



## IFFJK Day 2 Captures Kashmir's Cinematic Spirit

» CM Omar attends 'Mirzapur' screening at INOX Sgr » Interacts with Pankaj Tripathi, Divyenndu » 5 J&K films selected for competitive section

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday attended the screening of the popular crime-drama 'Mirzapur' at INOX here as the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) entered its second day, with prominent actors, filmmakers and cinema enthusiasts participating in screenings and interactive sessions across the city.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the Chief Minister interacted with 'Mirzapur' actors Pankaj Tripathi and Divyenndu Sharma. Bollywood singer Sunidhi Chauhan was also present on the occasion.

Notably, the screening was part of the festival's programme at INOX, which on Tuesday also screened 'Laila Majnu' and other films from different competitive and non-competitive sections.

The presence of the 'Mirzapur' cast added to the festival's second-day activities, which brought together popular faces from Indian cinema, filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere and aspiring artists.

Tripathi and Divyenndu, known for their roles as Kaleen Bhaiya and Munna Tripathi respectively in 'Mirzapur,' also interacted with the media on the sidelines of the festival at SKICC



here earlier in the day.

The actors spoke about Kashmir's potential for regional cinema, the need to engage with local filmmakers and the opportunities available to young talent.

They praised their experience in Kashmir, saying they enjoyed Kashmiri food, met local people and felt a sense of belonging during their visit.

The actors said Jammu and Kashmir had significant potential for cinema, particularly with the growth of theatres, OTT platforms and other avenues for filmmakers.

Meanwhile, filmmaker Imtiaz Ali also spoke about Kashmir's cinematic

potential during his interaction with the media at SKICC, saying the region had many untold stories, characters and cultural traditions that could be explored through cinema.

Ali said Kashmir should be seen beyond its scenic landscapes, with its culture, music, humour, traditions and ordinary lives offering a rich pool of stories for filmmakers.

He also spoke about his experience of shooting in Kashmir, including for Rockstar and said the support extended by local people had made his shoots memorable. Ali said festivals such as IFFJK could help bring filmmakers and

audiences closer to Kashmir and create greater opportunities for local actors, filmmakers and storytellers.

5 FILMS SELECTED FOR J&K SELECT SECTION

In another major development on the second day, five films helmed by directors from Jammu and Kashmir were selected for the J&K Select Section, the competitive category of the inaugural IFFJK.

The films were recommended by the Preview Committee constituted for the festival after reviewing submissions and assessing their artistic merit and suitability for the competitive section.

The selected | More on P6

### Kashmir has many untold stories: Imtiaz Ali

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Renowned filmmaker Imtiaz Ali on Tuesday said Kashmir has many untold stories, characters and cultural traditions that can provide rich material for filmmakers, while expressing hope that the region's growing connection with cinema would create more opportunities for local talent.

Interacting with the media on the sidelines of the second day of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) at SKICC Srinagar, Ali, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he always hopes to return to the region whenever he shoots a film. "We always hope that whenever we shoot, | More on P6



### Valley has immense potential for regional cinema: Pankaj Tripathi

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Actors Pankaj Tripathi and Divyenndu, known for their roles as Kaleen Bhaiya and Munna Tripathi, respectively, in the popular web series Mirzapur, on Tuesday said Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential for regional cinema, with local stories, young talent and a growing digital ecosystem offering significant opportunities for filmmakers.

Interacting with the media on the sidelines of the second day of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) at SKICC Srinagar, the actors, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said they | More on P6



### IFFJK explores roadmap for J&K's sustainable film industry

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 08: The second day of the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK-2026) witnessed an engaging policy dialogue on the prospects of building a sustainable cinematic ecosystem in the Union Territory, with Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo emphasising the need to create an enabling environment for local talent, filmmaking, film education and investment.

Participating in a panel discussion on "How the J&K Film Policy, Single-Window Clearances, and Incentives Can Build a Sustainable Local Cinematic Ecosystem", moderated by noted film critic and journalist Mayank Shekhar, the Chief Secretary, along with Commissioner Secretary, Information Department, R. Alice Vaz, dwelt upon the initiatives already undertaken by the Government and the measures being planned to give further impetus to filmmaking and film tourism in J&K.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo while speaking said that the people of J&K have a natural

### Dal Lake turns into open-air cinema with floating screen

Brings classic Kashmiri films back to lake | *Junglee* screened on opening night, *Arzoo* on day 2

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 08: The waters of Dal Lake have turned into an unusual cinema hall, where a screen floats on the lake, and audiences watch from its banks, adding a distinctly Kashmiri touch to the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK).

The Floating Cinema, one of the festival's most striking attractions, began on the opening day of the four-day festival on Monday with a screening of the 1961 classic *Junglee*.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), people



gathered along the banks of Dal Lake to watch the film on the floating screen, turning the lakefront into an open-air viewing space.

The initiative takes cinema beyond conventional theatres, bringing films into a setting that has long been part of Kashmir's cinematic

identity.

On Tuesday, the second day of the festival, the Floating Cinema screened *Arzoo* (1965) from 8 pm to 10 pm. The brochure also lists Kashmir Ki Kali (1964) for September 9 and Kabhi Kabhie (1976) for September 10, continuing | More on P6

## LG Ladakh to discharge functions of LG J&K till Manoj Sinha's return

V K Saxena to administer oath to new CJ at SKUAST today



KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 08: The President of India on Tuesday appointed Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, to discharge the functions of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in addition to his own duties, during the absence on leave of Manoj Sinha, the incumbent LG of J&K.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Rashtrapati Bhavan said that the LG of Ladakh will discharge the functions of the LG of Jammu & Kashmir until Manoj Sinha returns from leave.

Manoj Sinha, who is currently abroad, is expected to return on September 17.

The President empowered the LG of Ladakh to discharge

the functions of the LG of Jammu & Kashmir ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Vinai Kumar Saxena, who is currently in Srinagar, is expected to administer the oath to Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at the Shalimar Convention Centre of SKUAST-Kashmir.

The SKUAST-Kashmir administration has ordered suspension of all official and academic work at the main campus to facilitate the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the event.

The SKUAST auditorium has been chosen as the venue for the oath-taking ceremony, as SKICC is currently hosting the International Film Festival. (KNO)

## 7 sittings in 10-day autumn session of J&K Assembly



In break from tradition, no adjournment after obituary references

4 days for Govt Business

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, Sep 08: The upcoming 10-day autumn session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly will be spread over seven sittings, the provisional calendar issued by the Assembly Secretariat on Tuesday revealed.

According to the calendar released by the Assembly secretariat, a copy of which is in

possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), September 21 has been earmarked for obituary references and Government business.

The Assembly Secretariat's decision to conduct Government business on the same day that obituary references are read out for former legislators who passed away since the last session marks a departure from past practice. Traditionally, the House was adjourned for the day after obituary references.

In a practice like Lok Sabha, the Assembly will now pay obituary tributes and then proceed with regular Government business on the same day. According to the calendar, September 22, 29 and | More on P6

## J&K intern doctors call off strike after

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 08: The MBBS and BDS interns across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday called off their strike and resumed duties after the government gave a written assurance that their long-pending demand for enhancement of stipend would be resolved within one month.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the decision came after a delegation of protesting intern doctors met Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Masood Itoo in Srinagar on Tuesday. "After the meeting the minister, interns decided to call off the strike and resume

duties," one of the protesters said.

Pertinently, interns had launched their agitation after repeatedly raising the issue of stipend enhancement with the authorities and expressing dissatisfaction over what they described as prolonged inaction on their demand.

The protest gradually gathered momentum, with interns from medical and dental colleges across Jammu and Kashmir joining the agitation under a common platform.

The protesting interns are demanding enhancement of their monthly stipend to Rs 30,000, arguing that the existing stipend was inadequate in view of the nature of internship, their

working hours, responsibilities and the role they perform in patient care under supervision.

The interns maintained that although they are still undergoing compulsory internship as part of their professional training, they perform important clinical duties in hospitals, including assisting in patient management, attending wards and emergency services and supporting healthcare teams.

They said that a major point of contention during the agitation was the absence of a formal and time-bound government order or written commitment. "Verbal assurances from authorities won't suffice we need a concrete roadmap for resolving the issue," they said.



During an earlier interaction, the Health Minister had sought time for resolving the matter, but the interns had insisted that the government provide a definite

and time-bound commitment.

The issue remained unresolved for several rounds of discussions, prompting the interns to intensify their

protest and warn of further escalation if their demand was not addressed.

However, Tuesday's meeting resulted in a breakthrough

after the government provided a written assurance regarding the timeline for resolving the stipend issue.

According to the minutes/record note of the meeting, a copy of which lies with KNO the government has assured the interns that the stipend matter will be resolved within one month, on the basis of the recommendations of the Stipend Enhancement Committee.

The written commitment became the key factor behind the interns' decision to suspend the agitation.

The assurance, however, does not mean that the interns have received the demanded Rs 30,000 stipend immediately. Rather, the | More on P6

» Govt agrees to hike stipend in one month  
» Medicos resume duties after written assurance



RAMP Scheme  
JKEDI Srinagar concludes 4-week entrepreneurship, skill development programme

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: The valedictory function of the 4-week / 104-hour Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the RAMP scheme was held Tuesday at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

The valedictory function, as per an official statement, was presided over by Dr Naila Khanday, Faculty JKEDI as chief guest; Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal officer JKEDI and other distinguished faculty members. The chief

guest held an insightful interactive session with the participants. She spoke about the evolving entrepreneurial landscape of the region and encouraged the participants to consider entrepreneurship as a confident career choice. She emphasized the importance of skill development and staying relevant with changing times.

Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, highlighted various initiatives of JKEDI for entrepreneurship development and the government support available for new enterprises.

Nazia Shafi encouraged the trainees to leverage their training to establish competitive and sustainable enterprises.

The participants remained enthusiastic throughout the 4-week programme and showed keen interest during classroom sessions as well as field visits. The batch underwent intensive modules on GST, IPR, Working Capital Management, E-commerce, DPR Preparation, and Government-sponsored schemes including YUVA, MUDRA, Startup J&K, etc.



SWD organises PMMVY awareness, enrolment drive at JLNM Hospital Rainawari

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) awareness and enrolment drive at Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital, Rainawari, Srinagar, Tuesday. The drive was aimed at creating awareness among expectant and lactating mothers about the benefits available under PMMVY and facilitating eligible beneficiaries in accessing the scheme. During the programme, the officials of SANKALP HEW Srinagar interacted with beneficiaries and provided information regarding the eligibility criteria, application process and benefits under the scheme. During the drive,

22 beneficiaries were successfully linked with PMMMVY scheme enabling them to avail the benefits as per the prescribed guidelines. The participants, as per an official statement, were sensitized about the importance of timely registration and availing maternity-related entitlements through the designated process. The officials also encouraged eligible women to come forward and register under the scheme so that the intended benefits reach the beneficiaries in a timely manner.

The initiative reflects the Department's continued efforts towards ensuring effective implementation of welfare schemes and improving awareness and accessibility of government benefits among eligible beneficiaries.

11th Ayurveda Day RCFC NR-II conducts pre-programme activities in Sopore

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 08: The Regional-cum-Facilitation Centre, Northern Region-II (RCFC NR-II), National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, SKUAST-Kashmir, conducted pre-programme activities at SRM Welkin School, Sopore, Tuesday ahead of the 11th Ayurveda Day celebrations scheduled to be held on September 22 and 23, 2026, under the theme "Ayurveda for Healthier Tomorrow."

The programme, as per an official statement, focused on promoting awareness about medicinal plants, their conservation, scientific cultivation and sustainable utilization in the context of Ayurveda.

As part of the programme, the technical team of RCFC NR-II conducted an awareness session on "Sustainable Cultivation and Harvesting of Medicinal Plants." Dr. Sofi Imtiyaz Ali, Project Manager, RCFC NR-II, sensitized the participants about the importance of conserving medicinal plant resources and adopting scientific cultivation and sustainable harvesting practices to ensure their long-term availability.

Dr. Sofi also highlighted the need to integrate the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda with scientific, sustainable and evidence-based practices for promoting the responsible utilization of medicinal plants. A Green Ayurveda Plantation Drive was also organised within the school premises, during which medicinal plant saplings were planted to encourage students to actively participate in the conservation of valuable medicinal plant resources.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and teaching staff of SRM Welkin School, Sopore, along with the technical team of RCFC NR-II. The participants were encouraged to adopt scientific cultivation practices, conserve medicinal plants and explore entrepreneurial and livelihood opportunities in the medicinal plants sector with technical guidance and institutional support from RCFC NR-II. The programme concluded with a call to carry forward the vision of "Ayurveda for Healthier Tomorrow" through greater awareness, conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants.

