country marks a significant milestone for the horticulture sector and offers a promising and cost-effective option for transporting produce, particularly during the peak apple season. | More on P6

## Apple harvest begins on encouraging note

- » Gala, Kulu fetch good returns
- » Growers hopeful, say 'better than last year'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 05: The apple harvesting season in Kashmir has begun on an encouraging note, with early varieties such as Gala and Kulu fetching good returns in the market, bringing relief to fruit growers who had faced significant challenges during the previous season.

Although harvesting has so far started mainly in the low-lying and comparatively warmer areas of the Valley, growers and traders said the initial market response has been positive. Kulu apples are currently fetching around Rs 1,200-1,400 per box, while demand for quality Gala apples has also remained | More on P6

=== J&K fully literate UT ===

## Education Minister congratulates people Govt launches 460 civil works to upgrade J&K schools

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 05: Minister for School Education, Higher Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Masood Itoo, has congratulated the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the Union Territory being declared a fully literate UT under ULLAS—Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

In her message on Teachers' Day celebrated at SKICC Srinagar, the Minister said the declaration of J&K as Fully Literate UT, with over 95 percent literacy, treated as 100 percent as per Government of India norms, is a moment of immense pride. She said J&K has emerged as the biggest State/UT till date to achieve this milestone and has secured 10th position nationally.

The Minister said, "This achievement is not merely a number or a statistic; it represents thousands of lives transformed through the



power of education. ULLAS has demonstrated that when government commitment is strengthened by community participation, every citizen can be brought within the fold of learning, dignity and empowerment."

Sakeena Itoo lauded the dedicated efforts of teachers, volunteers, learners, field functionaries, educational institutions and district administrations, whose collective spirit of Jan Bhagidari

made this possible. She said from 2023 to 2026, the School Education Department identified 7.58 lakh non-literates through door-to-door surveys and 5.53 lakh learners qualified the FLNAT, including 3,16,883 in 2025-26 alone.

The Minister reiterated that the government remains committed to ensure that the gains of literacy translate into lifelong learning, digital literacy, vocational skills and financial awareness | More on P6

## J&K intern doctors continue protest to seek stipend hike, warn of hunger strike

Tarigami seeks CM Omar's intervention

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 05: The ongoing agitation by MBBS and BDS intern doctors across Jammu and Kashmir intensified on Saturday, with protesting interns holding peaceful demonstrations and reiterating their demand for an immediate enhancement of their

monthly stipend.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the protesting interns have maintained that their demand has remained pending for a considerable period and have sought a formal government order on the enhancement of the stipend, asserting that verbal assurances alone would not be sufficient to end their agitation.

The development comes a day after a delegation of intern doctors met Health and Medical Education

Minister Sakina Itoo to discuss the issue and apprise her of the difficulties being faced by interns.

According to representatives who attended the meeting, the government sought time to examine the matter and take a decision. However, the interns said they want the assurance to be translated into a written and formal government order.

The representatives said they would continue their peaceful protest until a concrete decision is taken by the government. They also warned that if their

demand is not addressed soon, they may intensify the agitation and resort to a hunger strike.

The intern representatives who participated in the meeting have also appealed to the protesting doctors and the public to rely only on their official statements regarding the outcome of the discussions and avoid circulating unverified information.

AIMSA J&K President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan also sought greater transparency from the government | More on P6

# Commissioner launches SMC education initiative for children of sanitation workers

Programme seeks to facilitate scholarship-based coaching, academic support for eligible students



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, on Saturday formally launched an education initiative aimed at supporting the academic aspirations of children of the Corporation's sanitation workers. The initiative, as per an official statement, was inaugurated in the presence of Joint Commissioners, sanitation workers and their children and parents, besides

representatives of participating educational institutions. The programme seeks to facilitate scholarship-based coaching and academic support for eligible students, particularly those studying in Classes IX to XII and those aspiring to pursue competitive examinations such as NEET and JEE. Speaking at the inaugural programme, the Commissioner said the initiative was rooted in the Corporation's recognition of the contribution made by its

sanitation workforce and its responsibility towards creating meaningful opportunities for their children. "Those who work every day to keep our city clean deserve to see their children move forward with dignity, confidence and opportunity. Education can be one of the strongest pathways to make that possible. This initiative is an investment in the aspirations of the next generation," he added. Faz Lul Haseeb said the initiative should not be viewed

merely as an assistance programme, but as an effort to build a sustained ecosystem of opportunity, mentorship and educational advancement. The initiative has been structured as a collaborative effort, with participating educational institutions extending academic support to eligible students. The Private Coaching Centres Association of Srinagar has facilitated the participation of its member institutions. SMC will facilitate the identification and verification of eligible students through a transparent mechanism. The programme will cover students across Classes IX to XII as well as those preparing for NEET and JEE, in accordance with the prescribed eligibility and selection modalities. The Commissioner said that the larger objective was to ensure that the contribution of the sanitation workforce translates into greater opportunities for the generation that follows. The presence of sanitation workers and their children at the inaugural programme gave the initiative a distinctive human dimension, placing their educational aspirations at the centre of the Corporation's intervention. Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb expressed appreciation to the institutions that have joined the initiative and called for sustained collaboration to progressively widen its reach. The initiative is envisaged as an evolving platform through which SMC will continue to strengthen educational opportunities for eligible children of its sanitation workforce.

# PM-SYM Scheme: ADC Anantnag reviews progress

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 05: In order to review the progress and implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme in the district, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, Saturday chaired a meeting with the concerned stakeholders at DC Office. During the meeting, the ADC, as per an official statement, reviewed the status of enrolment under the scheme and emphasized that all eligible unorganised workers must be registered on the PM-SYM portal. He directed the concerned officers to identify and address gaps through enrollment drives in both rural and urban areas to ensure wider coverage of eligible beneficiaries. The ADC stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination among the concerned departments, Common Service Centres (CSCs) and local bodies to accelerate enrolment. He directed that awareness camps be organised across all Blocks and Urban Local



Bodies (ULBs) to sensitise eligible workers about the benefits of the scheme and facilitate their registration. Ahlawat emphasized that VLEs, CSCs and KGCs must play a proactive role in mobilising and enrolling eligible workers. He further directed the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO), Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to mobilise resources and ensure achievement of the enrolment targets within the stipulated timeframe.

The ADC called for time-bound action, regular monitoring and coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure maximum coverage of eligible unorganised workers under the PM-SYM scheme. The meeting was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer MC Anantnag, Executive Officers of Municipal Councils and District Coordinator, CSCs Anantnag, among other concerned officials.

Early Genetic Screening, Diagnosis

# SKIMS Soura holds 1-day workshop in Baramulla

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 05: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer, Baramulla, organised a one-day workshop on "UMMID: Early Genetic Screening, Diagnosis and Counselling for Healthier Future" at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musavi, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The workshop brought together healthcare professionals and public health workers with the objective of creating awareness about the early identification, screening, diagnosis and counselling of genetic and metabolic disorders among pregnant mothers and newborns. Speaking on the occasion, ADC Baramulla, as per an official statement, highlighted the importance of early screening and timely diagnosis of genetic

and metabolic disorders, saying that early identification can facilitate appropriate intervention and counselling, thereby contributing towards a healthier future for children and families. He appreciated the efforts of SKIMS Soura and the health department for organising the awareness-oriented programme and stressed the need for strengthening coordination between healthcare institutions and field-level health workers for effective implementation of genetic screening initiatives. An interactive session was also held during the workshop, wherein participants engaged with the experts and discussed various aspects related to genetic and metabolic disorders, screening procedures, identification of high-risk cases and counselling. Experts from SKIMS Soura and GMC Baramulla delivered presentations and shared their expertise with the participants.

# Orientation Session on enforcement of Non-Biodegradable Material Act held in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 05: A meeting-cum-orientation session on effective enforcement of the J&K Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling and Disposal) Act, 2007, Plastic Waste Management Rules and other applicable provisions was held on Saturday at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora. The session, as per an official statement, was held under the chairmanship of Chairman, J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC), Vasu Yadav, in the presence of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib. During the session, the concerned departments/officials were oriented about the legal provisions governing non-biodegradable material and plastic waste, including the prescribed fine structure and compounding powers under SRO-243 of 2011 and relevant provisions of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. On the occasion, detailed discussions were held on the standardized procedure for identification and documentation of violations, filling and issuance of Compounding Challan-cum-Money Receipt, realization and accounting of the compounding amount, maintenance of records and submission of monthly returns. The meeting also deliberated on the procedure to be followed in cases where violators refuse to compound the offence, including initiation of proceedings before the competent Magistrate/Executive Magistrate. During the session, emphasis was laid on coordinated enforcement through joint, sector-wise inspection drives covering commercial hubs, tourist locations and municipal areas. It was informed that enforcement of the Solid Waste Management provisions will commence from next week, with dedicated inspection teams already constituted for conducting field inspections and taking action against violations.

# Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews expenditure status of Srinagar, Ganderbal districts



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah Saturday chaired a comprehensive meeting to review implementation status of different schemes, in Srinagar and Ganderbal districts, with respect to achievement of physical and financial targets allocated for the current financial year. The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal, Deputy Director Planning, Drawing and Disbursing Officers and other senior officers of the department. During the meeting, the Director undertook a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of various schemes, implementation of approved programmes, expenditure position and progress of ongoing developmental activities in both districts. He also assessed the field-level implementation of various farmer-oriented initiatives and took feedback from the concerned officers regarding the challenges being faced in execution. Sartaj

Ahmad Shah stressed the need for ensuring timely and effective implementation of all departmental programmes, with particular focus on achieving the prescribed targets within the stipulated timelines. He directed the officers to maintain close field-level coordination, accelerate the pace of implementation and ensure optimum utilisation of available resources. The Director further emphasised that the benefits of various government schemes and initiatives should reach the farming community in a transparent, efficient and time-bound manner. He called upon the officers to remain proactive in addressing field-level issues and strengthen their outreach to farmers. The Director laid special emphasis on Aatmanirbharta in Pulses and instructed the concerned officers to achieve all the targets earmarked for the year for implementation of the scheme. The meeting concluded with directions to the concerned officers to closely monitor the progress of ongoing activities and ensure timely compliance with the decisions taken during the review.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

ENIT NO. 46 OF R&B /CHADOORA/ 3503-12 of 2026-27 DATED: 03/09/2026

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

| SN | Nome of Work                                                        | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees} | Earnest Money (In Rupees} | Time of completion (days) | M.H OF Account                | Class Of Contactor |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1  | 2                                                                   | 3                       | 4                          | 5                         | 6                         | 7                             | 8                  |
| 1  | Improvement / Upgradation of Dangerpora Keni-hama road.             | 7.00                    | 300.00                     | 14000                     | 12                        | District Capex Budget 2026-27 | C/D                |
| 2  | Improvement / Upgradation of Suthsoo Chowk to Irrigation bund road. | 7.00                    | 300.00                     | 14000                     | 12                        | District Capex Budget 2026-27 | C/D                |
| 3  | Improvement / Upgradation of Chattergam Hus-sani Colony link road.  | 7.00                    | 300.00                     | 14000                     | 12                        | District Capex Budget 2026-27 | C/D                |

Project Authority: District Dev. Commissioner Budgam

Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Sanctioned

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

|   |                                            |                                                                                          |
|---|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice             | 03 /09/2026                                                                              |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 03/09/2026                                                                               |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date                  | 03/09/2026                                                                               |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date                    | 10 /09/2026 upto 5.00 PM.                                                                |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids   | 11/09/2026 11.00 AM in the office of <b>Executive Engineer R&amp;B Division Chadoora</b> |

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora** (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to **Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora** (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.1 The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora** (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non- responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., **Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora**. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

18. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 3503-12  
DATED: 03/09/2026

DIPK-5348/26  
Dated: 05-09-2026

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Chadoora

## Div Com reviews issues concerning River Jhelum National Waterway-49



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 05: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a meeting to review various issues and bottlenecks affecting the execution of works under River Jhelum National Waterway-49 aimed at facilitating water transport. The meeting was attended by

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, RTO Kashmir, Chief Engineers of KPDCL, KPTCL and I&FC, SE UEED, besides officers from the Departments of Tourism, R&B, Traffic, Forest and ULB. During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner took a detailed review of the issues associated with the project, including removal of trees and widening of

the road at Gund Parang, construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for water treatment, shifting of KPDCL and KPTCL utilities, and relocation of houseboats.

Taking note of the issues raised by the concerned departments, the Divisional Commissioner directed all stakeholders to incorporate the required construction and utility-shifting works in their respective departmental plans to ensure coordinated and timely execution.

He further directed officials of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to conduct a comprehensive joint survey of the proposed works at Gund Parang in coordination with the concerned officers and identify the nature of land required for execution of the project.

The IWAI officials were also directed to undertake a detailed assessment of existing utilities at the site, identify modalities of their exact locations and coordinate with the concerned departments for timely shifting wherever required.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination and directed IWAI officials to adhere strictly to prescribed timelines for resolution of issues.

He also called for regular coordination with field teams to ensure that identified bottlenecks are addressed promptly and the project progresses as per schedule.

## CM's Advisor meets public delegations

Reaffirms Govt's commitment to prompt redress of public issues



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 05: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani on Saturday met with several delegation and individual citizens at the Chief Minister's Public Service and Outreach Office 'Raabita' in Srinagar. The visiting groups included local citizens, employee associations and individuals. They brought forward issues related to development, media, land and revenue records, employment and service-related matters.

The Advisor took up these matters with the concerned authorities to ensure these are resolved without delay.

Highlighting the government's focus on public welfare, the Advisor stated that the present government under the leadership of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is paying attention to every grievance, big or small.

He assured the public that all genuine demands will be resolved within the shortest possible time.

## Sopore bridge repair work 'unsatisfactory': MLA Kar



Waris Fayaz

Sopore, Sep 05: As Kashmir's fruit trade gears up for the peak season, concerns over the condition of the vital Sopore bypass bridge have resurfaced, with Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Irshad Rasool Kar expressing dissatisfaction over the repair works carried out by authorities.

As per the details, authorities took up repair works on the Tulibal bridge on Saturday afternoon following repeated concerns over its deteriorating condition. However, MLA Kar said the repair work was unsatisfactory and did not address the concerns surrounding the structure.

Kar said he would take up the matter at an appropriate forum, while stressing the importance of ensuring the safety and reliability of the bridge, particularly during the fruit season when the movement of horticultural produce increases significantly. The 216-metre

bridge provides an important route for transporting fruit to and from Sopore Fruit Mandi — Asia's second-largest fruit market — and serves as a crucial link between border district Kupwara and Srinagar.

Locals and commuters have repeatedly flagged the poor condition of the bridge, saying its deteriorating structure has made travel difficult and raised concerns over the safety of commuters and transporters.

The bridge has undergone repair work several times in the past after concerns over its condition grew. Recently, on May 16, traffic was even diverted for two days to facilitate the restoration of the damaged structure.

Earlier, the Sopore MLA had raised concerns over the safety of the bridge in the Legislative Assembly and had sought a safety audit of the structure—(KNO)

## Altaf Bukhari questions NC's 'B-team' remark

Seeks Ruhullah's clarity on Article 370, 35A



Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

Budgam, Sep 05: Launching a scathing attack on ruling National Conference, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Saturday accused the party of betraying the people of Kashmir.

Addressing media persons at Watakulu Charar-e-Sharif, Bukhari said people would not forget what he termed the National Conference's "betrayal" and questioned the party's political approach towards the issues concerning Jammu and

Kashmir.

Reacting to the National Conference's allegation that the Apni Party was the "B-team of the BJP," Bukhari questioned whether the same yardstick would be applied after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday.

On reports regarding the possible resignation of National Conference leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Bukhari said that if Ruhullah intended to resign, he should first explain to the people how Articles 370 and 35A could be restored.

Bukhari said the people of Kashmir had already faced what he described as "repeated political betrayals" and now needed clear answers and a concrete roadmap instead of political assurances.

He also questioned the National Conference's political strategy and the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

## Commissioner Secretary chairs UTLIMC meet

Reviews computerisation of PACS in J&K



KT News Desk

Jammu, Sep 05: Commissioner Secretary Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Union Territory Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (UTLIMC) constituted to review implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Project for Computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended

by the Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K; Deputy General Manager, NABARD; representative of the Finance Department, J&K; Managing Director, J&K State Cooperative Training Board (JKSTCB); representatives of the System Integrator besides other senior officers of the Cooperative Department.

During the meeting, a detailed PowerPoint presentation was made on the current status of implementation of PACS computerisation project. The Committee was apprised

of the progress achieved, so far. Various issues and requirements related to handholding support to PACS, scanning and digitisation of legacy data, deployment of manpower and reconciliation of data were also placed before the Committee for consideration.

The Committee held detailed deliberations on the implementation status and associated operational issues, with emphasis on ensuring adequate support to PACS at the field level to facilitate their smooth transition to the

computerised system.

While reviewing the progress, Yasha Mudgal directed the System Integrator to ensure that all assigned deliverables are completed strictly within the stipulated timelines.

She stressed that the approved implementation schedule must be adhered to in letter and spirit and that avoidable delays should not be allowed to impede the overall objectives of the project.

Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in

## Leopard kills 6 sheep, thunderstorm claims dozens

KNO

Baramulla, Sep 05: Six sheep were killed in a leopard attack in Baniyar, while dozens more died after a thunderstorm struck the Karaknaar area of Gulmarg in separate incidents in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

According to details, the leopard attack took place during the night at Barnate in Baniyar, where the animal entered a livestock enclosure and killed six sheep.

Following the incident, officials from the Wildlife Department reached the spot and assessed the situation.

Meanwhile, residents expressed concern over the presence of the leopard, saying a school with more than 300 students and a residential area are located just metres from the site.

"We are worried about the safety of our children and families," residents said, urging the Wildlife Department to take immediate measures to capture and cage the leopard to prevent any further untoward incident.

Continued on  
www.kashmirthunder.in

## NHM employees announce 72-hour strike from Sep 9

Jahangeer Ganaiee

Srinagar, Sep 05: The UT Level Joint Coordination Committee of NHM Employees of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday said that the forum has decided to observe a 72-hour strike from September 9 onwards in support of their long-pending demands.

A spokesman of the committee said that the decision was taken after no concrete or satisfactory response was received from the Govt of Jammu & Kashmir within the stipulated ultimatum period.

"The decision was taken during a virtual meeting of the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee held this evening which was attended by core members and representatives of NHM employees from both the Jammu and Kashmir Divisions, including representatives of the RNTCP/NTEP Association J&K and other schemes under the National Health Mission," he said.

"The Committee had earlier served a final ultimatum to the Govt and concerned authorities up to September 05, 2026, seeking concrete and meaningful action towards resolving the long-pending issues and genuine demands of NHM employees. However, despite the expiry of the stipulated deadline, the Committee expressed deep disappointment over the absence of any concrete response or tangible action from



the concerned authorities," the spokesman said. "After detailed deliberations on the prevailing situation, the Committee unanimously resolved that all NHM employees across Jammu & Kashmir, including NTEP employees and employees working under other NHM schemes, shall observe a 72-hour UT-level strike from September 9, onwards," he added.

"The Committee made it clear that the

strike shall be observed across the length and breadth of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with all district, block and field-level NHM employees extending their collective support to the programme," the spokesman said.

Dr. Vikas Sharma, Divisional President, All JKNHMEA Jammu Division, stated that the decision to proceed with the 72-hour strike has not been taken in haste, but

has become necessary due to the continued non-resolution of the genuine and long-pending issues of NHM employees despite repeated representations, discussions and assurances.