ADDC Shopian chairs DLRC, DCC meeting



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 08: District Level Review Committee (DLRC)-cum-District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting of District Shopian to review the performance of financial institutions for the 1st Quarter of FY 2026-27, ended June 30, 2026, was held Tuesday at the Meeting Hall of the District Administrative Complex, Shopian.

At the outset, the LDM, as per an official statement, apprised the meeting about the major achievements of the district in the financial sector as on June 30, 2026.

It was informed that deposits in the district registered a 13% year-on-year (YoY) growth, while witnessing a 2% decline compared to the previous quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Similarly, advances recorded a 15% YoY growth and a 4% increase over the previous quarter. Priority Sector Advances registered a 6% YoY growth and an 8% increase over the previous quarter.

The Non-Priority Sector of the district recorded a significant 29% YoY growth, though it witnessed a 3% decline compared to the previous quarter.

The meeting was also informed

that the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio of the district stood at 130% as on June 30, 2026.

Reviewing the progress under the District Credit Plan (DCP) 2026-27, it was informed that against the annual financial target of 2,308.18 crore and a physical target of 58,123 beneficiaries, various banks operating in the district disbursed 397.10 crore to 13,466 beneficiaries during the first quarter of the current financial year, with an achievement of 17% of the annual financial target and 23% of the physical target during the quarter.

Dr Nasir Lone reviewed the performance of banks and departments and stressed upon all stakeholders to further strengthen coordination and ensure timely disposal and sanctioning of eligible cases under various credit-linked schemes. He called for focused efforts to improve financial inclusion, credit flow to priority sectors and achievement of the targets fixed under the District Credit Plan.

The ADDC also emphasised the need for regular monitoring of the implementation of various Government-sponsored schemes so that maximum eligible beneficiaries derive the intended benefits.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (ANANTNAG)  
SKILL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Subject:- Engagement of Guest Faculty in ITI Anantnag for the Academic Session 2026-27.

Advertisement Notice

Applications are invited from the interested candidates for temporary engagement as Guest Faculty in ITI Anantnag for academic Session 2026-27 conducting training in the following trade(s) on the basis of prescribed qualification mentioned against the each trade.

Interested candidates will submit their application (s) to this Office on the prescribed format forming Annexure "B" to this advertisement notice within 07 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspaper/official web site.

Annexure A

| S.No | Trades                                                                              | Prescribed Qualification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.   | Information and Communication Technology System Maintenance (ICT & TSM) (01 Normal) | B. Voc/Degree In Engineering/ Technology In Computer Science/ IT/ Electronics & Communication AICTE/UGC recognized Engineering College/ university with one year experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>Post Graduate in Computer Science/Computer Application/IT/Electronics from AICTE/UGC recognized university with one year experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>Bachelor in Computer Science / Computer Application / IT OR NIELIT A Level from AICTE/UGC recognized university with two years' experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>03 years Diploma in Computer Science/IT/Electronics & Communication from AICTE/ recognized board of technical education or relevant Advanced Diploma (Vocational) from DGT with two years' experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>NAC/NTC/STC passed in the trade of "Information & Communication Technology System Maintenance" and CITS/NCIC passed in the relevant trade with three years' experience in the relevant field. |
| 2    | Electrician (CITS) (01 Normal)                                                      | B. Voc/Degree in Electrical/ Electrical and Electronics Engineering from AICTE/UGC recognized Engineering College/university with one-year experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>03 years Diploma in Electrical/ Electrical and Electronics Engineering from AICTE/recognized board of technical education or relevant Advanced Diploma (Vocational) from DGT with two years' experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>NAC/NTC/STC passed in the trade of "Electrician" and CITS/NCIC passed in the relevant trade with three years' experience in the relevant field.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3    | Hand Embroidery (Theory) (01 Normal)                                                | B. Voc/Degree in Textile Designing from AICTE/UGC recognized university with one-year experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>03 years Diploma in Textile Designing from recognized board of education with two years' experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>NTC /NAC in Hand Embroidery Artisan with three-year experience in the relevant field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4    | Plumber 01 Self Finance                                                             | B.Voc/Degree in Civil/Mechanical Engineering from AICTE/UGC recognized Engineering College/University with one-year experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>03 years Diploma in Civil/Mechanical Engineering from AICTE recognized Board of Technical Education or relevant Advanced Diploma (Vocational) from DGT with two years' experience in the relevant field.<br>OR<br>NAC/NTC/STC passed in the trade of "Plumber" or relevant trade and CITS/NCIC passed in the relevant trade with three years' experience in the relevant field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

Essential Qualification: Relevant Regular/RPL variants of National Craft Instructor Certificate (NCIC) under DGT.

The duly completed Application Form in the prescribed format must accompanied with the self-attested copies of the following certificates/ documents:-

Academic/Technical Qualification Certificate/Marks Certificate.

Date of Birth Certificate.

Domicile Certificate

Character Certificate (in original).

Experience certificate, if any.

Application forms are available with this notice and can also be downloaded from the official website of the Directorate of Skill Development Department.

Age: Minimum age 18 years Maximum 45 years as on 1st January 2026.

The calculation of the merit points shall be on per-rate basis as under:-

| S. No. | Criteria                                                                                                                                                                      | Maximum Points |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| A      | Basic essential qualification as per DGT Norms (marks obtained in the prescribed qualifying examination/trade certificate)                                                    | 70             |
| B      | Higher relevant qualification (e.g., Ph.D., M.E./M. Tech. as relevant to the trade/discipline)                                                                                | 10             |
| C      | Professional/technical certification — NET/SET/ GATE                                                                                                                          | 5              |
| C      | Relevant full-time teaching/training field experience in a J&K UT recognized technical or skill institution, post-qualification                                               | 5              |
| E      | Structured interaction/demonstration before the Selection Committee, assessed against a pre-declared rubric (subject knowledge, communication, practical/demonstration skill) | 10             |
| TOTAL  |                                                                                                                                                                               | 100            |

The engagement of Guest Faculty will be for the Academic Session 2026–27 only on need basis. The assignment of the engagement shall be co-terminus with the academic session. It can also be terminated on account of non-performance by the engaged candidate as per the guidelines or if regular appointments/transfers are made by the Department.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject incomplete/deficient applications received after assigning proper reasons.

The criteria for engagement of the candidate as Guest Faculty and remuneration shall be strictly as per the Guidelines/directions/instructions issued from time to time in this regard.

The candidates engaged shall have to maintain proper discipline and punctuality and shall have to work to the entire satisfaction of the students as well as the HOI. Indiscipline, misconduct, moral turpitude, or false documentation of any kind will entail disengagement.

Every selected candidate shall, before joining, execute an undertaking/affidavit, duly attested by a First-Class Judicial Magistrate, in the prescribed format, expressly stating therein that:

(i) the candidate is fully aware about the nature of engagement being purely temporary in nature, session-specific, and terminable in accordance with this Policy;

(ii) the candidate shall not, at any time, claim regularization, permanent absorption, or continuation on whatsoever grounds; and

(iii) the candidate shall abide by the Code of Conduct as specified in the extant Policy.

Mere submission of an application or eligibility shall not entitle any candidate for his/her engagement, and the engagement shall be made only as per the Jammu and Kashmir Guest Faculty in ITIs Engagement Policy.

DIPK-5418/26 DATED: 08-09-2026

Bilal Ahmad Wani  
Principal Industrial Training Institute Anantnag

Govt of Jammu and Kashmir  
Office of The Principal  
Govt. higher secondary school Nehama Kulgam

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Short Term tender Notice

Dasti quotations are invited from the registered Publishers for printing of the prospectus Phooliywan as per the details given below. The quotations must reach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of issuance of this notice. The quotations must be inclusive of all taxes and should be F.O.R school premises. The tenderer with the lowest rates, shall supply the material within 05 days from the date of placement of supply order. The quotations so received, will be scrutinized by the purchasing committee of this institute on the (working) day next to closing date at 11:00 am in the office chamber of undersigned. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any of the tenders without assigning any reason.

List of item:

| S  | NAME OF THE ITEM | QUANTITY |
|----|------------------|----------|
| 01 | Prospectus       | 350      |

Any further details can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours on all working days.

No: - HSSN/Estt-Acctts/ 254 /26  
Dated:- 08 / 09 /2026

Sd/  
Principal  
Govt HSS Nehama  
Kulgam

DIPK-5450/26  
DATED: 08-09-2026



## CM Omar reviews progress of construction of mini-secretariat buildings



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the progress of languishing projects under the Revenue Department across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on expediting the completion of mini-secretariat buildings and addressing bottlenecks delaying execution of these projects. The CM took serious view of the delay in completion of ongoing buildings and delay in project planning, obtaining approvals and execution of new buildings. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner Revenue J&K Shaleen Kabra,

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Secretary Revenue, Divisional Commissioners Jammu/Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla and Srinagar, besides other concerned officers. Outstation officers attended the meeting through video conferencing. During the meeting, the Chief Minister was briefed on the status of ongoing Mini Secretariat projects at Mendhar, Poonch, Rajouri and Akhnor in Jammu division, and Tral, Dooru, Batamaloo and Tangmarg in Kashmir division. Taking serious note of the slow pace of work, the Chief Minister expressed his displeasure over

the delays and directed the concerned departments and district administrations to take all necessary measures to remove bottlenecks and ensure commencement of work on stalled and new projects within one month. The Chief Minister stressed the need for time-bound execution of the projects and directed the concerned officers to ensure strict compliance with the directions issued during the meeting. He also called for standardisation of works and facilities across all Mini Secretariats so that these administrative complexes are developed with some uniformity in design and functionality and provide improved services and facilities to the staff and public in all districts.

## Govt revokes posting of JKAS officer in Assembly secretariat



KNO

Srinagar, Sept 08: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday cancelled its order posting a Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer in the Assembly Secretariat. In a fresh directive, the General Administration Department (GAD) revoked Government Order No. 1415 JK(GAD) of 2026 dated August 19, which had transferred and posted Bilal Ahmad Mir, JKAS, Sub Registrar Khansahib/Budgam, as Deputy Secretary in the J&K Legislative Assembly. "It is hereby ordered that Government Order No. 1415 JK(GAD) of 2026 dated 19.08.2026 shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio," reads the order. The same directive further stated that Jahangir Ahmed, JKAS, Sub Divisional Magistrate Khansahib, shall hold the charge of Sub Registrar Khansahib and Sub Registrar Budgam, in addition to his own duties, until further orders. The posting of Bilal evoked widespread protests from the Assembly staff and legislators, prompting the Assembly Secretariat to formally write to the GAD seeking withdrawal of the order—(KNO)

## NC pays tribute to Sheikh Abdullah on death anniversary



Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 08: National Conference (NC) on Tuesday paid tributes to its founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 44th death anniversary at his grave in Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, with party leaders, legislators, workers and supporters gathering to remember the late leader. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah visited Sheikh Abdullah's grave and paid floral tributes. They offered Fataha and prayed at his grave. The party leaders, MLAs, senior party functionaries, workers and supporters also paid homage to the late leader. Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister and senior NC leader Nasir Aslam Wani said people had gathered to offer their heartfelt tributes to

"Sher-e-Kashmir". "The people of Jammu and Kashmir owe a great debt to Sheikh Abdullah," Wani said, adding that if anyone had given them a voice, secured their rights or provided them education, it is all because of "Sher-e-Kashmir". NC MP Chowdhary Ramzan said people from across Jammu and Kashmir gather every year to pay heartfelt tributes to Sheikh Abdullah for his invaluable contribution. NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said Sheikh Abdullah's contributions were "beyond measure", particularly in education, healthcare and fostering communal harmony among the people. He said Sheikh Abdullah transformed Kashmir's political landscape through the introduction of land reforms, describing it as

a legacy that the younger generation should understand and draw inspiration from. "Most notably, he transformed the political landscape of Kashmir overnight with a single stroke of the pen when he introduced land reforms. This is a legacy that today's youth need to understand and draw inspiration from," Sadiq said. NC spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said the day represented "the spirit of our collective struggle". "The struggle led by Sheikh Abdullah gave Jammu and Kashmir its identity and empowered its people to walk with their heads held high," he said. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar noted the large turnout of people from diverse backgrounds at Naseem Bagh.

## Ladakh-Centre talks to resume today

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 08: Talks between representatives of civil society groups in Ladakh and the Centre are set to resume in New Delhi on Wednesday, with both sides returning to the negotiating table after a series of fresh confidence-building measures in the Union Territory. According to the details available, the meeting between the Leh Apex Body (LAB), Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) and the Union Home Ministry's High-Powered Committee (HPC) is scheduled for around 4 pm on September 9. Several representatives of the two prominent socio-religious groups reached Delhi on Tuesday ahead of the discussions. "We are hopeful about the talks. We will push for the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule to protect land, culture, jobs, ecology and identity," KDA member Sajjad Kargili said.



The latest round comes after the May 22 discussions, during which the Centre had indicated that a "customised sui generis model" could be worked out by incorporating provisions under Article 371. While describing the demand for full statehood as a "long-term aspiration", the Union Home Ministry had also committed to exploring a tailored governance arrangement

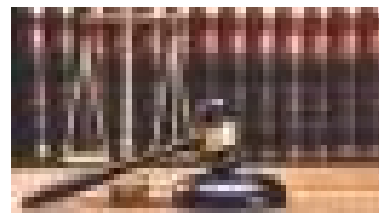
for Ladakh, including a Union Territory-level elected body with executive, financial and legislative powers. Ladakh's political, social and religious groups have been pressing for stronger constitutional safeguards since the region was separated from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and made a Union Territory in 2019. Their demands have

primarily centred on protecting Ladakh's fragile ecology, land, employment opportunities, cultural identity and political representation. Pertinently, in recent weeks, the Ladakh administration has announced or approved several measures that have been seen as confidence-building steps ahead of the talks. These include the establishment of a Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory, approval of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Nautor Regularisation) Rules, 2026, and plans to establish hill councils in all seven districts of Ladakh, including the five districts created recently. However, the new measures have also raised concerns among the civil society representatives. Kargili said decisions relating to land had been taken without adequate consultations with stakeholders. "The decisions regarding the land were taken without

consultations. We would have expected that the current talks were taken into consideration and the stakeholders were taken onboard," he said. The proposed expansion of the hill council system is also expected to figure prominently in the discussions. With each council proposed to have 30 members, the seven councils would together provide for 210 elected representatives in a Union Territory with a population of around 3.5 lakh. The LAB and KDA are expected to argue that the councils should have greater autonomy and constitutional protection, along the lines of institutions functioning under the Sixth Schedule in parts of northeastern India. "We demand that these hill councils are autonomous with constitutional powers as in the North-East under the Sixth Schedule," Kargili said. The two groups are also likely to seek the

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## 172 posts pending in J&K amid clarifications, court cases



Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar, Sep 08: As many as 172 government posts in Jammu and Kashmir are pending due to clarifications, court cases and other departmental issues, according to details available in an official document. The data shows that the Higher Education Department has 92 posts pending, including 88 Assistant Professor posts in various disciplines, for which clarification is awaited from the Higher Education Department. Written examinations for 52 of these posts have already been conducted. Another two posts of Assistant Professor in Biotechnology Engineering

and two posts of Assistant Professor in Food Engineering & Technology are pending due to the non-availability of syllabus. In the Health & Medical Education Department, one post of Junior Medical Physicist is pending due to the non-availability of the syllabus. Meanwhile, the Agriculture Production Department has five posts of District Sericulture Officer pending, with the matter marked as sub judice. The Health & Medical Education Department also has 35 posts of Assistant Professor (Unani/Ayurveda), two posts of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety and 10 posts of Assistant Professor Nursing pending, with the matters facing court-related issues. Besides, seven posts of AP (500-bedded) Paediatrics Hospital, Bemina, have been kept on hold by the department. Another 20 posts of Tutor/Lecturer/Andrologist/Gynaecologist/Clinical Embryologist are awaiting clarification from the concerned department.

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## Why 111 JKPSC-referred posts found no takers in 2025-26

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 08: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) made 1,152 selections against 1,263 posts referred to it during 2025-26, leaving 111 posts without a corresponding selection during the year, according to its annual report. The figures represent a selection rate of about 91 per cent against the posts referred to the Commission. The 67th annual report of the JKPSC does not, however, state in the summary figures that the 111 posts were necessarily vacant or permanently unfilled. Posts may remain without selections for several reasons, including recruitment-stage issues, eligibility conditions, non-availability of suitable candidates or processes extending beyond the reporting period. The Commission received 94,546 applications against the 1,263 posts referred to it during the year, according to the report. The large difference between the number of applications and

available posts underlines the highly competitive nature of recruitment conducted through the Commission. The JKPSC conducted 52 written tests and preliminary examinations and two mains examinations during 2025-26. Its selections included candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, Jammu and Kashmir Police Service and Jammu and Kashmir Accounts Service, besides 39 Junior Judges and various faculty and gazetted posts. The Commission also conducted 29 Departmental Promotion Committee meetings and cleared 508 officers for promotion. Three departmental examinations were conducted during the year, with 813 candidates appearing, according to the report. The Commission has highlighted a series of recruitment reforms in the report, including 100 per cent written-examination-based recruitment, on-screen evaluation and SMS-based communication with candidates.

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## JKPSC received 94,546 applications for 1,263 posts

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 08: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) received 94,546 applications for 1,263 posts during 2025-26, highlighting the intense competition for government employment in the Union Territory. According to the JKPSC's 67th annual report, the Commission made 1,152 selections against the 1,263 posts referred to it during the year. The figures mean that there were roughly 75 applications for every post referred to the Commission during the year, although the number of applicants for individual examinations varied depending on the post and eligibility requirements. The report said the Commission conducted 52 written tests and preliminary examinations and two mains examinations during 2025-26. The selections included appointments to the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, Jammu and Kashmir Police Service and Jammu and Kashmir Accounts Service, besides 39 Junior Judges in the subordinate judiciary and faculty and other gazetted posts. The scale of applications also raises questions about the growing dependence of educated job seekers on government recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly when compared with the relatively limited number of posts referred to the Commission. The annual report, however, does not by itself establish

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## Newborn dies after woman leaves Rajouri hospital during treatment



Jahangeer Ganaie

Rajouri, Sept 08: A newborn baby died following delivery in a private room in Rajouri after a pregnant woman admitted to Government Medical College and Associated Hospital (GMC&AH) Rajouri allegedly left the hospital ward during her treatment, officials said. The incident has prompted the hospital authorities to order an inquiry, while police have also taken cognizance of the matter. An official said that the woman

was admitted to GMC&AH Rajouri through an ASHA worker and was examined by doctors before being kept under observation. During a subsequent round, however, she was found missing from the ward. Medical Superintendent GMC&AH Rajouri, Dr Shamim Ahmed Choudhary, told KNO that the hospital later declared the patient "LAMA" (Left Against Medical Advice) after efforts to trace her failed. He said the woman was not in active labour at the time and was kept under observation. "During

the second round, the patient was not found in the ward. We tried to trace her but could not find her and she was declared LAMA. We thought she might return, as she was not having active labour pain," Dr Choudhary said. The woman returned to the hospital the following evening in a serious condition with severe bleeding, he said. "She was actively managed by the doctors and shifted to the ICU. Her condition is presently stable and she is under observation," the Medical Superintendent said. Meanwhile, the newborn died following delivery in a private room. The circumstances surrounding the delivery, including how the woman left the hospital, who accompanied her and where the delivery took place, are being investigated. Dr Choudhary said the hospital administration had constituted an inquiry committee to establish the facts. "The matter is under investigation. Police have already taken cognizance of the issue. Whoever is found involved will face action," he said.

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## EDITORIAL

## IFFJK 2026: Kashmir’s Cinematic Revival Begins

The inaugural International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) is a declaration of intent. For decades, Kashmir's breathtaking landscapes served as Bollywood's favourite outdoor studio, but conflict and uncertainty pushed cinema away. The red carpet rolled out in Srinagar signals a welcome return not just of filmmakers and actors, but of hope, opportunity, and creative

expression. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's message to global filmmakers was both an invitation and a challenge: "Do not just look for mountains. Seek out our stories, talk to our artisans, listen to our musicians." This is a call to see Kashmir beyond its scenic beauty—as a land of storytellers, craftspeople, and a rich cultural heritage waiting to be captured on screen. The government’s comprehensive film

policy, with its single-window clearance, financial incentives, and push for local employment, demonstrates a serious commitment to building a sustainable film ecosystem. The overwhelming response—135 films from 41 countries—shows that the world is eager to reconnect with Kashmir. The presence of acclaimed filmmakers like Vidhu Vinod Chopra, who called the festival a “homecoming”, adds

emotional weight to the occasion. For Chopra, who left Kashmir with just Rs 250 to chase his Bollywood dream, this is a full-circle moment. His message to Kashmiri youth that “you too can” is a powerful reminder that talent knows no geography. For the people of Kashmir, especially the youth, the festival is a window of opportunity. Masterclasses, industry interactions, and screenings offer a platform to learn,

network, and dream. The hope is that this festival becomes an annual tradition, growing into a major celebration of cinema, creativity, and cultural exchange. Cinema, as Omar rightly said, is a universal language that knows no borders. The IFFJK has the potential to reconnect Kashmir with the world, and the world with Kashmir. This is a new chapter, and it is time to celebrate it.

# Two Generations, One Home: India’s Promise To Its Elders

In the light of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family), the glory of the elderly is their insight, their knowledge and their wisdom



Sudhansh Pant

In Indian homes, there is always a memory everyone carries, a grandfather narrating an adventurous story from his childhood or a grandmother demonstrating knitting while sitting in the balcony on a fine winter afternoon. These ordinary afternoons are where a family’s real inheritance gets passed on quietly, one small skill and one shared story at a time.

We often speak about the generation gap, about grandparents who do not understand smartphones and grandchildren who do not have the patience for long stories of golden past. But I think we speak far less about generation bridges. Almost invisible ways in which the old and the young still complete each other.

What Each Generation Is Actually Giving The Other?

A grandparent gives a child something no school can teach: time, that asks for nothing in return. With growing urbanisation and both parents often working, a child’s day is usually structured around strict timetables but, a grandparent is often the one person willing to simply sit. To listen to a story

being told for the fifth time. To wait while a shoelace is tied. That unhurried attention given to children shapes a sense of being valued in ways we rarely measure.

And what do these children have for giving back? Presence, which seems something very modest, yet it is not. A grandchild’s visit changes the shape of an elderly person’s whole week. A video call from a grandson away at college or a granddaughter telling her grandmother how much she misses her cooking, a great-grandchild simply climbing into a lap- these moments do for an elderly what medicine alone cannot. This is the logic behind ‘Ageing At Home’, an idea that elderly people are happiest and healthiest not in an institution but in their own home, surrounded by the family and neighbourhood they have always known and cherished.

This is not a new discovery for us. In most parts of India, touching the feet of an elder for their blessing remains one of the first gestures a child learns, a small act that teaches something no lecture could: that age is to be honoured. The Sanskrit teaching ‘Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava’, ‘Regard Your Mother And Father As You Would The Divine’, remains the foundation of the values Indian families try to instil in their children. Those who raise us, deserve our reverence in return. There is another divine saying, “Paradise Lies Beneath The Feet of Your Mother”, again reflects the eternal source of blessings and contentment one can earn through love, care and service to our parents and grandparents. It means that serving, respecting and lowering oneself to

care for a mother is a direct path to earning God’s pleasure and entering Paradise. Besides, it acknowledges the immense pain, hardship, and lifelong sacrifice a mother endures while raising her children.

This is why, when families stay close across generations, under one roof some exchange happens. Children raised close to grandparents tend to grow knowing the stories that shaped their family, the values their elders lived by and experiencing what patience actually looks like. And elderly people who remain woven into a family’s daily life are healthier, less anxious and less lonely.

### When The Thread Frays?

But we would be telling only half the truth if we did not admit that this thread is fraying across cultures in many Indian homes today. Migration for work, nuclear families, the sheer pace of modern life, all of these have quietly left many of our elders spending their days in empty houses, waiting for a call that comes less often than it used to.

This is not a failure of love. It is usually a failure of time and distance. And because ageing at home remains the outcome every family and every elderly person requires, the support that steps in should be built to help a parent stay in their own home rather than moving out.

What we need to fully understand and embrace that the elderly are a source of wisdom, experience and stability in a world that is constantly changing.

Under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Central Government’s ELDER LINE, a toll-free helpline (14567), is there the moment they simply need to talk to someone, day or night.

And under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), elderly citizens receive walking sticks, hearing aids, spectacles and other assistive devices free-of-cost, so that independence is never out of reach for want of means. These quiet supports exist precisely so that distance does not have to mean disconnection. When a grandchild does finally visit, they find a grandparent who is well, engaged and still at home, full of stories, not one who has simply been waiting.

Even when a family genuinely cannot be present every day, ageing at home need not mean ageing without care. The SHATAYU (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training For Your Utility) dashboard is helping build something India has long needed, a trained, trackable network of geriatric caregivers available district-by-district, so that a qualified pair of hands can step in for the hours a working son or a distant daughter simply cannot. It is care that comes to the home, rather than care that requires leaving it.