He appealed to all NHM employees of Jammu Division to remain united, disciplined and peaceful during the strike and to extend their full support to the collective decision of the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee.

Muneer Andrabi, Divisional President, All JKNHMEA Kashmir Division, said that NHM employees have repeatedly demonstrated patience and faith in the process of dialogue, but the continued lack of concrete action has left them with no option but to adopt a democratic and collective course of action. He appealed to all NHM employees across Kashmir Division to participate in the strike in a united, peaceful and disciplined manner and to ensure complete solidarity with the UT-level programme. Musadiq Rafiq Parra, UT President, NTEP J&K, said that NTEP employees and employees working under other NHM schemes stand firmly with the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee in support of the genuine demands of NHM employees.

He stated that the contribution of NHM and NTEP employees towards the public healthcare system of Jammu & Kashmir

cannot be overlooked and urged the Govt to take the matter seriously and initiate meaningful steps for resolution of the long-pending issues.

The UT Level Joint Coordination Committee reiterated that the strike is being undertaken as a last resort after the failure of repeated efforts to secure a concrete resolution through dialogue and representations.

The Committee further appealed to the Presidents and office-bearers of all District and Block NHM units, as well as all NHM employees across Jammu & Kashmir, to extend their full support, cooperation and solidarity to the 72-hour strike programme and to remain united throughout the course of action. The Committee also urged all employees to maintain peace, discipline and unity during the strike and to refrain from spreading or acting upon any unverified information, rumours or unofficial messages. Employees have been advised to follow only the official communications issued by the UT Level Joint Coordination Committee. The Committee once again expressed its willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Govt and concerned authorities for an amicable resolution of the issues in the larger interest of NHM employees and the public healthcare system of Jammu & Kashmir—(KNO)

# Endometriosis: The Pain We Need to Talk About

## An invisible battle fought by millions—where the pain may be unseen, but the strength to endure it is undeniable



Asiya Manzoor

For many women and girls, menstrual discomfort is treated as a routine part of life—something they are simply expected to endure. But when period pain becomes unusually severe, repeatedly disrupts school, work or daily activities, or begins to affect quality of life, it should not be dismissed as “normal”.

One possible cause is endometriosis, a condition that affects millions of women worldwide but remains widely misunderstood and, in many cases, under-recognised.

What is endometriosis?  
Endometriosis is a medical condition in which tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus. It can affect areas around the reproductive organs,

including the ovaries and other parts of the pelvis.

This tissue can contribute to inflammation and pain and, in some cases, may lead to scar tissue or ovarian cysts.

Endometriosis does not affect every woman in the same way. Some girls may experience severe menstrual pain from their teenage years, while others may develop persistent pelvic pain, heavy or prolonged bleeding, fatigue or pain that interferes with everyday activities.

In some cases, endometriosis is diagnosed only when a woman seeks medical advice for difficulties related to conception. However, girls should not have to wait until marriage or fertility concerns arise before seeking help.

When pain should not be ignored  
One of the challenges of endometriosis is that its symptoms can vary greatly from person to person. Importantly, the severity of pain does not always reflect the extent of the condition.

As a result, some women and girls may spend years trying to understand the cause of their symptoms before receiving appropriate medical attention.

Painful periods should not simply be

dismissed as something girls have to tolerate.

If menstrual pain is persistent or unusually severe—especially if it causes a girl to miss school, withdraw from activities, rely frequently on pain medication, or experience pain during bowel movements or urination—it is important to seek medical advice.

Talking to a trusted parent, guardian, teacher, or healthcare professional can be an important first step.

More than just physical pain  
Endometriosis can affect much more than the body. Living with recurring pain can influence a young woman's education, confidence, relationships and overall quality of life.

Because the condition is often invisible, the difficulties experienced by those living with it may not always be understood by parents, teachers, friends or colleagues.

For young girls, embarrassment or discomfort around discussing menstrual symptoms can make the problem even harder to address. Creating an environment where menstruation and menstrual health can be discussed openly is therefore essential.

Listening without judgement can help girls feel comfortable enough to speak about symptoms that might otherwise remain hidden.

What about fertility?

Endometriosis can affect fertility in some women, particularly when inflammation, scar tissue or ovarian cysts interfere with the normal functioning of the reproductive organs.

However, a diagnosis of endometriosis does not mean that motherhood is impossible. Many women with endometriosis are able to become pregnant, either naturally or with medical assistance when needed.

For girls and young women, the focus should be on early recognition, appropriate treatment, symptom relief and protecting long-term health—not fear about future marriage or fertility.

Breaking the myths

Myth: “Severe menstrual pain is always normal.”

Fact: Persistent, unusually severe or disabling menstrual pain deserves medical evaluation.

Myth: “You should wait until you are married to seek help.”

Fact: Endometriosis can affect girls and

unmarried women too. Medical attention should be based on symptoms and health needs, not marital status.

Myth: “If no one can see the pain, it cannot be serious.”

Fact: Endometriosis is often an invisible condition, but its effects on physical and emotional well-being can be significant.

The conversation needs to begin

Endometriosis is not simply about painful periods. It is about listening to women and girls when they say something is wrong.

A girl who repeatedly misses school because of period pain is not being dramatic. A woman who struggles to work because of chronic pelvic pain is not exaggerating. And someone who quietly suffers does not necessarily mean that everything is fine.

Awareness can encourage earlier conversations, earlier medical evaluation and, ultimately, better support for those living with the condition.

Her pain is not an exaggeration.

Her silence is not proof that she is fine. Listen before suffering becomes her normal.

Medical Guidance: Dr Nida Kawoos MBBS, Fellowship in Family Medicine

# Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0

## Strengthening Business Resilience Through Timely Credit Support

### Press Information Bureau

The ECLGS 5.0 provides targeted credit guarantee support to businesses affected by external disruptions. Implemented by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, the scheme enables eligible lending institutions to extend additional working capital with reduced credit risk. It supports MSMEs, eligible non-MSME businesses and scheduled passenger airlines through government-backed guarantees. Building on the earlier phases of ECLGS introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheme strengthens access to institutional credit while supporting business continuity. Extensive outreach, digital access through the Jan Samarth Portal and participation of banks and financial institutions have expanded its reach. By improving liquidity, preserving employment and strengthening supply chains, ECLGS 5.0 contributes to business resilience and sustained economic growth during periods of global uncertainty.

Supporting Enterprises During External Economic Shocks

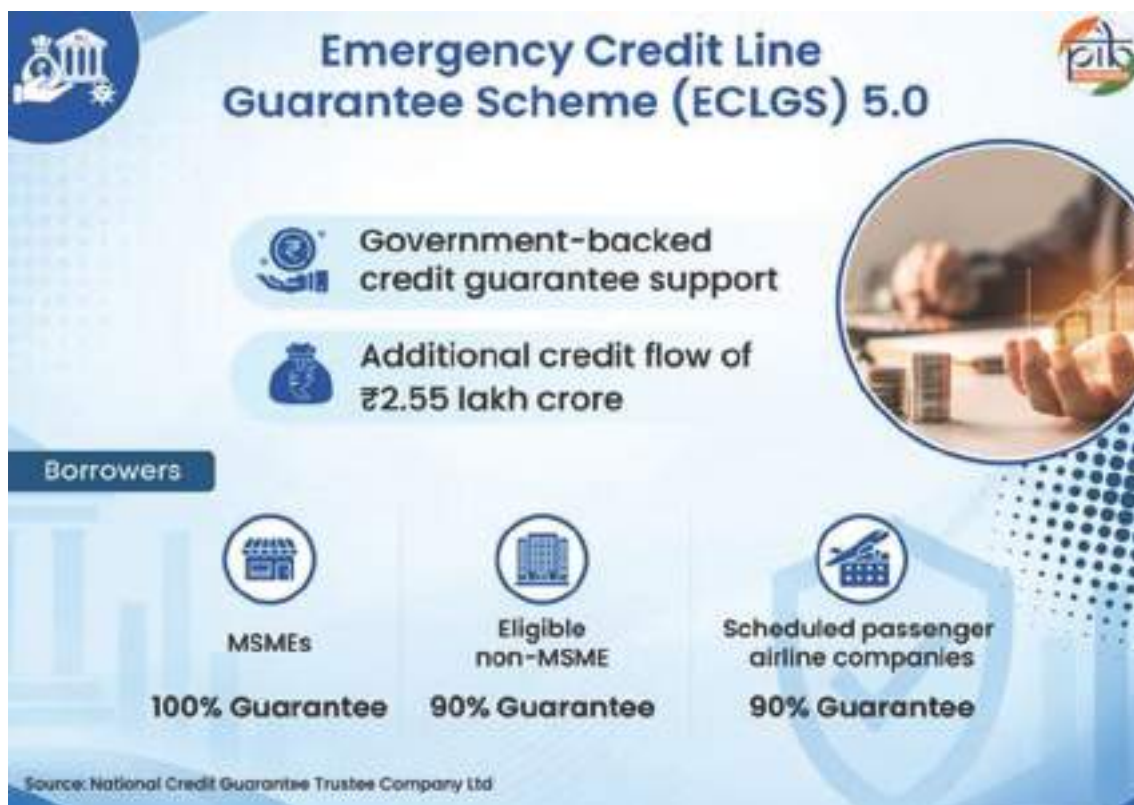
India remains committed to sustaining economic growth, safeguarding livelihoods and ensuring uninterrupted business operations amid evolving geopolitical developments. Such developments can affect supply chains, increase logistics costs and create liquidity pressures for businesses across sectors. To address these challenges, the Government approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 on 5th May 2026.

The scheme is implemented by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC). It provides government-backed credit guarantees to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for extending additional working capital to eligible business borrowers. It aims to facilitate an additional credit flow of up to 2.55 lakh crore.