For a smaller number of elders who have no family close by, this idea of home simply takes a different shape and government-supported old age homes, run under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), step in to become exactly the family they need. Residents share meals together, celebrate festivals as a household would, take part in Yoga and health check-ups and have

someone to talk to over tea. It is a family, rebuilt in a different form, so that no elder ever has to grow old entirely alone.

### A Small Practice Worth Reviving

If there is one thing every family could do, it is to let the generations sit together. Just an evening where a grandparent tells a grandchild about their own childhood, or a teenager teaching their grandmother to send a voice note. Teaching her to use the JEEVAN (Joint Elderly Empowerment & Virtual Assistance Network) App on her phone, where she can check which welfare schemes she is eligible for or simply have an emergency help button within her reach. These moments cost nothing and require no grand gesture. They only require intention.

Because in the end, inter-generational bonding is not really about the old teaching the young or the young energising the old. It is about both generations reminding each other of something the middle years of life tend to make us forget.

Somewhere in India today, a grandparent is folding a paper boat with a child who will not remember why that afternoon mattered. It mattered anyway. Let us make sure there are many more such afternoons and with the quiet support of schemes built exactly for this purpose, no grandparent has to spend theirs alone.

*The writer, IAS, is Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India*

# Jute: India's Golden Fibre

## Sustaining Livelihoods Through Innovative Policy Interventions

### Press Information Bureau

India leads global raw jute production, supporting millions of livelihoods while advancing sustainable industrial growth. India produced 76 lakh bales of raw jute and 12.80 lakh MT of jute goods in FY 2025-26. During the same year, India exported 22,700 MT of raw jute worth 225.11 crore and 1,71,300 MT of jute goods worth 3,155.27 crore. Government interventions have strengthened farmer incomes, modernised the value chain, and promoted product diversification. Jute's biodegradable nature and expanding applications make it a key alternative to synthetic materials.

**India's Golden Fibre Industry**  
Jute is one of the most significant natural fibres in India, valued for its wide range of applications and environmental sustainability. Owing to its characteristic golden colour and silky lustre, jute is commonly referred to as the "Golden Fibre".

India is the world's largest producer of raw jute. The Third Advance Estimate of Production of Food Grains (2025-26) highlights the growth of jute and mesta production from 88.02 lakh bales in 2024-25 to 94.03 lakh bales in 2025-26. India is also the leading jute goods-producing country globally, accounting for about 75% of estimated world production. The jute industry provides direct



employment to approximately 3.70 lakh workers in organised mills and diversified jute units, and sustains the livelihoods of nearly 40 lakh farm families engaged in jute cultivation. As of December 2025, India has 120 composite jute mills, with West Bengal housing 89 of them.

India continues to be fully Atmanirbhar in the production of jute goods. In FY 2025-26, domestic consumption of jute goods was 12.05 lakh MT, accounting for 94% of total production.

**Tracing the History of Jute Production in India**

The history of jute in India can be traced back to the third century BC. However, it emerged as a significant commercial commodity during the British Colonial period. India's independence in 1947 and the subsequent partition significantly disrupted the integrated jute economy of Bengal, with nearly 80% of jute-growing areas becoming

part of East Pakistan. To address the raw material shortage, the government launched the "Grow More Jute" campaign in September 1949. The Jute Packaging Act, 1987, further strengthened the sector by mandating the use of jute sacks for packaging essential commodities.

Presently, West Bengal contributes the largest share of raw jute cultivation, followed by Bihar, Assam, Odisha, and Jharkhand. The crop is primarily grown by small and marginal farmers.

**Why is Jute an Important Natural Fibre?**

Jute is a biodegradable and recyclable natural fibre characterised by its rapid growth, cost-effectiveness, and wide availability. It is strong, durable, breathable, and highly versatile, with applications spanning packaging, construction, agriculture, and industrial textiles. Jute also possesses favourable functional attributes, including

thermal and acoustic insulation, high moisture absorption, and low static generation.

**Jute Geotextile: The Fabric of Sustainable Infrastructure**

Jute Geotextile (JGT) is a diversified jute product belonging to a class of technical textiles. It can be applied in civil engineering, soil erosion control, road pavement construction, and protection of river banks. JGT is fully biodegradable, thereby improving soil structure and fertility, and is globally recognised as an effective natural solution for soil stabilization and erosion control.

**Indian Contingent Showcases Jute Apparel at Commonwealth Games 2026**

Jute-viscose-blended apparel was worn by Indian athletes and team members at the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The clothing was developed by the National Jute Board and designed by NIFT, New Delhi, highlighting the potential of 100% biodegradable jute-viscose blended fabric as a sustainable textile solution.

**Government Interventions For The Jute Industry**

The government has undertaken a series of policy measures to strengthen India's jute sector. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute has been fixed at 5,925 per quintal for FY 2026-27, marking an increase of around 147% from the MSP in FY 2014-15 (2,400 per quintal). The MSP amount paid to

jute farmers increased from 441 crores (FY 2004-05 to 2013-14) to 1,342 crores (FY 2014-15 to 2025-26).

The government has also implemented the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, mandating jute packaging for 100% food grains and 20% sugar.

**National Jute Development Programme (NJDP)**

The NJDP is the umbrella scheme for the development and promotion of the jute sector, implemented by the National Jute Board with an outlay of 485.58 crore from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. It focuses on enhancing farm productivity, farmer incomes, and diversification.

**JUTE-ICARE:** Launched in FY 2015-16, this scheme aims to enhance jute productivity and fibre quality through scientific cultivation, mechanisation, and improved retting techniques.

**Jute Diversification Scheme:** Supports jute processing, marketing, and sales, including:

- Jute Raw Material Bank: Facilitates availability of raw jute materials for the unorganized sector- Capital Subsidy: 30% subsidy on machinery costs for jute mills and MSMEs
- Production Linked Incentive: For JDP exporters linked to raw material usage and export value realisation

Jute Mark India Logo: Certifies compliance with quality standards and verifies jute content in blended products, enhancing consumer confidence.

**Digital And Technological Interventions**

**JUTE-SMART:** An end-to-end e-governance portal developed in November 2016. Till August 2026, 303 lakh bales of B.Twill Jute Bags worth more than 1,00,000 crores have been procured through this portal.

**Jute Crop Information System:** Developed by ISRO in collaboration with JCI and NJB, it monitors jute cultivation using remote sensing and field data through the BHUVAN JUMP mobile app and PATSAN web-based platform.

**A Sustainable Future With Jute**  
India's jute sector has evolved into a key driver of sustainable and inclusive development, supporting millions of farmers, workers, artisans, and entrepreneurs. Policy support, innovation, and improved production have strengthened the sector's competitiveness. Jute contributes to rural livelihoods, environmental sustainability, and industrial growth, reflecting India's transition towards greener and sustainable materials.

*Disclaimer: This is an abridged version of the original PIB article. All significant points and key messages have been retained. For complete details, please refer to the full article on [www.pib.gov.in](http://www.pib.gov.in)*

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## Implementation of agriculture, allied sector schemes reviewed in Jammu

Nitu Gupta directs departments to accelerate expenditure, achieve set targets

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8: Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, Nitu Gupta Tuesday chaired a review meeting in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Agriculture Jammu to assess the physical and financial progress achieved under UT Capex Budget 2026-27 (Regular Capex), NABARD, HADP, JKIP, CSS and SASCI in the Division.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the officers from the Agriculture Production Department including Director Command Area Development Jammu, Director Planning Agriculture Production Department, Director Agriculture Jammu along with Joint Directors, Chief Agriculture Officers, concerned District Agriculture Officers, Director Finance SKUAST-J, Director Research SKUAST-J, Deputy Director Planning Agriculture Production Department and representative from the Mission Director, HADP.

At the outset, Nitu Gupta reviewed the scheme-wise physical and financial progress, expenditure, achievements, targets and pending issues.

The concerned Heads of Departments presented the latest status through power-point



presentations. Nitu Gupta directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to approved timelines and completion of the targeted expenditure by the end of September 2026.

Reviewing the NABARD and HADP components, the Secretary called for focused monitoring of each project, timely completion of pending activities and regular updating of physical and financial progress. The concerned officers were asked to identify areas of slow progress and take corrective measures on priority.

She further directed the concerned Heads of Departments to ensure proper utilization of available funds, timely submission of bills and completion of all requisite formalities, besides maintaining

transparency and adherence to prescribed financial and technical procedures.

Nitu Gupta directed the Chief Agriculture Officers to closely monitor expenditure and implementation of schemes at the district level. Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta was also asked to personally monitor the Aatmanirbharta in Pulses Mission with all districts and ensure timely progress and reporting. She further directed to expedite the projects under JKIP and complete the registration process under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) at the earliest. The concerned officers were also directed to submit the updated progress report under NMNF within one week.

The Secretary emphasized

optimum utilization of funds, timely execution of projects, quality of works and effective delivery of departmental schemes to farmers, directing all implementing agencies to maintain close coordination and ensure achievement of physical and financial targets within the stipulated timelines.

Earlier, Nitu Gupta along with Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta handed over a sanction letter for establishment of a Dal Mill under the Aatmanirbharta in Pulses Mission to beneficiary Kuldeep Kour of village Ranjan. The Secretary also visited the Mushroom Controlled Cropping Unit, Spawn Production Laboratory and Seed Processing Plant at Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo and reviewed their functioning and ongoing activities.

## 10 Startup Ideas shortlisted at JKEDI's Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 Boot Camp

KT News Desk

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 8: Ten promising startup ideas have been shortlisted for the next round of Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 at an 'Idea Pitching Session' organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Jammu here at Government SPMR College of Commerce, Tuesday.

The Boot-camp drew around 100 students and aspiring entrepreneurs. It was designed to introduce young minds to entrepreneurship, innovation and startup opportunities, while familiarising them with the support available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

The programme, as per an official statement, was inaugurated by the College Principal Dr. Sunil Gupta, in the presence of District Nodal Officer, JKEDI District Centre Jammu Rajesh Kotwal, the College faculty members and JKEDI. In his address, Dr. Gupta commended JKEDI's initiative and urged students to identify real-world problems and develop innovative solutions with an entrepreneurial mindset.



Rajesh Kotwal underscored the growing role of entrepreneurship and innovation in generating employment and economic opportunity. He outlined JKEDI's ongoing efforts to nurture young entrepreneurial talent and strengthen the startup ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

The highlight of the programme was an interactive session with Founder Clnrat India Pvt. Ltd Manik Bhandral. He shared his entrepreneurial journey and practical insights with participants, offering a candid view of the realities of building a start-up, the challenges entrepreneurs face and the value of persistence, innovation and learning from experience.

The centrepiece of the Boot-camp was the Idea Pitching Session, in which

15 startup ideas presented by students from various Colleges and institutions were evaluated by a jury. Of these 10 were shortlisted for the next level of Startup Idea Challenge 2.0.

Beyond the pitching session, the boot camp gave participants a broader understanding of the startup ecosystem, helping them explore entrepreneurial opportunities, develop and validate business ideas, and build skills in presenting ideas effectively.

The programme concluded with the announcement of the 10 shortlisted ideas, marking another step forward in fostering innovation-led entrepreneurship and strengthening the culture of startups in Jammu and Kashmir.

## 3-day historic Sankri Devta mela commences at Meer Panchari



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 08: The three-day historic Sankri Devta Mela commenced Tuesday at village Meer, Tehsil Panchari, District Udhampur amid vibrant festive atmosphere.

Tehsildar Vipan Kumar inaugurated the Fair in presence of government functionaries, former PRI members and prominent citizens.

A large number of pilgrims and visitors thronged the mela site on the first day, adding to the festive spirit and traditional fervour of the event.

Tehsildar congratulated the mela committee for organizing the traditional event. He also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of local students

in various sports and cultural programmes and wished them success in their future endeavours.

Numerous temporary stalls, including sweet and toy shops, along with eateries set up by local residents and outside vendors, remained a major attraction for visitors at the mela site.

The District Administration, as per an official statement, has made adequate arrangements for security, transportation, medical care, drinking water and power supply to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the three-day mela.

Various sports activities were also organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports as part of the mela celebrations.

## Mission Shakti orientation programme held at village Barmeen



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 08: An orientation-cum-awareness Programme on Mission Shakti was organized Tuesday at Barmeen in Block Ghordi by the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare.

The programme was organized under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa and the overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta with the objective of sensitizing women and community stakeholders about various Government schemes and services aimed at ensuring the safety, security and empowerment of women.