The scheme supports uninterrupted domestic production and resilient supply chains. It also helps businesses preserve employment and sustain economic activity during external disruptions. Moreover, enhanced liquidity enables enterprises to meet short-term operational and financial commitments.

Evolution of ECLGS

The ECLGS was launched in 2020



under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package. The scheme aimed to help businesses overcome financial stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It enabled MLIs to extend additional credit with 100% Government-backed guarantee support. ECLGS has evolved through successive phases to address the changing needs of different sectors.

ECLGS 1.0 covered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), business enterprises, Mudra borrowers and individual business loans. Borrowers with outstanding loans not exceeding 50 crore and days past due upto 60 days as on 29 February 2020 were eligible.

ECLGS 2.0 expanded coverage to 26 stressed sectors identified by the Kamath Committee and the healthcare sector. It covered borrowers with outstanding loans above 50 crore and up to 500 crore with days past due upto 60 days as on 29.02.2020.

ECLGS 3.0 extended support to the hospitality, travel & tourism, leisure & sporting and civil aviation sectors. Eligible borrowers had credit facilities with lending institutions and up to 60 days past due as on 29 February 2020.

ECLGS 4.0 focused on

strengthening healthcare infrastructure during the pandemic. It covered hospitals/nursing homes/clinics/ medical colleges/ and manufacturers of liquid oxygen, oxygen cylinders etc. Eligible entities had credit facilities with lending institutions and up to 90 days past due as on 31 March 2021.

Each phase broadened the scheme's coverage in response to evolving economic and sector-specific requirements. From ECLGS 1.0 to 4.0, 1.19 crore guarantees were issued, amounting to 3.68 lakh crore. The schemes subsequently concluded on 31 March 2023.

Salient Features of ECLGS 5.0  
ECLGS 5.0 is operational until 31 March 2027, or until guarantees amounting to 2.55 lakh crore are issued, whichever is earlier. It covers MSMEs, eligible non-MSME business borrowers and scheduled passenger airline companies. Borrowers must satisfy the eligibility conditions prescribed by NCGTC, including account status and other applicable lending norms. Credit assistance is provided through Scheduled Commercial Banks, Scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks, Financial Institutions and eligible

Non-Banking Financial Companies.

MSMEs and Eligible non-MSMEs

Eligible borrowers: The scheme is available to borrowers with existing working capital facilities from MLIs as on 31 March 2026. Their loan repayments should not be overdue by more than 60 days. Borrowers who have already availed additional credit under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE) are not eligible for assistance under ECLGS 5.0 up to the amount already availed under CGSE.

The scheme is available to MSMEs across all sectors. For eligible non-MSME borrowers, certain sectors are excluded from coverage under the scheme. These include Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), power (Generation, transmission and distribution), telecom service providers, sugar and ethanol, and information technology companies. The list also includes paper and paper products, educational institutions, and beverages (excluding tea and coffee) and tobacco. Where a borrower operates in both eligible and ineligible sectors, the lending institution determines eligibility based on the proportion of turnover generated from eligible sectors during FY 2025–26.

Credit guarantee coverage: 100%

guarantee for loans extended to eligible MSMEs and 90% guarantee coverage for eligible non-MSMEs

No guarantee fee is payable by MLIs under the scheme.

Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) are lending institutions registered under ECLGS 5.0 for extending additional credit facilities to eligible borrowers. This includes Public and Private Sector Banks, Small Finance Banks, Foreign Banks, Co-operative Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Finance Institutions.

Additional credit support: The scheme provides additional credit of up to 20% of the peak fund-based working capital outstanding during the fourth quarter of FY 2025–26, subject to a ceiling of 100 crore per borrower.

Interest rate of credit: The scheme ensures that loans are available at regulated interest rates. For MSMEs, the rate is based on EBLR, while eligible non-MSMEs are charged based on MCLR. In both cases, lending institutions may charge up to 0.75% above the benchmark, subject to an overall ceiling of 9% per annum. For loans extended by eligible NBFCs, the rate of interest shall not exceed 13% per annum.

External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) is the benchmark interest rate used by banks to determine floating interest rates on eligible retail and micro and small enterprise loans. The benchmark is set by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) is an internal reference rate for banks fixed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It helps banks to define the minimum interest rate on different types of loans.

Loan tenure: The loan will have a 5-year tenure from the date of first disbursement, including a 1-year moratorium.

Scheduled Passenger Airlines  
Eligibility condition: Business enterprises in the scheduled passenger airline sector are eligible if they had outstanding fund-based and non-fund-based credit facilities from MLIs as on 31 March 2026. The credit facilities should be classified as 'Standard' (excluding SMA-2) on the same date.

Credit guarantee coverage: A 90% credit guarantee is available for loans extended to eligible scheduled passenger airlines.

No guarantee fee is payable by MLIs under the scheme

Additional credit support: The scheme provides additional credit of up to 100%, subject to a ceiling of 1,500 crore per borrower, based on specified eligibility conditions. Of this, any amount beyond 1,000 crore and up to 1,500 crore shall be permitted only with a proportionate amount of equity contribution from the promoters/owners.

Interest rate of credit: The lending institution will determine the rate of interest in accordance with its Board-approved policy. Loan tenure: The loan will have a tenure of 7 years from the date of first disbursement, including a 2-year moratorium.

ECLGS 5.0 in Action

ECLGS 5.0 has witnessed encouraging progress since its launch. As on 20 August 2026, 6,73,979 guarantees have been issued under the scheme. The guaranteed amount reached 2,50,024 crore. The strong uptake reflects the scheme's rapid adoption across the lending ecosystem. MSMEs accounted for 97.3% of all guarantees issued by number and 80.79% of the total guaranteed amount.

Eligible borrowers can access the scheme through the Jan Samarth Portal (<https://www.jansamarth.in/home>). Click here to know how to apply on the portal.

The Government is actively promoting awareness to maximise the scheme's reach.

Phase 1: Outreach campaigns were conducted across 9 locations between 20 May and 6 June 2026. The campaigns were organised through State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs), NCGTC, PSB Alliance, banks, industry associations and enterprises participated actively.

Phase 2: Outreach is continuing across 10 additional locations, with 4 already completed. A wide network of banks and NBFCs ensures broad geographical and sectoral coverage. MLIs continue to reach out to eligible borrowers through multiple communication channels.

Sustaining Growth and Enterprise  
ECLGS 5.0 reinforces India's commitment to supporting businesses during periods of global uncertainty. It strengthens access to institutional credit through government-backed guarantees. The scheme enables enterprises to continue operations, preserve employment and maintain supply chains. By enhancing business resilience, ECLGS 5.0 contributes to sustaining India's economic growth momentum.

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

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Teachers' Day Celebrations

Teachers torchbearers of nation, Govt committed to strengthening education ecosystem: Sakeena Itoo

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Saturday said that the Government will bring resolution on Teacher Eligibility Test during the upcoming Assembly Session of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The Minister, as per an official statement, made these remarks while addressing the Teachers' Day celebrations held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

Addressing a gathering of teachers, educationists, students, senior officers and other stakeholders from the education sector, the Minister described teachers as the torchbearers of the nation, saying that their contribution extends far beyond classrooms as they help shape the character, aspirations and values of generations.

"Teachers are not merely imparting knowledge; they are shaping minds, nurturing values and preparing the citizens who will build the future of our society. Their role in nation-building is therefore unparalleled," the Minister said.

She added that the Teachers' Day provides an opportunity to



acknowledge the dedication, commitment and sacrifices of the teaching fraternity.

The Minister said that the Government recognises teachers as one of the most important pillars of the education system and is committed to creating an enabling environment where teachers can discharge their responsibilities with dignity, confidence and professional excellence.

She underlined the need for continuous improvement in the quality of education, strengthening of school infrastructure, adoption of innovative teaching methodologies and greater focus on holistic development of students. She said that the Government is working towards ensuring that children in every

part of Jammu and Kashmir have access to quality education and adequate learning opportunities.

Referring to issues concerning the teaching community, the Minister said that the Government is conscious of the concerns being raised by teachers and aspiring educators and is committed to addressing them through due institutional processes.

On the issue of Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), Sakeena Itoo stated that the Government will bring a resolution on TET in the upcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, reiterating that the concerns associated with the matter would be examined and taken forward through the

appropriate process.

She called upon teachers to remain at the forefront of educational transformation and urged them to encourage curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and ethical values among students.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of strengthening the connect between teachers, parents and communities, saying that a child's development is a shared responsibility. She maintained that education must equip students not only with academic knowledge but also with confidence, compassion, discipline and the ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

Highlighting the changing nature of education, she encouraged teachers to make effective use of technology and modern pedagogical tools while retaining the human and value-based dimensions of teaching.

Sakeena Itoo expressed appreciation for teachers serving in difficult and remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir, acknowledging their dedication in ensuring continuity of education despite geographical and logistical challenges.

She said that the Government would continue to engage with the teaching fraternity and other stakeholders to strengthen the education system and address

genuine concerns in a structured and time-bound manner.

The Minister also felicitated outstanding teachers including Namarita Sharma, Amol Sharma, Abhinav Gupta, Anita Rani, Jagat Dev Singh, Sandeep Kumar, Kulbeet Singh, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Tawheed Parvaiz, Rabia Mukhtar, Gh. Mohd. Dar, Muzaffar Ahmad Wani, Javid Ahmad Rather, Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Towfeeqe Ali, Showket Hussain Bhat (Lecturer), Dr. Sameena Wani (Principal), Badhar Singh (Lecturer), Shahid Qureshi (Senior Lecturer) and Anwar Khan (Principal) for their exemplary contribution to the field of education and wished the entire teaching fraternity on Teachers' Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani highlighted the vital role of teachers in building an enlightened, responsible and progressive society.

Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakhwal; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Chowdhary; Joint Director Education (Central), Principals of various higher secondary schools, lecturers, teachers and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Khelo India Action Plan

DC Srinagar discusses roadmap for creating sports infrastructure in Srinagar



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Srinagar to discuss and formulate the Action Plan for 2026-31 under the Khelo India Movement for District Srinagar.

The meeting was convened to deliberate on a comprehensive and structured roadmap aimed at strengthening sports infrastructure, promoting greater participation in sports and creating sustainable opportunities for young and aspiring athletes across the District. Detailed discussions were held on measures to improve existing sports facilities, identify infrastructure gaps, create and upgrade facilities for priority sports, organise sports competitions, identify sporting talent and provide avenues for its systematic development.

On the occasion, the DC, as per an official statement, stressed the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach involving all concerned Departments and stakeholders to ensure effective formulation and implementation of the Action Plan. He emphasised that the plan should focus on expanding access to sports facilities at the grassroots level,

particularly in rural and under-served areas, while providing young people with adequate opportunities to participate in various sporting disciplines.

The DC also emphasised the need for strengthening and developing sports infrastructure in the Downtown/Shahr-e-Khaas areas of Srinagar District, with a view to providing accessible sporting facilities to youth in these densely populated areas.

He directed the concerned Officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the existing sports infrastructure and identify locations requiring new facilities, upgradation or renovation. He also called for proper mapping of sports facilities and sporting disciplines being practised across the District so that interventions under the Khelo India framework are planned in a systematic, need-based manner and unnecessary duplication of facilities is avoided.

The DC underlined the importance of encouraging youth participation in sports as a means of promoting physical fitness, discipline, teamwork and overall personality development. He said that strengthening the sporting ecosystem at the grassroots level would help identify and nurture sporting talent while providing promising athletes with better opportunities to excel at the district, national and international levels.

ADC reviews arrangements for Devika Half Marathon in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 5: For the smooth and successful conduct of the Devika Half Marathon, scheduled on September 13, 2026, Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh Saturday convened a meeting of officers from the line departments to review and finalize the arrangements.

Threadbare discussions were held on arrangements for security, sanitation, healthcare, traffic management, drinking water supply and route management.

The ADC, as per an official statement, emphasized the importance of seamless

coordination and close collaboration among the concerned departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are finalized and put in place well in advance.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department was directed to ensure adequate drinking water supply along the route, while CEO, Municipal Council was tasked with cleanliness and sanitation.

The Chief Medical Officer was asked to deploy a team of doctors along with an ambulance to provide first aid and immediate medical assistance.

District and Traffic Police were directed to deploy adequate personnel to ensure fool-proof security and smooth regulation of traffic during the event.

Mera Resham Mera Abhimaan 2.0

Farmer-Scientist interaction meeting held in Kokarnag

KT News Desk

Srinagar, September 05: A Farmer-Scientist Interaction Meeting was organised at Kokarnag under the Mera Resham Mera Abhimaan (MRMA) 2.0 Campaign, with the objective of strengthening the interface between farmers, scientists and implementing agencies and promoting sustainable growth of the sericulture sector in the region.

The programme, as per a PIB statement, was attended by Gh. Nabi Mir, Additional Director, Kashmir, Sericulture Development Department (SDD), J&K and Nodal Officer for the UT under MRMA 2.0. Dr. Aftab Ahmad Shabnam, Scientist-D, CSB-Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute (CSR&TI), Pampore and Institute Nodal Officer for North India, and Dr. Jarpala

Mounika, Scientist-B, Central Silk Board, along with officers and officials of the Central Silk Board and Sericulture Development Department, J&K, participated in the interaction.

During the meeting, farmers actively interacted with the scientists and officials and discussed a wide range of issues covering the entire sericulture production chain, from silkworm seed production and supply to silkworm rearing, mulberry leaf availability, cocoon production and post-cocoon activities. The technical team addressed the concerns raised by the farmers and provided suitable guidance on scientific practices for improving productivity, quality and profitability.

The farmers were also apprised of various schemes, programmes and institutional support mechanisms available for

development of the sericulture sector, with emphasis on making optimum use of government interventions and technical support. Special attention was given to the utilisation of sericulture by-products and waste, with the objective of generating additional income and promoting a more sustainable and circular sericulture production system.

A significant outcome of the interaction was the keen interest shown by farmers in taking up sericulture as a community-based activity. The farmers expressed their willingness to form and strengthen Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the area and work collectively to undertake sericulture-related activities, facilitate access to schemes and inputs, share resources and technologies, and derive greater economic benefits from the sector.

Director Agriculture Jammu reviews Digital Crop Survey operations in Kathua

KT News Desk

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 5: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta visited the fields in Kathua district to review the ongoing field-level operations under the Digital Crop Survey (DCS). He was accompanied by SMS-RL/Nodal Officer DCS Jammu Division Krishan Kant, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Jatinder Kumar, district-level officers, SDAOs, SMSs and field staff of the

Agriculture Department.

The Director, as per an official statement, interacted with the Agriculture Surveyors engaged in the exercise and observed the Digital Crop Survey process at the field level. The Director Agriculture directed the Agriculture Surveyors to ensure timely and quality completion of assigned targets, stressing that accuracy and authenticity of the data must be ensured through proper field verification.

High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, UNICEF hold consultation on 10 years of JJ Act

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: The Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with the support of UNICEF India, organised a one day annual consultation on "Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015: A Decade of Implementation and the Way Forward" at the J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The consultation, as per an official statement, was attended by the Judges of the High Court, Judicial Officers, Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards, Chairpersons of Child Welfare Committees, officers of Special Juvenile Police Units, senior officers of concerned departments, Legal Services Authorities, child protection professionals, mental health experts, civil society and academia besides participants joining virtually from Jammu and Ladakh. The consultation reviewed a decade of implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and identified priorities for strengthening the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection System.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, in her presidential address, emphasized that a child in conflict with law remains, first and foremost, a child and that the juvenile justice system must remain rooted in fairness,

rehabilitation and the developmental needs of children, in keeping with principles reflected in the Beijing Rules. She highlighted the continuing challenge of balancing the reformative approach with concerns arising from serious offences. She stressed the need for adequately resourced institutions, trained personnel, effective data systems and accountability. She observed that while the first decade focused substantially on building the institutional architecture of juvenile justice, the next decade must focus on ensuring that these institutions deliver meaningful, child-centered outcomes and provide every child with dignity, rehabilitation and a genuine opportunity for a better future.

Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, described the completion of ten years of the Act as an opportunity to objectively assess its implementation. While acknowledging the functioning of Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards across J&K and Ladakh, he emphasized that success must ultimately be measured by its impact on children. He called for stronger infrastructure, trained personnel, continuous capacity building, adequate administrative and financial support, periodic evaluation and



improved inter-departmental coordination.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal emphasized that juvenile justice extends beyond law and requires a multidisciplinary approach. Reflecting on a decade of the Juvenile Justice Act, he stressed the need to address implementation gaps and strengthen delivery on the ground. He highlighted the concerns regarding children above sixteen years accused of heinous offences, confidentiality of juvenile records and effective functioning of Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees. He

also called for child-centric adoption, adequate infrastructure, trained personnel and administrative support, stressing that the Act must be implemented in letter and spirit to ensure protection, rehabilitation, dignity and hope for every vulnerable child.

Jesper Moller, Deputy Representative (Programme), UNICEF India Country Office, described ten years of the Juvenile Justice Act as an important milestone and emphasized the need to assess its impact on children. He highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's progress in prevention and family-based

care, Child-Friendly Spaces, Adolescent Resource Centres, strengthening of Child Care Institutions and training of more than 9,000 frontline workers. He identified prevention, family-based care, institutional coordination, accountability and disability inclusion as key priorities for the next decade.

Earlier, Naseer Ahmed Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy and Ex-Officio Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, welcomed the participants and emphasized that juvenile justice and child protection are shared responsibilities requiring coordinated institutional efforts. He highlighted the key areas of the consultation and called for candid, constructive and solution-oriented deliberations leading to practical recommendations for the 2026-27 Action Plan, keeping the best interests, dignity, safety and rehabilitation of children at the centre.

The consultation was comprised of four sessions. The first, "An Overview of the Implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015," was chaired by Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary. It focused on implementation trends, accountability, child protection service delivery and institutional functioning. Presentations were made by Bashir Ahmad Khan, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, UT of J&K; Dr. Zahida Banoo, Director,

Social and Tribal Welfare & Mission Director, Mission Vatsalya, UT of Ladakh and Sharmila Ray, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF India.

The second session, "Rights of Children in Need of Care and Protection," was chaired by Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal. The deliberations covered vulnerable and out-of-school children, mental health and psychosocial support, legal aid, witness protection, rehabilitation, family-based care and aftercare. The role and coordination of Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units, Special Juvenile Police Units, Child Helplines and District Magistrates were also discussed. Presentations were made by Khalid Majeed, Special Secretary, Department of School Education, J&K; Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Abdul Rashid Malik, Senior Additional Advocate General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Former Member, Juvenile Justice Committee.

The third session, "Preliminary Assessment in Heinous Crimes by Juvenile Justice Boards," was chaired by Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh. The session examined preliminary assessment under Section 15 of the JJ Act, including child-sensitive assessment, expert assistance, age determination, transfer to the adult justice

system and psycho-social factors. Presentations were made by Dr. Sonam Jain, Assistant Professor, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal; Sarah Rizvi (IPS), IGP Crime and UT-level Nodal for Special Juvenile Police Unit and Dr. Rayees Ahmad Wani, Professor, IMHANS, GMC Srinagar. The fourth session, "Pathways to Permanency: Adoption," examined adoption from the perspective of the child's long-term well-being, focusing on case management, timely adoption, monitoring and coordination among Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units, Specialised Adoption Agencies and District Magistrates. Bhavna Saxena, Member Secretary & Chief Executive Officer, Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), and Mr. Rajiv Khajuria, Founder and Patron, National Development Foundation, Jammu, made presentations.