The programme, as per an official statement, was chaired by local Block Development Officer and

attended by around 140 individuals including Ex-BDC Ghordi, former PRI members, Anganwadi Workers, Helpers, SHG members, students and local women.

The resource person from District Hub for Empowerment of Women briefed the participants about Sambal and Samarthya, the two major components of Mission Shakti.

The participants were informed about One Stop Centre, Women Helpline 181, Child Helpline 1098 and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao as Sambal is meant for the safety and security of women. "The Samarthya, aimed at empowerment of women, includes welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Palna (National Creche Scheme), Shakti Sadan and Sakhi Niwas," they were told.

The resource person from the Department of Social Welfare further informed the gathering social security pension schemes, State Marriage Assistance Scheme, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship schemes and other initiatives being implemented for the welfare of vulnerable sections of society.

The participants were also sensitized to the functioning of DHEW, eligibility and procedures for availing benefits under various schemes, legal rights of women, institutional deliveries, education of the girl child, prevention of child marriage and domestic violence.

As part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, Mission Shakti gave away baby kits to families of newborn babies and water bottles and umbrellas to needy girl students.

## ADDC reviews implementation of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 08: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Udhampur, Jugal Kishore Tuesday chaired a review meeting with officers of the Health Department to assess the progress under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas gave a detailed presentation on the district's performance under the campaign.

The ADDC, as per an official statement, assessed the status of TB testing, treatment success rates and registration of Ni-Kshay Mitras. He directed the Health Department to

expand TB testing, strengthen diagnostic facilities and ensure timely identification and treatment of TB patients.

Emphasizing the importance of early detection, the ADDC called for enhanced counselling services and greater involvement of frontline health workers in identifying suspected cases and ensuring uninterrupted treatment and follow-up.

He also stressed the need to intensify awareness campaigns at the grassroots level, encourage active community participation and strengthen inter-departmental coordination to achieve 100% TB screening coverage across the district.

## DC reviews status of telecom infrastructure, mobile tower installation in Udhampur



KT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 08: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee to review the status of telecom infrastructure, installation of mobile towers and other related issues in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and other district Officers.

The DC, as per an official statement, conducted a comprehensive review of key telecom and digital connectivity initiatives, including the 4G Saturation Programme, aimed at strengthening

digital connectivity across the district.

Emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts, the DC directed the stakeholder departments to work in close coordination with telecom service providers to resolve pending issues promptly and ensure the timely execution of ongoing telecom projects.

## DLAMC reviews status of Aadhaar enrollment in Kathua

KT News Desk

KATHUA, SEPTEMBER 08: District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) Tuesday reviewed the progress of Aadhaar enrollment and mandatory Biometric updating here at a meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mahima Madan.

PO ICDS, ADC Basholi, ADC Billawar, SDM Hiranagar, SDM Bani, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, District Informatics Officer, Assistant Manager UIDAI and officers from other departments attended the meeting.

The meeting, as per an official statement, held threadbare deliberation on evolving an effective mechanism for Aadhaar saturation in all age groups and mandatory biometric update of children in the district.

The ADC directed concerned officers to clear the pendency with regard to the Aadhaar generations and to keep all the Aadhaar centers functional for the convenience of the general public. All the concerned officers were directed to strictly



follow the guidelines in respect of Aadhaar enrolment and update.

The meeting discussed the Action plan for early registration of births and deaths,

deployment of CLEC operators at Anganwadi centres, organization of Aadhaar camps at schools etc.

The ADC asked the stakeholder departments/agencies

to motivate the residents to enroll children below 5 years for Aadhaar and to get Mandatory Biometric updates (MBU) done on attaining the age of 5 years and 15 years.



# Panel being set up to suggest framework for regulating unethical practices of pharma firms: Centre to SC

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 08: The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it is setting up a three-member panel to suggest a statutory framework for ensuring that pharmaceutical companies do not indulge in unethical practices to lure doctors.

The government sought two-month time during which the committee would submit its report that will be placed before the court for approval.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said it is reserving its order on the pleas filed by Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Associations of India and others, which sought direction that till an effective law was enacted, the top court may lay down the guidelines to control and regulate unethical marketing practices by pharmaceutical companies.

The Centre agreed that there is a need to strengthen the mechanism to ensure that pharmaceutical companies do not indulge in any unethical practices.

"The detailed discussions have taken place and with a view to find out the possible solution, it is decided to constitute a three-member committee requesting them to provide their report on the issues as to whether and if yes, what can be the statutory framework to ensure that pharmaceutical companies also do not indulge into such unethical practices," the government said.

It said till such time the report is received and a decision is taken based thereupon, the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices, 2024 will govern the field.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said there are several aspects involved in the matter which involves various departments under different ministries.

"We will be taking a holistic approach on the issue. There are several factors involved in it. Big pharma companies are normally not involved in these practices but smaller ones do and it is mostly a local issue. There is a need to strengthen the mechanism so that pharma companies do not indulge in unethical practices," he submitted.

Mehta said the committee would submit its report in two months and suggest what kind of statutory framework can be implemented to regulate these pharma companies.

"The committee will be constituted in a day or two if not done by now as it is the top most priority of the government. We will be apprising the court, there will be no lethargy," he told the bench on the query of the court whether the panel has been constituted.

Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, appearing for the Federation, submitted that there was nothing new in the matter and what the government has done is copy-pasted the earlier guidelines and changed the headline.

He sought urgent directions from the court for the pharma companies and the medical practitioners against indulging in the unethical practices.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for some parties, submitted that the petitioner can give their suggestions to the committee, so that action can be taken on their grievances.

The bench said it would pass orders which would strengthen the hands of the committee.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

## IFFJK Day 2 Captures

films are Searching for the Grandpa, directed by Mohammad Wali; Arifa, directed by Rohin Ravendran Nair; Batt Koch (The Lost Lane), directed by Siddarth Koul and Ankit Wali; Tasruftaar (Djinns of Kashmir), directed by Kapil Mattoo; and Naqsh-e-Daur (The Story of Ghulam Nabi Dhar), directed by Baba Tassaduq Hussain.

Spanning Kashmiri and Hindi languages, the films explore themes ranging from childhood, family and memory to displacement, identity, heritage, resilience and the changing social landscape of Kashmir.

Searching for the Grandpa follows two young siblings in a Kashmiri village on Eid, while Arifa centres on a woman returning to her ancestral home in Kashmir and confronting memories of her childhood and father.

Batt Koch explores displacement, identity and the enduring idea of home through the story of a Kashmiri migrant family. Tasruftaar (Djinns of Kashmir) weaves together mystery, memory and the scars of Kashmir's past, while Naqsh-e-Daur portrays the life and legacy of a Padma Shri-honoured woodcarver in downtown Srinagar, highlighting Kashmir's craftsmanship, heritage and resilience.

The selected films will form part of the competitive programming of the four-day festival, providing audiences and filmmakers an opportunity to engage with distinctive cinematic voices and stories from Jammu and Kashmir.

### SECOND DAY WITNESSES SERIES OF SCREENINGS

The second day also saw a series of screenings and professional sessions at SKICC Srinagar, with films being showcased under categories including J&K Select, Short Films and Documentary/Hybrid.

At SKICC, filmmakers, actors and cinema professionals participated in masterclasses and conversations focusing on different aspects of filmmaking, including direction and screenplay writing, cinematography, editing, theatre and acting and sound.

The day's sessions included a masterclass on direction and screenplay writing by filmmaker Sriram Raghavan, an in-conversation session on cinematography with cinematographer and filmmaker Anil Mehta, and a masterclass on editing by director and editor Rabi Ranjan Maitra.

Another masterclass focused on theatre and acting, while a separate session explored sound design and the creation of immersive acoustic environments for cinema, with Chittaranjan Tripathy and Baylon Fonseca respectively leading the sessions.

The festival also featured discussions on animation and artificial intelligence and their potential to combine traditional Jammu and Kashmiri art forms with contemporary visual storytelling.

Another panel, titled Unlocking Jammu and Kashmir: The Next Big Cinematic Hub, focused on developing a sustainable film ecosystem through the J&K Film Policy, incentives, single-window clearances and local partnerships.

### FLOATING CINEMA REVISITS KASHMIR'S FILM LEGACY

The festival's Floating Cinema initiative is also showcasing classic films associated with Kashmir. Arzoo (1965) is scheduled for screening on September 8, while Jungle (1961), Kashmir Ki Kali (1964) and Kabhi Kabhie (1976) are also part of the Floating Cinema programme.

Notably, the inaugural IFFJK, organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu & Kashmir, is being held from September 7 to 10 across Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg, bringing filmmakers, audiences and industry voices together through screenings, conversations and cultural exchange. (KNO)

## Kashmir has many

we come back to Kashmir. There is perhaps no other place in the world that is so cinematic," he said.

On Laila Majnu, he said the film was deeply rooted in Kashmir, with its characters and setting closely connected to the region. "Laila Majnu is a film based in Kashmir. The characters are from Kashmir, and the whole setting and feel of the film are Kashmiri," he said.

Ali said he was happy that the film continued to remain popular in Kashmir even years after its release. "Eight years later, it is still popular here. This is Kashmir. I am very happy and I thank Kashmir for Laila Majnu," he said.

Asked about other stories from Kashmir that fascinate him, Ali said there were several historical and cultural personalities he would like to explore through cinema.

"There are many characters in Kashmir that fascinate me. I am fascinated by Habba Khatoon and many other artists and Sufi saints of Kashmir. I think about them and, if I get an opportunity, I would definitely like to make something on them," he said.

He said many aspects of ordinary Kashmiri life and culture had not received enough attention through cinema. "There are many things that have not come up. Kashmir is normally famous for its landscape, but I find Kashmiri humour very interesting too," he said.

Ali said the film festival could help people from outside Jammu and Kashmir experience the region beyond what they had seen or heard about it. "I think the biggest benefit of a film festival is that people will come here from outside and see Kashmir with their own eyes. They will understand what they see here and perhaps make films based on that," he said.

He added that people were creative enough to understand the region in their own way once they experienced it directly.

On Rockstar, parts of which were shot in Kashmir, Ali said the region left its own distinct imprint on cinema. "Some shooting was done in Chandanwari, but Kashmir is Kashmir. It has its own signature," he said.

Recalling his experiences of shooting in Kashmir, Ali said the support extended by locals had always made the experience memorable. "My shooting here has been wonderful and spectacular. People came out and helped us. Nobody complained. They went out of their way to help us," he said.

He recalled how local workers involved in film production gradually became part of the filmmaking process. "We used to hire painters, carpenters and others. They were hardworking people, and gradually things started opening up," he said.

Ali said the people of Kashmir were highly creative and sensitive, qualities he believed could be a strength for the region's film industry. "I feel Kashmiris are very sensitive and creative. They feel things deeply, and that is a very good quality. There is a certain grace in Kashmiris," he said.

On the potential of Kashmir's film industry, he said there was a need to provide greater opportunities and government support to local filmmakers and artists. "We have to make films. If this festival continues to work hard, this place can become a hub for cinema. It can become a heaven for filmmakers," he said.

He added that with the right environment, even internationally acclaimed filmmakers could be encouraged to visit Kashmir. "Even Steven Spielberg could come if you give him a reason to come," he said.

Ali expressed hope that more films would emerge from Kashmir featuring local actors, actresses and stories. "InshaAllah, there will be films in which Kashmir is there, and Kashmiri actors and actresses are there. I am looking forward to that," he said.

He also stressed the importance of involving children in cinema and filmmaking from an early age. "Children should also get involved in it," he said.

Ali said Jammu and Kashmir had not yet fully explored its cultural identity through cinema despite its long association with filmmaking. "We have not got over the landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. It will take many more years. Gradually, what is happening is that Kashmiri culture and music are coming into the picture. I think this is another opportunity that is available," he said.

On working with Kashmiri talent, Ali said the region had several qualities that could contribute to filmmaking. "I feel Kashmiri people are very sensitive and creative. They feel very deeply and remain quiet. That sensitivity and grace is a quality of Kashmiris. They are very creative and sensitive," he said.

Ali said the emergence of local talent would depend on creating more opportunities and platforms for them.

He said the ongoing IFFJK could provide an important platform for filmmakers, artists and audiences to engage with cinema and help build a stronger film culture in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

## Valley has immense

had enjoyed their time in Kashmir, including its food and interaction with local people.

"We liked it very much. We had Kashmiri food, met people here and felt a sense of belonging. It was wonderful. We would like more of our films to come here," they said.

Speaking about the future of cinema in the region, the actors said Kashmir's storytelling potential goes far beyond its scenic beauty.

"There is a lot of future ahead. There will be theatres, OTT platforms and many other opportunities. There is tremendous scope," they said, adding that young talent in the region could benefit from the evolving film ecosystem.