The valedictory session focused on consolidating the day's deliberations and identifying actionable priorities for the 2026-2027 Action Plan. Hilal Ahmad Bhat, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF India, presented the key action points and takeaways. Special concluding remarks were delivered by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, followed by vote of thanks by Naseer Ahmed Dar.

# Relationship with China cannot be held hostage to only boundary issues: Former CDS Chauhan

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 05: Acknowledging that China presents a long-term and comprehensive challenge to India, former CDS Anil Chauhan on Saturday said the boundary issue with the northern neighbour remains unresolved, and there's no mutually agreed definition even on the Line of Actual Control, but New Delhi's ties with Beijing "cannot be held hostage to only boundary issues."

Delivering a lecture on 'Threats and Challenges to India's Security' at an event hosted at the Teen Murti Bhawan complex here, he underlined that border stability requires "vigilance, credible capabilities, clear agreements and consistent adherence to them."

His comments come days after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held talks in Beijing

with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi focusing on delimitation of the frontier and sustaining work on trans-boundary cooperation. Held under the framework of Special Representatives dialogue, the Doval-Wang talks came weeks before Chinese President Xi Jinping's anticipated visit to India for the upcoming BRICS summit (September 12-13).

Gen Chauhan (ret'd) in his address also referred to a report in Saturday's newspaper which talked about likely "establishment of hotlines", as well as "corps commander-level talks" in the Northeast, and described it as "a welcome development".

In his address, he enumerated several challenges that India faces and how it should manage them.

"As regard our northern neighbour, it presents absolutely different and more long-term and comprehensive challenge,"

he underlined.

"The boundary issue remains unresolved, and there's no mutually agreed definition even on Line of Actual Control. Differences in perception, combined with infrastructure development and forward military presence creates the possibility of friction and escalation," he said.

Emphasising that China and India are two major Asian powers, large economies and civilisational states, the former general officer said the relationship between the two countries cannot be held hostage to only boundary issues.

He said that since both countries cooperate and compete as well and hold differing views on regional and global order, there was a need to engage with China.

"That's what we're doing as part of SCO, and now as part of BRICS. And, the future of Asia will depend substantially on how India and China manage

this simultaneous rise," he added.

In his address, he also identified instability in multiple countries in the Indian neighbourhood as a "threat" which must be managed too.

Gen Chauhan (ret'd) also touched upon deep flux in global order and said India must be prepared for any eventuality.

"The first and the biggest challenge before us in this global geopolitical flux. This uncertainty which is prevailing, the global security order. The old balances have weakened, while structures of a new order are yet to emerge fully.

"Some people call it 'disorder' and maybe this disorder prevails for sometimes, durable kind of a disorder. This will be a major challenge for us," he said.

Alignments become issue-based and transactional in such an environment, the former CDS cautioned.

"It's difficult to place countries permanently into categories of friends and adversaries... But today, everything is changing very, very fast. A partner in trade may be a competitor in technology. A security partner in one theatre may hold different position in the different theatre. Indo-Pacific could be absolutely different from your Eurasian continent. Because of all this, there is an increased propensity amongst nations to use force," he added.

"...and international law remains important, but its enforcement is uneven, and powerful states frequently interpret rules through the lens of national self-interest. Nations are becoming more and more self-centric," Gen Chauhan (ret'd) said.

"India must be prepared for all eventualities. Self-reliance reduces vulnerability," the former CDS said.

## Karnataka teachers can now use 'Tr' prefix, says CM Shivakumar

PTI

Bengaluru, Sep 5: Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said teachers in the state can use the prefix 'Tr' before their names as a mark of respect for their contribution to society.

The announcement was made on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

The prefix is akin to professional titles such as 'Dr' for medical doctors, 'Er' for engineers and 'Prof' for professors.

"A teacher builds every person who goes on to build the nation. India's more than one crore teachers, including nearly 4.5 lakh teachers in Karnataka, are shaping the minds, character and future of our children every single day," Shivakumar said in a post on X.

He said every doctor, engineer, farmer, officer, entrepreneur

and leader had a teacher behind them who first recognised their potential and showed them what was possible.

"On this Teachers' Day, the Government of Karnataka has decided to honour this invaluable contribution with a distinct mark of respect. From today, teachers of Karnataka can proudly use the prefix 'Tr' before their names," he said.

Calling the two-letter prefix a symbol of a lifetime of service, Shivakumar said 'Tr' was more than a title — it represented society's recognition of teachers who had dedicated their lives to shaping others.

"A society that honours its teachers honours its own future," he said, thanking teachers for guiding, correcting and encouraging students to believe in themselves.

He said the 'Tr' prefix was a recognition teachers had truly earned.

# Home ministry official reviews implementation of deregulation framework, foreigners act in Ladakh

PTI

Leh, Sep 05: A senior Union Home Ministry official on Saturday reviewed issues related to deregulation, delegation of powers under the citizenship and immigration framework, implementation of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, and the progress of various flagship programmes in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The review meeting, chaired by Additional Secretary (Foreigners and UT) Nitesh Vyas from the Ministry of Home Affairs, included the Chief Secretary of UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, along with

administrative secretaries and senior officials from the UT administration, an official spokesman said.

Discussions covered the progress and implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes and flagship programmes in the region. A detailed review was conducted on the implementation status of Points of Action under deregulation 1.0 and 2.0.

Category-wise PAs, their respective numbers, and implementation statuses were discussed with the relevant departments, along with necessary follow-up actions for speedy implementation, the spokesman noted.

The meeting also discussed the regulatory framework governing Protected Areas and Restricted Areas, including the legal provisions under the 2025 framework.

It was clarified that domestic tourists do not need an Inner Line Permit; however, permits remain mandatory for notified areas as outlined in the applicable regulations.

Discussions were held on defining the geographic scope of protected and restricted areas, including their delineation through separate schedules, protected area boundaries, and relevant descriptions.

The status of restricted areas concerning Tibetan

settlements was also reviewed, the spokesperson said, adding that the meeting included discussions on the framework governing the issuance of Protected Area Permits, as well as visa-related amendments.

Follow-up action on the demarcation of the Nubra and Sham regions, as well as the demarcation of Kargil and Changthang regions, was discussed along with the applicable regulatory framework, he said.

The review also covered the Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025, focusing on facilitation, connectivity, and procedures, including the

establishment and operation of tourist facilitation centres.

A comprehensive review of the Immigration and Foreigners framework was undertaken, covering the Foreigners Act, the evolution of immigration laws and the subordinate framework under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025-26.

The meeting also discussed the decentralisation of powers under Section 28, including delegation of powers to States and Union Territory Administrations.

Various actions required from the UT Administration were reviewed, including the registration of foreigners, monitoring

and regulating the movement of foreigners within the UT, enforcing deportation guidelines, and addressing issues related to overstaying foreigners.

Additionally, the meeting discussed matters concerning foreigners' registration under Section 6, monitoring their movement in states/UTs, illegal migrants, holding centres, and the deportation manual, as well as a Model Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for withdrawal from prosecution.

The architecture of the District Police Module, objectives and target demographic of the Foreigner Identification Portal (FIP), registration through the e-FRRO portal, and actionable

points for Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs) were reviewed, the spokesperson informed.

The meeting also reviewed progress regarding the granting of Indian citizenship, which included the legal provisions governing Indian citizenship, relevant sections of the Citizenship Act, and the procedures for granting Indian citizenship, the spokesman added.

He mentioned that the concerned departments were directed to ensure timely follow-up on the issues discussed and to take necessary action for effective implementation of the various schemes, programmes and regulatory frameworks in the UT of Ladakh.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### J&K set for grand

opportunity to interact with established names from the industry through masterclasses and panel discussions.

"We want to connect the tourism potential of J&K with cinema and give our students and local talent an opportunity to engage directly with leading names from the industry," he said.

The Joint Director added that the government hoped to institutionalise the festival on the lines of major international film festivals. "Our attempt is to institutionalise this film festival every year, like the Cannes Film Festival in Europe. If we make sustained efforts, I am confident we can bring that kind of festival culture to India," Bukhari said.

Notably, the festival programme includes screenings, masterclasses, workshops, in-conversation sessions, panel discussions, roundtables and cultural performances.

The major activities will be held at SKICC and INOX in Srinagar, besides a dedicated one-day programme in Gulmarg, while a floating cinema on Dal Lake is also planned as part of the festival experience.

Masterclasses by leading filmmakers and academicians will be organised at SKICC, while media professionals and professors from local universities are also expected to participate in panel discussions.

Students from universities will get an opportunity to interact with prominent filmmakers and industry professionals, providing them exposure to different aspects of cinema and filmmaking.

The festival is also expected to bring more than 300 delegates from different parts of the world to Jammu and Kashmir, creating opportunities for local professionals and emerging filmmakers to network and explore collaborations.

The festival carries a prize purse of Rs 96 lakh across nine award categories, with Best Film carrying the highest prize of Rs 25 lakh, while Best Director and Best Debut Film of a Director carry Rs 15 lakh each. The Best Film—J&K Select award carries a prize of Rs 10 lakh.

The selected films will be presented across categories including International Panorama, Bharat Panorama, Cinema of the World, Documentary, Hybrid Documentary and J&K Select.

Gulmarg, Dal Lake to become part of festival experience

Gulmarg is also being prepared to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential before visiting filmmakers and delegates.

The Gulmarg Development Authority has worked on a dedicated itinerary highlighting the resort's scenic beauty, adventure activities, hospitality, local culture and tourism infrastructure.

Special attention is being paid to branding and beautification along the Narnal-Gulmarg stretch, besides sanitation,

cleanliness, healthcare and emergency response arrangements.

The administration has also inspected Dal Lake to assess its cleaning and aesthetic presentation ahead of the arrival of filmmakers and guests.

The festival is intended to use cinema as a vehicle to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's landscapes, cultural heritage, handicrafts, tourism potential and creative talent before a national and international audience. (KNO)

### Kashmir upper reaches

around 3900 metres and above. This was expected as the prediction for extreme higher reaches was already shared," said an independent weatherman.

"When snowfall begins to occur over the extreme higher reaches, even during short spells it can signal the onset of autumn and the withdrawal of monsoon season," he added.

According to the India Meteorological Department's evening weather bulletin, Srinagar recorded 0.4 mm of rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm, while Pahalgam received 2.6 mm, Qazigund 1 mm, and Kulkernag 1.2 mm.

Gulmarg recorded 7.2 mm of rainfall during the period, while Katra received no rain during the day but recorded 42.6 mm in the preceding 24 hours.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 26.6 degrees Celsius, 1.2 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 17.2 degrees Celsius, 2 degrees above normal.

Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 23.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 13.4 degrees, while Gulmarg recorded 19 degrees and 7.6 degrees, respectively.

In Jammu, the maximum temperature was 32.7 degrees Celsius, which was normal for this time of the year, while the minimum stood at 23.4 degrees, 0.4 degrees below normal.

The weather system has now largely cleared the J&K region, though a short-duration spell of rain or thundershower is possible at a few places on Sunday, particularly during the morning and afternoon hours.

Mostly dry weather is expected to prevail across Jammu and Kashmir thereafter till September 12, according to the forecast.

The fresh snowfall over the extreme higher reaches is considered a seasonal indicator, with such snowfall during this period often coinciding with the gradual transition towards autumn and the withdrawal of the monsoon season. (KNO)

### Pak LeT terrorist killed

Four days later, on October 24, terrorists ambushed an Army vehicle in the Bota Pathri area near Gulmarg, killing five people, three soldiers and two civilian porters. Officials have linked Yasir to the group involved in the attack.

SECURITY FORCES INTENSIFY SEARCHES

Meanwhile, the security forces intensified search for another terrorist believed to be hiding in the area. The encounter site is located at a high altitude in the Pir Panjal range, where incessant rain, rugged terrain and extremely poor visibility have made the operation challenging.

Pertinently, Yasir was killed on Friday during Operation Ashdar after security forces detected the movement of a group of terrorists in the area. "The operation was launched by the Indian Army, J&K Police and CRPF based on specific intelligence inputs about the movement of terrorists in the Ashdar Gali area. During the operation, troops observed suspicious movement and, after challenging the suspected terrorists, came under fire," an official said.

The security forces retaliated, killing one terrorist and recovering an AK-series rifle along with other war-like stores, the official said.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, hailed the operation and described it as a "big achievement". "Big achievement by our Indian Army & Security Forces in the Budgam encounter yesterday. This is another decisive step towards wiping out terrorism from J&K," the LoP said. (KNO)

### Education Minister

for sustainable empowerment.

On the occasion, the Minister also inaugurated major educational initiatives under Samagra Shiksha including 460 civil works worth Rs. 38 crore for strengthening school infrastructure, 2,403 Vocational Labs in High and Higher Secondary Schools to equip students with employable skills and Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK), Srinagar for real-time, data-driven monitoring of learning outcomes in line with NEP-2020.

The event was attended by Director Samagra Shiksha J&K Bhawani Rakwal, Director School Education Jammu Naseem Javaid Choudhary, Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmad Wani, senior officers of the Department and a large gathering of teachers and students.

### 25,000 MTs of apples

"There is a need for effective utilisation of railway freight and Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) services to further strengthen the transportation and marketing system," Zargar said.

He said improved rail connectivity can facilitate the timely movement of produce, reduce logistical challenges and strengthen the overall transportation network, benefiting growers, traders and other stakeholders associated with the horticulture sector.

Zargar was speaking after a stakeholder consultation meeting convened by the Directorate of Horticulture Planning and Marketing at Rajbagh, Srinagar, under his chairmanship to deliberate on the effective utilisation of railway goods/freight and Ro-Ro services for

transportation of horticultural produce.

The Director Horticulture said greater utilisation of railway services could provide an additional and reliable transportation option during the peak harvest season, when large quantities of apples need to be moved to markets outside the region.

The increased focus on rail transportation comes amid persistent challenges in transporting Kashmir's apple produce by road. During the peak season, heavy traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, frequent highway closures, traffic restrictions, landslides and adverse weather conditions can delay the movement of fruit to markets outside the region. (KNO)

### Apple harvest begins

encouraging.

Fruit growers said the early market trend has raised hopes of a better season, particularly after the uncertainty and losses witnessed last year.

Basheer Ahmad Basheer, President of the Fruit Growers Association Kashmir, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the apple season has started on a positive note compared to last year.

"Unlike last year, when the closure of the highway badly affected the movement of fruit and growers suffered heavy losses, the market this year has started on an encouraging note. The demand is good, and growers are getting reasonable returns for their produce," he said. Basheer said growers were hopeful that the positive trend would continue as the harvesting season progresses across different parts of Kashmir.

"We are hopeful that the market will remain stable throughout the season. If the demand continues and transportation remains smooth, growers can expect handsome returns this year," he said.

Another fruit grower from south Kashmir said the initial rates had provided some confidence to orchardists, particularly those cultivating early varieties.

"The beginning is certainly better than what we witnessed last year. Kulu is getting around Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,400 per box, and there is good demand for Gala as well. We hope the rates remain stable when harvesting picks up in the main apple-producing areas," he said.

Growers, however, said the real picture of the season would become clearer once harvesting gains momentum in the major apple-producing belts, and the volume of arrivals increases in fruit markets.

They urged the authorities to ensure uninterrupted transportation, adequate market facilities and timely movement of fruit outside the Valley so that the initial positive trend is sustained.

"Good rates at the beginning of the season are encouraging, but what matters is whether

growers continue to receive remunerative prices throughout the harvesting period. Smooth transportation and proper market management will be crucial," another grower said.

Apple growers have also expressed hope that improved market conditions will help them recover some of the losses incurred in previous seasons and meet rising cultivation, labour, packaging and transportation costs. (KNO)

### J&K intern doctors

regarding the discussions held with the intern delegation.

"Yesterday, you told the intern doctors' delegation to wait for one month. Why are you not stating the same thing publicly? Interns and the people of J&K deserve transparency and clarity," he said.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam M Y Tarigami has written to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, urging him to personally intervene in the matter and ensure a time-bound resolution to the interns' demand.

In his communication, Tarigami said the ongoing agitation by MBBS and BDS interns over enhancement of their monthly stipend warranted the Chief Minister's personal attention.

He said young doctors and dental graduates undergoing internship form an important part of the healthcare system and often work long hours under difficult conditions while shouldering clinical responsibilities.

Tarigami said the interns' demand, as he understood it, was to bring their stipend in line with what their counterparts in other states receive and to account for the rising cost of living.

He further noted that the matter had reportedly been under consideration for some time, including at the level of the Finance Department.

"Given the hardship being faced by these young professionals, the matter be taken up on priority and brought to a decision without further loss of time," Tarigami urged.

He requested the Chief Minister to personally look into the matter and ensure that a fair and time-bound resolution is reached.

"A timely decision on your part will not only address a genuine grievance but will also reaffirm the trust of our young doctors and dental graduates in the Government," Tarigami said in his letter.

The stipend issue has emerged as a major concern among MBBS and BDS interns across J&K, who have been demanding revision of their monthly remuneration. The interns have maintained that despite performing regular clinical duties and contributing to patient care, their stipend does not adequately reflect their workload and the prevailing cost of living.

The protesting interns have made it clear that they are ready to continue their peaceful agitation but want a concrete and written decision from the administration. (KNO)

## PTI

A photograph of Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a light-colored kurta and a pink shawl. He is holding a microphone and has a serious expression. In the background, several other people are visible, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The setting appears to be an indoor event or conference.

**از سرشتہ پنچایت سیکریٹری حلقہ تولہ باغ بلاک شیرتھری**

**نوٹس برائے کھلی بولی**

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ نوٹس ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ پلانٹیشن نرسری سندھوہل حلقہ تولہ باغ کے درختان جس میں سفیدہ 154 عدد، لکڑ 60 عدد اور بان 1 عدد، جو کہ موقع پر مارک شدہ اور گرے ہوئے ہیں۔ لہذا اب ان کی بولی پکارنی مطلوب ہے۔ بوقت دوپہر 12:00 بجے بتاریخ 21 ستمبر 2026ء، بروز سوموار بمقام پنچایت گھر تولہ باغ۔ لہذا خواہش مند حضرات سے استدعا کی جاتی ہے کہ وقت اور تاریخ مقررہ پر آکر بولی میں شمولیت کرے۔

شرائط بولی بذیل ہیں۔

- 1- قبل از شمولیت بولی مبلغ -/80,000 Rs CDR بی ڈی او شیرتھری کے نام رکھنا لازمی ہے۔
- 2- بولی میں اگر H1 بولی چھوڑ کر جاتا ہے تو ضمانت ضبط ہوگا اور H1 اور H2 کے درمیان بولی میں 50,000 Rs سے کم فرق ہوگا تو بولی H2 کو دی جاسکتی ہے۔
- 3- بولی دن دس کے لئے تحت غور رکھی جائے گی تاکہ بولی میں بذریعہ درخواست کم از کم دس فیصد بڑھایا جاسکے۔
- 4- بولی میں صرف وہی اشخاص حصہ لے سکتے ہیں جو مقررہ وقت سے پہلے CDR جمع کرینگے۔
- 5- مزید شرائط بولی موقع پر سنائے جائینگے۔

No:- Pyt/Tul/001      Date:- 31 Aug 2026

**المشتر**

**پنچایت سیکریٹری حلقہ تولہ باغ**

DIPK-5364/26  
DATED: 05-09-2026

## US lawmakers urged to drop provision to deepen defense ties with Israel

**FAST FACT:** The provision of the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act, known as Section 219, seeks to set up frameworks for joint ventures, licensing agreements and US-based co-production partnerships with the Israeli industry.