Responding to students and aspiring filmmakers attending the festival, the actors said film festivals and masterclasses offer valuable opportunities to learn from experienced professionals.

"We have seen how films are made. In a four-day festival, if there are masterclasses, that is a very good thing. There will be a lot to listen to

and learn," they said.

Asked about making a film in Kashmir, the actors said the region offers rich material for storytelling, praising its natural beauty and deeply rooted local narratives.

"I like Dal Lake. Kashmir has beautiful, rooted stories," they said.

They added that Kashmir can offer filmmakers stories beyond its landscapes, including its people, food, culture and everyday life.

"Kashmir is one of the most beautiful parts of the country. If infrastructure is further developed, it would be wonderful to come here and tell stories about Kashmir," they said.

Reflecting on Kashmir's long association with the film industry, the actors noted that while filmmakers historically visited the region for song sequences and shoots, there is now an opportunity to tell deeper stories about its people and culture.

"Kashmir has had a connection with cinema for a long time. People used to come here for songs and shoots. But there are so many other things, the people, food and culture. Why not talk about them?" they said.

The actors are in Srinagar as part of the on-going International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir, which has brought together filmmakers, actors, technicians, students and cinema enthusiasts from across the country and beyond. (KNO)

## I have fallen in

International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), ahead of the screening of the Bollywood movie 'Mirzapur.' "I cannot tell you how happy I am. It was my childhood dream to come to Kashmir. Over the years, I have travelled to so many places, but I never got the opportunity to visit Kashmir. Finally, this time I am here, and I feel like I am in heaven," she said.

The singer said she was impressed by the beauty of Kashmir, its people, food and peaceful atmosphere.

"The people here, the warmth with which they meet you, the food and the peace and tranquillity—what can I say? I simply do not feel like leaving," she said.

Chauhan expressed hope of returning to Kashmir with her concert, saying she had "fallen in love with Kashmir all over again".

"Earlier, I fell in love with Kashmir just by seeing it on screen, but now, after being here, I feel that I want to do my bit for the people of Kashmir," she said.

Speaking about the film festival, Chauhan termed it a "very good initiative", saying it provides a platform for films that often do not receive the appreciation they deserve.

"There are films that do not receive the appreciation they deserve, and there are people who work very hard to make films without knowing what their future will be. Such films are being showcased here," she said.

She said film festivals also provide an important platform for young people interested in direction, acting, singing and other aspects of filmmaking.

"These are platforms where people learn a lot, and if they are confused about something, they can come here and get clarity because there is so much to explore," Chauhan said.

She expressed happiness over the participation of young people from Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir in the festival and hoped they would make the most of the opportunity.

Chauhan also urged people to use social media to promote good films and help them reach wider audiences.

"If you like something, numbers and all these things do not matter. Just let the films spread and reach as many people as possible. If good films are appreciated, more good films will be made and people's minds will also open up," she said.

On filmmaking and tourism in Kashmir, the singer said both had been associated with the Valley for many years and believed the film festival would provide further impetus to the sectors.

### EVERY FRAME IN KASHMIR LOOKS BEAUTIFUL

"You can shoot anywhere in Kashmir and every frame looks beautiful. I think the Film Festival will give this an even greater boost and help more people discover Kashmir," she said.

She said the festival could also help the younger generation discover the cultural and natural richness of Kashmir.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for them to discover Kashmir, spend time in these valleys and experience this beautiful environment," she said.

Chauhan also acknowledged the presence of musical talent in Kashmir, recalling a contestant from the Valley whom she encountered while judging Indian Idol.

"I remember that she sang very well. If there was even one such talent, I am sure there are many more talented people here. All the best to them," she said. (KNO)

## 7 sittings in 10-day

30 (if need arises) have been reserved for Government Business.

The Assembly secretariat has scheduled September 24 and 28 for Private Member Bills and September 25 for Private Member Resolutions.

The House will not assemble on September 23, 26 and 27. (KNO)

## Dal Lake turns

the festival's celebration of classic films associated with Kashmir.

The choice of films adds a nostalgic layer to the initiative, as Kashmir's landscapes have featured prominently in Hindi cinema over the decades.

With the screen placed on the waters and viewers gathered along the lake, Dal Lake itself becomes part of the cinema experience, bringing together Kashmir's iconic scenery and its long association with films. (KNO)

## IFFJK explores roadmap

affinity towards the creative world and recalled the region's close association with the film fraternity during the 1970s and 1980s, when its landscapes and locations were extensively connected with the film industry.

He expressed that IFFJK has been conceived as a platform to renew these connections and channel the creative energies of the region's youth towards filmmaking and its allied professions. "People making efforts to realise their dreams is essential," the Chief Secretary observed, recalling former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's famous words that "Dreams are those which don't let you sleep."

He said that the festival provides an ideal platform to deliberate upon the possibilities and potential that J&K offers to the film industry and, more importantly, to evolve a clear roadmap for carrying the momentum forward after the festival.

He pointed out that cinema is a collective endeavour and that the people seen on the screen or stage constitute only one part of a much larger industry comprising a wide range of professionals whose contribution is essential to bringing a production to life.

Dulloo further underlined the importance of nurturing local human resources and said that the Government was exploring avenues for providing scholarships to students interested in different aspects of filmmaking at reputed national institutions, besides facilitating partnerships with such institutions for imparting specialised courses and training within J&K.

He also highlighted the role of the Skill Development Mission in creating appropriate training opportunities in local institutions, including courses related to filmmaking and its allied fields.

On the ease of filming in J&K, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need to continuously remove procedural bottlenecks faced by filmmakers and production houses. He observed that the Single Window Clearance System needs further strengthening and simplification, while the proposed Ease of Doing Business Bill is expected to bring further deregulation and facilitate a smoother business environment for the industry.

Referring to the culture of encouraging people to write their own stories in Maharashtra, he said that similar efforts could help identify and nurture storytelling talent in J&K, with many of these narratives having the potential to evolve into vibrant film scripts. "We have numerous stories here. What is required is to hone and chisel this talent and present these stories in the right form and style," he maintained.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, R. Alice Vaz, while elaborating on the J&K Film Policy, outlined the incentives presently available for film shootings in the Union Territory and the additional benefits extended to regional filmmakers and productions having significant local participation.

She explained that the policy has been designed not merely to attract external productions but also to encourage local filmmakers, artists and creative talent, thereby creating greater opportunities for people associated with the film industry within J&K.

She also highlighted the incentives available for films having more than 50 per cent of their shooting in J&K, along with provisions encouraging the engagement of local artists and other personnel.

Vaz said that these policy interventions are intended to create a virtuous cycle in which greater filmmaking activity generates employment and opportunities for local talent while simultaneously showcasing J&K's landscapes, heritage and cultural richness to wider audiences.

She underlined the strong linkage between filmmaking and tourism, noting that increased cinematic visibility can contribute to the

promotion of destinations and generate wider economic activity for local communities.

The panel discussion thus brought together the policy, regulatory, educational, creative and economic dimensions of J&K's emerging film ecosystem, with the participants stressing that the ultimate objective should be to move beyond facilitating individual film shoots towards creating a sustainable ecosystem capable of nurturing local talent and attracting national and international productions.

The Day-2 proceedings of IFFJK-2026 also featured a diverse range of creative, technical and policy-oriented sessions across SKICC Srinagar. A Masterclass on directing romantic comedies was conducted by filmmaker Sriram Raghavan, while an In-Conversation Session with cinematographer Anil Mehta explored the role of framing, lighting and other visual elements in creating narrative subtext beyond written dialogue.

Furthermore four panel discussions further expanded the festival's engagement with contemporary cinema and its evolving ecosystem. In Hall 2, a panel moderated by Dhvani Desai explored the convergence of traditional regional art forms with animation, Artificial Intelligence and CGI and the possibilities of creating new authorial voices through emerging technologies. The discussion featured Sanat P. C., Ujjwal Nirgudkar, Hetal Soliya, Jitin Masand, Bharath Laxminipati, Jividha Sharma and Kanika Gautam.

In addition to that the Hall 3 hosted a festival selection round table moderated by Sourav Kanti Datta, with C. S. Venkateshwaran, Siladitya Sen, Nirmal Dhar and Reema Borah deliberating on the changing landscape of independent cinema, curation and access.

The day concluded with an acting-focused panel moderated by Mandar Bam, featuring Sulakhanya Barua, Rahul Bhatt and Ashoke Viswanathan, who discussed the creative demands, preparation and collaborative processes involved in developing memorable characters for the screen.

The varied sessions on the second day reinforced IFFJK-2026's larger vision of creating a platform where cinema, policy, technology, education, creative talent and tourism converge, while opening new avenues for J&K's participation in the national and global cinematic landscape.

## J&K intern doctors

government has committed to resolving the matter within the stipulated period while taking into account the recommendations of the committee constituted to examine the issue.

Following the assurance, the intern representatives agreed to call off the strike and return to their respective hospitals and colleges.

The decision was also taken keeping in view the larger interest of patients, as the interns form an important part of the clinical workforce in government hospitals and medical institutions.

The interns said they did not want their agitation to adversely affect patient care and also acknowledged their academic and professional responsibilities.

Their decision to resume duties brings relief to healthcare institutions where the absence of interns had the potential to put additional pressure on resident doctors and other healthcare staff.

Despite calling off the strike, the interns have made it clear that their core demand remains enhancement of the monthly stipend to Rs 30,000.

They are now expecting the government to translate Tuesday's written assurance into a formal decision within the promised one-month period.

They expect the government to consider the recommendations of the Stipend Enhancement Committee, take a final decision and issue a formal government order regarding enhancement of the stipend within the committed timeline.

With the strike now called off, the focus will shift to the government's next steps.

The interns said that they will monitor the progress of the matter over the coming weeks and remain engaged with the authorities regarding implementation of the written commitment.

For us, they said immediate objective is now to ensure that the one-month timeline does not pass without a concrete decision.

They maintained that they have suspended the agitation in good faith and in view of the written commitment given by the government, while expecting the administration to honour the assurance in both letter and spirit.

If the government finalises the matter and issues a formal order enhancing the stipend, it could bring an end to the prolonged agitation. However, any further delay beyond the committed timeline could potentially revive concerns among the interns.

For now, the protesting MBBS and BDS interns have returned to their duties. (KNO)



## We built 50,000 rail coaches, Cong regime could not build 50,000 toilets: Modi

PTI

Vadodara, Sep 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday slammed the previous Congress-led regime in the country for the slow pace of development work, adding "Naraz Fufa" will now question the impact of the dedicated freight corridor on truck drivers.

"After 2014, India built 50,000 modern rail coaches. The previous (Congress) regime could not build even 50,000 toilets in 10 years," Modi said.

He was addressing a large gathering after inaugurating and laying foundation stone of Rs 35,000 crore projects, at a programme in Vadodara in Gujarat.

Modi inaugurated three key sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai with Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, marking completion of the project.

"Dedicated freight corridors are the lifeline of a fast-developing India. India's transformation is accelerating because of this modern freight network," Modi said.

Earlier, passenger and goods trains had to run on the same



tracks, slowing down both passenger travel and freight movement but the Dedicated Freight Corridor has changed this, he said.

"Naraz Fufa will now scream: what will happen to truckers? Fufa has some work now," Modi said, without naming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

"After 2014, with your blessings, when I reached Delhi, and as soon as we arrived there, we began accelerating this project. Work on the dedicated freight corridors has been completed today," he said.

"Today, the Eastern and Western Freight Corridors are

becoming the main backbone of the country's trade and business," Modi said.

The 2,800-km long Dedicated Freight Corridor a testament to how the country's work culture has transformed over the past 12 years, Modi said.

"The idea for this Dedicated Freight Corridor began in 2004. In 2006, a special company was established to carry out this work, and until 2014, files just kept shuffling from one place to another.

"Unfortunately, even these files weren't fortunate enough to get a dedicated corridor. Files would get stuck, hang around, wander

## Bihar flood: Over 34 lakh affected as Ganga crosses flood mark at one place

PTI

Patna, Sep 8: The Bihar flood situation worsened as over 34 lakh people across 13 districts have been affected, with the authorities sounding an alert in downstream areas after the water level of the Ganga crossed the "flood mark" at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur district on Tuesday, officials said.

A small boat capsized in a flood-hit area of Kharik Raghpur in Bhagalpur district this morning. State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) personnel rescued all 10 people aboard the boat, officials said.

Floods have affected around 34.31 lakh people across 480 gram panchayats in 13 districts of Bihar, including Patna, Bhagalpur, Vaishali, Saran, Begusarai, Khagaria and Munger.

Around 29.13 lakh people have been impacted by floods as overflowing rivers inundated large swathes in 13 districts on Monday.

According to the Bihar Meteorological Service Centre, the state has recorded 79.6 mm of rainfall in September so far, which is 31 per cent above normal.

The Disaster Management Department in a statement said, "The Ganga at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur recorded 36.80



metres at 8 am on September 8, surpassing its previous Highest Flood Level (HFL) of 36.75 metres recorded on August 17, 2021. The trend, however, remains stable.

Several rivers, including the Gandak, Kosi, Budhi Gandak, Ganga, Punpun, Bagmati and Ghaghra, are flowing above danger levels at multiple locations.

The water levels of the Gandak river at Dumriaghat and Hajipur, Kosi at Baltara and Kursela, Budhi Gandak at Khagaria, Ganga at Digha, Gandhi Ghat, Hathi-dah, Bhagalpur, Kahalgao and Munger are flowing above the danger level.

"A total of 432 community kitchens are currently being

operated in various districts for flood-affected people. In addition, 14 relief camps are also being run, where arrangements have been made for accommodation, food, medical care and other essential services," the statement said.

So far, around 1.29 lakh polythene sheets and approximately 22,900 dry ration packets have been distributed among flood-affected people.

A total of 1,832 boats are being operated to facilitate evacuation and transportation. So far, 3,142 quintals of animal fodder have also been distributed, the Disaster Management Department said.

As far as the discharge of water from major barrages in the state is concerned, the statement said the Gandak Barrage recorded a discharge of 1,04,400 cusecs at 10 am on Tuesday, with the trend remaining stable. The highest discharge recorded so far this year was 2,24,000 cusecs on July 14.

The discharge at Kosi Barrage stood at 1,69,985 cusecs at 10 am, with the trend showing a decline. Its highest discharge so far this year was 2,55,425 cusecs on July 20.

Altogether 27 SDRF teams and 10 NDRF teams have been deployed in various districts for rescue operations.

## Delhi Satya Niketan collapse: Students join relief effort for rescuers, evacuees

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 8: Students and volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS) at Maitreyi College stepped in to provide food and essential supplies to rescue personnel, evacuated students and others involved in relief operations following the building collapse in southwest Delhi's Satya Niketan.

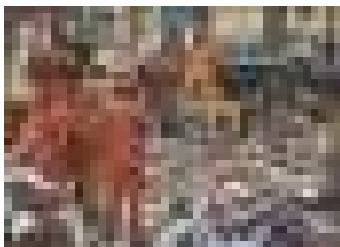
The volunteers distributed biscuits, snacks, juice and drinking water to personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other agencies working at the site, besides students who were evacuated from nearby buildings.

They also appealed for donations of sanitary pads, clean clothes, medicines and other essential supplies, which they said would be distributed among students and others affected by the incident.

"We saw that there were students who had been evacuated and people working at the site for hours, so we wanted to help in whatever way we could. We have also started collecting donations of sanitary pads, clothes, medicines and other essentials, and will distribute them to those who need them," said Neha, a third-year student at Maitreyi College.

The relief effort came as the death toll in the building collapse rose to seven on Monday, with search and rescue operations continuing for a second day.

National president of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) Uday Bhanu Chib also visited the site along with his colleagues and arranged food and essential supplies for those engaged in relief operations.



"It is the responsibility of all of us to stand by those in need and provide every possible assistance during such trying times. We stand united in this difficult hour and will ensure that aid reaches everyone in need," Chib said.

Volunteers from other student organisations, including the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) and the All India Students' Association (AISA), also joined relief efforts at the site and assisted students and others affected by the collapse.

The decades-old five-storey building, which housed a boys' paying guest accommodation near Delhi University's South Campus, collapsed around 1.30 pm on Sunday while repair work was underway. A total of 12 people were pulled out of the debris, of which seven were killed.

Multiple agencies, including Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Service, NDRF and Delhi Disaster Management Authority, have been carrying out rescue operations. The police have registered a case against the building owner and others, while a magisterial inquiry has also been ordered.

The owner, Hari Ram Gupta, was apprehended from Rajasthan's Bhilwadi area on Monday, police said.

## Complaint on remarks against PM Modi HC refuses to quash 2019 summons to Rahul Gandhi

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 8: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to quash the summons issued to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in 2019 in a defamation complaint over his remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom he had called a "commander-in-thief".

A single bench of Justice N R Borkar dismissed Gandhi's petition against the magistrate court's order. The HC, however, continued its 2021 order directing the magistrate to defer hearing on the complaint for six weeks so that Gandhi can approach the Supreme Court in appeal.

The direction to defer the hearing on the defamation complaint meant that Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, would not be required to appear before the magistrate.

The complainant, M H Shrishrimal, had opposed Gandhi's plea in the HC, claiming that being a member of BJP, he too was aggrieved by the remarks made against his leader.

The court refused to accept Gandhi's contention that the complainant was not an aggrieved party as the remarks were against a person and not the political party.

BJP is a "determinate body with a class of members", and complainant Shrishrimal is an active member of the party since 2018, Justice Borkar said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a prominent face of the BJP, and any remarks made against him therefore cannot be said to be incapable of affecting those who are members of the party," the HC said.



Whether the remarks made by Gandhi were of a personal nature intended against PM Modi alone could be determined only during the trial after examination of evidence and witness statements, it added.

Justice Borkar said the court did not find any "perversity and illegality" in the magistrate's order and hence no reason to interfere.

"This court finds no infirmity in the order. Hence, the petition is dismissed," the HC said.

After the court passed its order, Gandhi's counsel Sudeep Pasbala urged it to extend the interim order passed in 2021 for eight weeks so that the Congress leader could appeal in the apex court.

Shrishrimal's lawyer, however, opposed this and said the trial in the case has been at a standstill since 2021.

Justice Borkar continued the interim order for six weeks. Gandhi had challenged a Girgaum

magistrate's order of August 28, 2019 for a process against him on Shrishrimal's complaint.

The complaint had alleged that Gandhi defamed PM Modi in a public speech on September 20, 2018, in Rajasthan.

Shrishrimal said Gandhi posted a video of the rally on his personal X (formerly Twitter) account on September 24, 2018, and referred to PM Modi as "commander-in-thief" over the Rafale fighter jet deal.

The complainant claimed these statements amounted to direct allegations of theft against all members of the BJP and Indian citizens connected to PM Modi.

Gandhi's counsel Pasbala and advocate Kushal Mor argued that the complaint was frivolous and the complainant had no locus standi to file it.

The complainant was not an aggrieved party and hence cannot file such a complaint, they had submitted.

## Pilot meets Rahul, Priyanka; Cong's strategy for Punjab polls discussed



PTI

New Delhi, Sep 8: Days after his appointment as Congress' in-charge of Punjab, Sachin Pilot on Tuesday met former party chief Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and discussed the party's strategy in the run-up to the Assembly polls.

AICC general secretary Pilot met Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi at 10, Janpath, the residence of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

Sources said the party's upcoming programmes in Punjab and strategy for the polls came up for discussion during the meeting.

In a post on X after the meeting, Pilot said, "This morning, I met with the Leader of the Opposition @RahulGandhi ji and General Secretary @priyankagandhi ji, and expressed my gratitude for entrusting me with the responsibility of Punjab."

"I am fully confident that with collective effort, a strong organization, and the energy of our workers, the Congress will make a comeback to power in Punjab," Pilot said.

For Punjab's brighter future, Congress's efforts to protect and honour the rights of every section of society, including farmers and youth, will be with complete dedication and commitment, he said.

The party on Saturday carried out a major organisational reshuffle and appointed Pilot as general secretary in-charge of poll-bound Punjab, replacing Bhupesh Baghel.

Incidentally, Pilot till now was in-charge of Chhattisgarh, where Baghel is a key leader and a former chief minister. Baghel will now look after Assam, replacing Jitendra Singh.

Punjab goes to polls early next year, and Pilot's immediate challenge will be to address factionalism within the state unit ahead of crucial elections.

At a time when other political parties have stepped up preparations for the Punjab elections, the Congress has largely been seen firefighting the internal feud and bickering despite repeated assertions by the leadership that the efforts were underway to strengthen the organisational unity ahead of the polls.

Pilot, who turned 49 on Monday, has to not only get the warring groups on the same page but also devise a poll strategy to counter the ruling AAP and the BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal.

Pilot's elevation is seen by many as a reposing of faith by the leadership in his poll strategising skills and in taking everyone along.

Pilot has seen several ups and downs in his over two-decades-long career, but the party's youth poster boy is fast-emerging as its go-to trump card to swing electoral fortunes in tough states.

Pilot had also been part of successful strategising in Himachal Pradesh in the previous assembly polls there and was also made senior observer for Kerala polls where the Congress won a big mandate earlier this year after 10 years. Pilot's campaign and role in the Kerala assembly polls were lauded by one and all.

The Congress is looking for a comeback in Punjab and therefore has pinned its hopes on a man who is no stranger to comebacks.

## Sensex drops 382 points, Nifty slips below 23,700 in early trade on rising crude prices, US-Iran hostilities

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 8: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Tuesday as rising crude oil prices and the US-Iran hostilities kept risk appetite subdued.

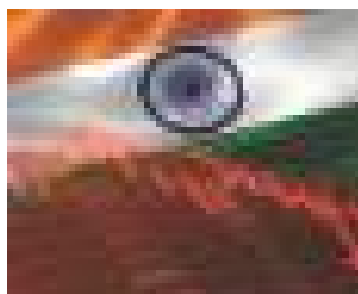
The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 382.25 points to 75,750.56 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 97.80 points to 23,681.80.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Trent, Sun Pharma, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were the major laggards.

Bharat Electronics, Eternal and Adani Ports were the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.54 per cent higher at USD 97.52 per barrel.

"Rising crude prices and renewed US-Iran hostilities kept risk appetite subdued," Rajesh Palviya, Head



of Research, Axis Direct, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index quoted higher, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded lower.

US markets were closed on Monday for the Labour Day holiday.

"Global cues are mixed. US markets were closed overnight for the Labour Day holiday, while Asian markets are trading mixed this morning, with the unresolved

geopolitical crisis and elevated crude oil prices remaining the dominant variables for investor sentiment," Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a research analyst firm, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 280.13 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

"The geopolitical backdrop remains fragile as the US-Iran conflict shows few signs of easing. Uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and the timing of its full reopening continues to underpin concerns over global oil supplies and broader market sentiment," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said.

On Monday, the Sensex dropped 382.62 points, or 0.50 per cent, to settle at 76,132.81. The Nifty declined 118.55 points, or 0.50 per cent, to end at 23,779.15.

## Mahindra targets over 50% small pickup share in FY27 Plans electric Veero launch

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 8: Mahindra & Mahindra is targeting more than 50 per cent market share in the small pickup segment in FY27, with the expanded Veero range expected to strengthen its position, a senior company executive said on Tuesday.

The automaker currently holds a 46 per cent year-to-date market share in the segment through July, compared with 49.1 per cent in FY26. It expects the addition of the 1.1-tonne CNG Veero to help it cross the 50 per cent mark in the current fiscal.

"In the small pickup segment in FY26, we were at 49.1 per cent, while in FY27 we are at 46 per cent. In the short term, Veero is expected to help Mahindra gain momentum and cross 50 per cent market share in FY27 once we launch this 1.1-tonne CNG," Velusamy R, President, Automotive Business, Mahindra & Mahindra, told PTI in

an interview.

Mahindra on Tuesday expanded the Veero range with the launch of the 1.1-tonne XXL CNG variant and upgrades to its diesel range. The two CNG models, V2 and V4, are priced at Rs 8.25 lakh and Rs 8.55 lakh, respectively, while the diesel range is priced between Rs 8.29 lakh and Rs 9.45 lakh. All prices are ex-showroom.

"Very soon... we are launching the electric," Velusamy said, adding that the Veero platform was conceived as a multi-energy architecture covering diesel, CNG and electric powertrains. Mahindra expects further growth in the small pickup segment from demand across e-commerce, quick commerce, FMCG, construction and agriculture, along with vehicle replacement demand.

Velusamy said the company saw "tremendous pull" for its pickup products in August across both the below-2-tonne and 2-3.5-tonne categories.



# Iran increases gasoline price for its heaviest consumers as economy struggles

AP

Tehran, Sep 8: Iran early Tuesday introduced a higher price for its heaviest users of gasoline, state media reported, in the latest economic pinch caused by months of war. It's the second such hike since December.

Such gas price increases can be sensitive and contribute to inflation. An increase in 2019 sparked nationwide protests and a crack-down that reportedly killed over 300 people.