REUTERS

Washington, Sep 5: Dozens of civil rights and advocacy groups are urging Congress to scrap a defense bill provision that would deepen US-Israeli military technology ties at a time of growing US skepticism toward the longtime ally.

The provision would deepen cooperation between the US and Israeli defense sectors by accelerating joint military technology development and other partnerships. The bill passed the House of Representatives in July and awaits Senate action.

The provision of the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act, known as Section 219, seeks to set up frameworks for joint ventures, licensing agreements and US-based co-production partnerships with the Israeli industry.

In Thursday's letter addressed to leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, 56 groups said deeper integration with Israel's defense sector would be "exceptionally dangerous" and urged lawmakers to remove the provision.

The groups include Amnesty International USA and the civil rights network National Lawyers Guild as well as Arab and Jewish advocacy groups.

"At a time in which American interests are increasingly diverging from those of Israel, and American public opinion is turning increasingly against unconditional support to Israel, creating new points of influence for Israel in the



US defense-technology ecosystem is exceptionally dangerous," said the letter, which has not been previously reported.

Israel is one of Washington's closest allies in the Middle East, and the two countries cooperate extensively on defense and intelligence issues. Supporters say deeper ties could help speed military innovation and technology development.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a May interview with CBS that he hoped to wean Israel off US military support within a decade. In a June letter to a US congressman he wrote that the time has come for Israel "to move from aid recipient to partner."

Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen said that it was not in US national interests to deepen such cooperation with the Netanyahu government.

"This provision ... threatens to compromise sensitive technologies and, based on our prior experience, risks giving the government of Israel the ability to interfere in US defense decisions," Van Hollen said.

US public support for Israel has fallen since the Gaza war began in 2023, particularly among Democrats. A June Quinnipiac University poll found 48 percent of voters and 66 percent of Democrats believe the United States is too supportive of Israel, up from 16 percent and 20 percent when the question was first asked in 2017.

Support for Israel among Democratic voters has plummeted, candidates critical of Israel are winning Democratic primaries and even moderate lawmakers are increasingly willing to challenge decades of US support for Israel. The militant

Hamas group, in an October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, killed nearly 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals and took hundreds hostage. More than 73,000 Palestinians have since been killed in Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza, according to Gaza health officials.

The letter criticizes Israel for its potential violations of international humanitarian law in its war in Gaza and rising settler violence against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. It says such developments should prevent any discussion of deepening military ties.

A memorandum of understanding that provides \$3.8 billion annual US military aid to Israel is approaching its expiration date in 2028 and conversations are under way on how Washington's assistance to Israel would evolve beyond that date.

Some members of Congress have already tried to strip the provision from the fiscal 2027 NDAA. Republican Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Democratic Representative Ro Khanna of California introduced an amendment to block it, but it did not make it into the House version of the bill.

Once the House and Senate write their versions of the NDAA, members of the two chambers work out a compromise version of the bill, which must pass both chambers — typically near the end of the calendar year — before it can be sent to the White House for President Donald Trump to sign into law or veto.

### US ambassador says Israel not planning forced displacement from Gaza

AFP

West Bank, Sep 5: The US ambassador to Israel said Saturday there was no plan underway to force Palestinians out of Gaza, after Israeli ministers laid out ideas on how to expel the war-battered territory's two million people.

"I can tell you categorically there is no plan of the Israelis to displace people out of Gaza against their will," Ambassador Mike Huckabee told reporters as he visited Palestinian-Americans in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

### India hammers Indonesia 14-0 in AHF Junior Asia Cup opener

PTI

Moqi (China), Sep 5: India made a commanding start to their title defence at the AHF Junior Men's Asia Cup with a ruthless 14-0 victory over Indonesia in their opening Pool A match here on Saturday.

Captain Anmol Ekka, Prabhdeep Singh and Ajeet Yadav spearheaded the emphatic performance, scoring 12 goals between them as the five-time champions immediately stamped its authority on the tournament.

Prabhdeep was the most prolific scorer of the

day, finding the net five times to earn the 'Player of the Match' award, while skipper Anmol contributed four goals and Yadav scored thrice for his hat-trick.

Harpal and Ashu Maurya accounted for the other two goals.

India's attacking intent was evident from the opening whistle as they repeatedly entered the Indonesian circle and created scoring opportunities.

Prabhdeep opened the scoring in the fifth minute, giving India an early advantage before Harpal doubled the lead in the eighth minute.

## Challenging to join India T20 squad after 5 days of Duleep, but it's our job to adapt: Tilak, Kishan



PTI

Chennai, Sep 5: Tilak Varma and Ishan Kishan admitted that it is "tough" to join India's T20 squad for the three-match series against Afghanistan right after the Duleep Trophy final, but understood the need to adapt to the situation and as professional cricketers they can't offer "excuses."

The five-day domestic fixture, which starts here on Sunday, is scheduled for a September 10 finish, and India will face Afghanistan in the first of the three T20Is in New Delhi on September 13.

"It is just about knowing what format you are playing. I know it gets difficult when you

are playing Test match and suddenly you have to go and start hitting from ball one (in white ball format) and then suddenly you have to go back to your domestic team and you have to play a whole different role," Kishan, who is leading East Zone, said in the pre-match press conference.

Kishan, who is a part of India's T20I squad, found a supporting voice in Tilak Varma, South Zone captain and India's T20I vice-captain.

"Yes, it will be slightly challenging...playing five days here (Duleep Trophy) and again joining the (India) team. From here we are going to Delhi, so, there will be like a two day break. We can practise there. It will

be slightly challenging," he said.

So, how to mitigate the situation? Kishan and Tilak banked on their ability to adapt.

"We have played enough domestic games, we have played in every condition, so we can adjust. We know how to change our mindsets and maintain our body with good fluids and everything."

"We have played before in domestic as well as international back-to-back games, so we are quite used to it," he said.

It may be recalled that Tilak had openly manifested his desire to play in the Duleep Trophy final after winning the semifinal in Bengaluru.

Kishan too joined Tilak on the adaptability road.

"I feel as professionals it is our job to adapt. We cannot come up with excuses after knowing this is your routine for the next few days. So, it is better to not be in a situation where we have to make excuses."

"But at the same time be aware and be just mindful of what is going to happen and I will be playing T20I after this. So, my job will be different. But still I feel we are getting two days of practice before the first game against Afghanistan. So, it will be more than enough I feel," he added.

## Trump says US may hit Iran's Pickaxe Mountain soon



REUTERS/AP

Washington, Sep 5: US President Donald Trump told reporters that the United States may hit Iran's Pickaxe Mountain very soon.

Pickaxe Mountain, located near Iran's heavily damaged Natanz uranium enrichment facility, is a heavily fortified site that hosts two deeply buried tunnel complexes.

Trump said that the Iran war was "small potatoes" for the United States, a day after Vice President JD Vance said he wouldn't describe the conflict as a war.

"A lot of people don't call it a war. I call it a military conflict because it's small potatoes for us. It's not a big thing. We did Venezuela, and we did this," Trump told reporters when asked about Vance's comments. In July the US changed its official Defense Casualty Analysis System to reclassify soldiers killed or wounded in "war" to "Overseas Operations."

Confronted by an intransigent Iranian government that has refused to back down in the face of a massive military campaign, US President Donald Trump has settled on a dual-prong approach that combines economic pressure with the potential of a devastating escalation in force.

Over the course of the war, Trump has repeatedly reported progress in negotiations or called off threats of military action at the last moment when global markets have become jittery.

The president wants to avoid both a return to the full-throttle bombardment of Iran and making any accommodations to Tehran on the Strait of Hormuz, said Aaron David Miller of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"The White House doesn't want a massive war, and they don't want to be seen as offering massive concessions," Miller said. "The tack they are taking avoids both of those things."

## Nepal floods: Death toll 1,344; rescue efforts continue; around 4,900 missing

PTI

Kathmandu, Sep 5: The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal rose to 1,344 on Saturday as more bodies were recovered from the affected districts, police said. Rescue teams continued to search for around 4,900 people who remain missing.

Of the total bodies recovered so far, 758 were adults, 85 were children and 501 were recovered with body parts missing, officials said, attributing the condition of the bodies to prolonged exposure to water and the weight of debris.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal. The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

The disaster also killed at least 21 people on the Chinese side, while more than 500 people remain missing in Tibet, according

to Chinese media reports.

In Nepal, around 360 bodies have been recovered in Chitwan district alone -- the highest among all districts. Other districts from which bodies were recovered include Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Tanahun, Nawalparasi East and Nawalparasi West.

So far, 1,030 bodies have been temporarily buried after required procedures, including DNA collection, were completed.

Authorities continued to monitor water levels in several rivers, including the Koshi, Narayani, Bagmati, Karnali, Mahakali, Kankai, Kamal, Kamala, Babai, Eastern Rapti and Western Rapti, while joint rescue teams led by the Nepal Army continued search and rescue operations for the eleventh day.

The number of missing people was estimated at 4,898. The missing include more than 600 children in Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, officials said.

More than 13,000 people have been rescued so far, according to Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

GOOD FILMS BETTER WEEKENDS

INOX LIVE MOVIE

# MOVIES LIST

06 SEPTEMBER 2026 | SUNDAY

SAME PASSION DIFFERENT STORIES

**AWARAPAN 2**

U/A 16+

HINDI

11:25 AM

06:00 PM

**TOXIC:**

A FAIRY TALE FOR GROWN-UPS

A

HINDI

02:15 PM

**SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY**

U/A 13+

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

10:45 AM

**MIRZAPUR: THE MOVIE**

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HINDI

01:40 PM

05:30 PM

HINDI ATMOS

11:05 AM

02:55 PM

06:45 PM

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CINEMA HITS DIFFERENT HERE