Without specifically mentioning the war with the United States, the government's announcement cited the "current situation," adding that the extra money from the price increase will be given to households.

Under the new system, people buying more than their quota of 110 liters (29 gallons) of gasoline a month now must pay 100,000 rials (about 7 cents) per liter, or twice as much as they have been paying since December.

Iran still has some of the world's lowest gasoline prices, but the price increase adds to daily pressures for many of the country's more than 90 million people. Already, the currency has been dropping to record lows, and purchasing power has weakened. On Monday, the US dollar



was trading at 2.22 million rials.

Keramat Veis Karami, the CEO of the state oil distribution company, on Monday said the new gasoline rate would affect 15 percent of consumers, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The CEO said consumption reached a record high at 145 million liters (38 million gallons) per day in August, while domestic production capacity was 122 million liters per day. The rest of the supply is imported.

Raising prices can help calm high consumption, which experts have blamed on aging cars and spare parts in Iran as well as insufficient public

transportation.

But experts also say increases in gasoline prices will lead to higher inflation in a country that's already struggling with an annual inflation rate of about 67 percent, according to the country's statistics center, a government agency.

Cheap gasoline has been viewed for generations as a birthright in Iran, sparking mass demonstrations as far back as 1964, when a price increase forced the shah to put military vehicles on the streets to replace those of striking taxi drivers.

Iranians react to gas price hike An hour after the new pricing

went into practice, two of eight gas stations visited by The Associated Press were closed to regulate the price rate of the pumps.

The six others were active, and a dozen cars were in line in each. Security was tight around the filling stations and both uniformed and plainclothes police were visible around.

In the queue, Asghar Rahimi, a 34-year-old Tehran resident, said the price increases will not stop.

"The tiny amount cannot help government to manage problems like poverty and unemployment," Rahimi said. "This was the first step. In coming months, they need to raise it again."

Another resident, Ali Salari, 55, feared the raise in price will affect prices of other goods, including bread and meat.

"It has been that way ever since government manipulated gas prices," Salari said.

Tehran citizen Hamid Mirzei, 43, said food prices have kept rising and a grocery trip just for staples, like beans and lentils, can cost up to 100 million rials (\$73).

"Life has become difficult for all of us. Even basic groceries are becoming unaffordable," Mirzei said. "If gasoline prices go up as well, things will only get much worse," he added.

## 'No more selling Bombardier in US': Trump demands jets be built in America

REUTERS

Washington, Sep 8: U.S. President Donald Trump has said that Canadian private jet maker Bombardier would no longer be allowed to sell its planes in the United States unless it started manufacturing in the country.

"NO MORE SELLING BOMBARDIER IN THE UNITED STATES! Their products aren't good enough!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

"If they want our Market, they must build here, and stop treating America like a 'piggybank,'" he said. Trump made the post as a trade dispute between Washington and Ottawa escalates, part of the near-global tariff wall in his second term that has drawn complaints from many U.S. trading partners.

Canada is set to introduce a wave of counter-tariffs against the U.S. on Tuesday.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on how Trump would enforce the action or the steps he would take to bar deliveries of Bombardier jets, which have been approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

The planemaker's jets also comply with the United States-Mexico-Canada trade deal that Trump helped implement.

U.S. aerospace analyst Richard Aboulafia said he did not believe any business jet customers would cancel Bombardier



orders and he did not see how Trump could stop them from being sold. Aboulafia, managing director of AeroDynamic Advisory, an aerospace management consulting firm, pointed out that most Bombardier private jets use U.S. engines, which are produced by both Honeywell Aerospace and GE Aerospace.

Aerospace has largely emerged unscathed from Trump's tariff war, with the flow of parts and planes not currently affected by duties. According to U.S. trade group Aerospace Industries Association, the country's aerospace and defense sector has a \$109.2 billion trade surplus, with exports up 25% on an annual basis in 2025.

Like the U.S. auto sector, which depends on parts production by its northern neighbor,

aerospace is highly integrated.

Bombardier, the Montreal-based rival of U.S. business jet manufacturer Gulfstream Aerospace, has an American workforce of 3,500, and a U.S. footprint of 2,800 suppliers, along with factories and service centers in the country. The company is now adding its sixth U.S. service center and produces wings for its flagship Global 8000 jet in Texas.

Bombardier said in a statement late on Monday that it spends more than \$2.5 billion with U.S. suppliers each year.

"Our plan is to continue to invest in our people, our customers and the communities in which we operate across the country," the company said of the United States.

## Netanyahu's main challenger accuses him of prioritising survival over security



AFP

Rosh Haayin (Israel), Sep 8: Gadi Eisenkot, the main challenger to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accused the sitting premier of looking merely after his own political survival and not the country's security, at a rally in central Israel on Monday.

Unveiling the candidates of the Yashar party for the October 27 election, the former military commander said nothing about how he would handle the Palestinian question or the wars against Iran and Lebanon launched by Netanyahu, but accused him of ducking responsibility in the nearly three years since the massive Hamas

attack.

A relative newcomer to politics, his party Yashar (Hebrew for "Upright"), founded a year ago, has surged in the polls in recent months, with many voters seeing him as a viable candidate to replace Netanyahu, thanks to his military background.

At Monday's rally in a hall in the central Israeli city of Rosh Haayin, Eisenkot vowed to put an end to the divisions that have plagued the country since October 7, 2023 over Netanyahu's conduct of the war in Gaza, where dozens of Israeli hostages were held, and on other fronts.

"In the face of the great rift that opened on October 7, and in the face of the

immense challenges before the State of Israel, I believe we need a leadership that knows how to rise to the magnitude of the hour, that knows how to unite and bring unity around what we share, and to fundamentally restore the principles of stateliness and Zionism," Eisenkot said.

Eisenkot also touched on other hot-button issue in the upcoming election, such as the exemptions and benefits granted to ultra-Orthodox Jewish men.

"Will we go on for more years under a government that promotes evasion of duty without shame? A government that hands out billions of shekels to those who neither serve nor work?" he said.

According to a poll by Israel's public broadcaster Kan published Sunday, Yashar is expected to win 23 Knesset seats out of 120, slightly ahead of Netanyahu's Likud at 20.

The anti-Netanyahu bloc is projected to win 51 seats, while Netanyahu's Likud and its coalition partners are polling at 52 in total.

That means that neither

## India shoot two gold, one silver at World Archery Para Series Stage III



PTI

Ahmedabad, Sep 8: India's men's recurve and compound teams led the show with twin gold medals, while the women's recurve team added a silver on the penultimate day of the World Archery Para Series (Stage III), here on Tuesday.

The men's compound pair of reigning world champion Toman Kumar and Shyam Sunder Swami defeated Iraq 152-139, while the recurve duo of double Paralympic medallist Harvinder Singh and Vijay Sundi overcame Slovakia 6-2 to complete

India's gold-medal sweep in the men's team events.

The women's recurve team of Bhawna and Pooja had a poor show and settled for silver after going down 0-6 to China in the final.

India also missed out on a bronze in the women's compound team event, with Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag losing their third-place playoff to China.

Swami and Toman clinched the gold medal in the men's compound team event with a dominant win over Iraq's Abbas Kadhim and Anwer Aldawod.

The Indian pair made

a slow start, scoring an 8 in the opening end, but quickly found their rhythm. They were particularly accurate over the next 12 arrows, dropping only five points to establish a commanding lead.

With their arrow execution becoming more consistent and their scoring remaining high, Swami and Toman controlled the match and completed a dominant victory.

Harvinder and Sundi fought back from an opening-set deficit to defeat Slovakia's David Ivan and Denis Ivan 6-2, winning the match 34-37, 36-31, 38-34.

35-31. India struggled initially, with a 7 and no 10 in the opening set, allowing Slovakia to take an early advantage. But the Indian team quickly settled into their shooting rhythm.

Harvinder, a double Paralympic medallist, led the recovery. He was the first Indian archer to win a Paralympic medal, taking bronze at Tokyo 2020, and became the first Indian archer to win Paralympic gold at Paris 2024.

India's consistency improved significantly from the second set onwards.

The decisive moment came in the third set, when the Indians shot three 10s to take a 4-2 lead. They maintained their composure in the fourth set, producing another solid series of arrows to close out the gold-medal victory.

Bhawna and Pooja finished with the silver medal after losing to China 0-6 in a one-sided final.

The match scores were 23-34, 33-35, 30-31.

## Thieves steal works worth \$10 million from France Renoir museum: mayor

AFP

Marseille, Sep 8: Two thieves broke into a museum dedicated to French impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir in southern France on Tuesday, stealing "four works of art", one of which they dropped as they fled, a mayor said.

"This morning, two individuals broke into the Renoir Museum and stole four works of art," said Bryan Masson, the far-right mayor of the town of Cagnes-sur-Mer.

"Spotted thanks to the town's video surveillance cameras, the two individuals fled, abandoning one of the stolen paintings as they ran," he said, adding his office estimated the value of the stolen works at 9 million euros (\$10 million).

The Renoir Museum was opened in 1960 in the painter's last home before his death in 1919. Its collection includes objects and furniture that belonged to Renoir, including his easel and wheelchair, as well as portraits, landscapes, and nudes painted by the artist. The mayor said it took just five minutes for the authorities to respond.

"The museum alarm went off at 5:48 am. At 5:53 am, just five minutes later, our municipal police were on the scene," he said. The theft comes less than a year after eight items valued at around \$100 million were stolen during a daylight robbery from the Louvre in Paris.

The four suspected Louvre robbers have been arrested, but the stolen items have still not been found despite extensive searches by French investigators in the Paris region and exchanges with police in Belgium, Italy and beyond.

## Sony Sports Network secures exclusive broadcast rights for Ind-Afg T20I series

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 8: Sony Sports Network has secured exclusive television broadcast rights for the three-match T20I series between India and Afghanistan, with the opening game scheduled in New Delhi on September 13.

The series will feature three matches at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, with the second T20I scheduled for September 15 and the third on September 17. "The Afghanistan-India T20I series further strengthens Sony Sports Network's cricket portfolio and adds another exciting contest to our ongoing 'Festival of Sports' offering," said Rajesh Kaul, Chief Revenue Officer and Business Head, Sports and International, Sony Pictures Networks India in release.

"Both teams play an aggressive and entertaining style of T20 cricket, and the series promises three highly competitive encounters. We look forward to bringing the action to cricket fans across India, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan." Shreyas Iyer will



lead the Indian side, which includes Ishan Kishan, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson, Tilak Varma and Varun Chakravathy. The availability of Jasprit Bumrah, Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Harshit Rana is subject to his fitness.

Afghanistan will be led by Ibrahim Zadran and rely on a strong spin attack headed by Rashid Khan. Their squad also features Rahmanullah Gurbaz and

Sediqullah Atal, along with experienced all-rounders Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib and Mohammad Nabi. "Playing in India is always special, given the country's extraordinary passion for cricket. This series provides an important platform to showcase Afghanistan's talent against one of the strongest teams in world cricket," Naseeb Khan, CEO, Afghanistan Cricket Board said.

## 'Body in good place': Jofra Archer after spate of career-threatening injuries

AFP

London, Sep 8: England paceman Jofra Archer believes he is now in a "good place" after a succession of career-threatening injuries but said there had been some benefits from lengthy spells on the sidelines.

Barbados-born Archer arrived in the UK in 2015 and four years later he was the spearhead of England's attack in its dramatic World Cup final triumph at Lord's, as well as starring in the 2019 Ashes. But he started to develop an elbow problem later that year, with England captain Joe Root widely criticised for over-bowling the Sussex quick in New Zealand.

Elbow and back injuries sidelined Archer from Test duty for more than four years, from February 2021 to July 2025. But the



31-year-old, who plays in all international formats, said there were some positives from his enforced absences.

"The time when I was injured, I really got away from cricket," he told the BBC on Monday. "It's all been a blur. I didn't realise how

long the time out was, either.

"I got to spend some time at home (in Barbados), because, moving over (to the UK), I never really got more than a couple of weeks. To spend a month here and there, it was really nice."

He added: "I'd be lying if I

didn't say I had a good time away from everything. Now, everything is really nice. My body is in a good place, the team is in a good place and everyone is in a good place. I just want to play cricket."

Archer is aiming to help England complete a 3-0 whitewash of Pakistan at Edgbaston this week after featuring in crushing wins over the tourists in the first two Tests, at Headingley and Lord's.

The express bowler has been part of an impressive pace attack also featuring Ollie Robinson, Josh Tongue and Gus Atkinson that has started to draw comparisons with the celebrated "Fab Four" of Matthew Hoggard, Steve Harmison, Simon Jones and Andrew Flintoff, who helped England win the 2005 Ashes.