

Thunder

Kashmir



This newspaper is the sister concern of news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO)

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THANK YOU

For Being Part Of The Journey

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


1,184
FILMS
SUBMITTED


120
FILMS
SCREENED


17
MASTERCLASSES
& DISCUSSIONS


91
COUNTRIES'
FILM SUBMISSIONS


6,600+
VISITORS
ACROSS THE FESTIVAL

It was more than a festival.
IT WAS A SHARED JOURNEY

DIPK-5527/26 Dated: 10.09.2026



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Directorate of Information and Public Relations, J&K

PM-SETU to transform J&K's ITIs into industry-ready skill hubs: CS Atal Dulloo

■ 482 Cr indicative investment in it is to focus on high-demand skills and high-paying jobs

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired the 1st UT Level Steering Committee Meeting to review and steer the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising the need to make skill education more responsive to industry requirements and emerging employment opportunities.

The meeting besides the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Education; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Managing Director, J&K Skill Development Mission; Director, Skill Development Department; Labour Commissioner; representatives of industrial bodies and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary described PM-SETU as a very good model to make skill education better. He unequivocally stressed that the upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) should go beyond physical infrastructure and focus primarily on creating an industry-aligned ecosystem capable of equipping J&K's youth with skills that translate into quality



and well-paid employment.

He further stressed that the industry partners selected for the initiative should bring not merely financial participation but also technology, domain expertise, modern training practices, exposure to industrial processes and credible employment pathways for trained youth.

He observed that our objective should be to align our ITIs more closely with industry requirements so that the skills imparted translate into meaningful and high-paying employment for our youth. He called for close collaboration between government, industry and training institutions in designing the courses and training programmes.

Giving a detailed presentation on the scheme, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, apprised

the Committee of the proposed institutional architecture, funding pattern, upgradation plan and the roadmap for implementation in J&K.

He also divulged that PM-SETU envisages an indicative investment of around 482 crore over a five-year period in J&K, with 241 crore earmarked for each hub-and-spoke cluster. Under the proposed model, 10 Government ITIs will be upgraded into modern, industry-oriented skill institutions.

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

The upgraded hubs will provide access to advanced technologies, modern training infrastructure, incubation

facilities and capacity-building support for trainers, with the scheme targeting an institutional placement rate of 75 per cent.

A major feature of PM-SETU is its industry-led implementation framework, under which Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) will facilitate closer participation of industry in institutional governance, course selection, technology adoption, training and placement. It would also ensure that the training offered is demand-driven rather than supply-driven, with courses periodically aligned to market trends and actual manpower requirements.

The priority training domains under the proposed transformation include Advanced and Smart Manufacturing; Heavy Engineering and Automotive; Electricals, Electronics and Telecom; Process

Industries and Food Processing; and Textiles, Garments, Construction and Building Interiors, besides other emerging areas having strong employment potential here.

The Committee was informed that the financial architecture of PM-SETU follows a tripartite contribution model, with 74.7 per cent contribution from the Central Government, 8.3 per cent from the UT Government and 17 per cent from Anchor Industry Partners (AIPs). The average estimated cost is around ₹81 crore for each Hub ITI and ₹40 crore for each Spoke ITI.

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

Concluding the Chief Secretary underscored that the real measure of the success of PM-SETU would be the ability to create a steady pipeline of industry-ready skilled manpower and connect J&K's youth with better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, thereby making skill development a stronger pillar of the UT's economic growth.

Strengthen field-level monitoring, adopt result-oriented, farmer-centric approach: Nitu Gupta



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10: Secretary in Agriculture Production Department (APD), Nitu Gupta, Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of various programmes being executed under UT Capex Budget 2026-27, NABARD, HADP, JK-CIP, CSS and SASCI In Kashmir division at Directorate of Agriculture Lalmandi.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Director Command area Development Kashmir, Director Planning Agriculture production department, Director Finance SKUAST-K, Chief Agriculture Officers and other senior officers of the department.

The meeting focused on the progress and performance of the Department under CAPEX, Centrally

Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and NABARD. Detailed discussions were held on physical and financial achievements, expenditure, targets and implementation status of various ongoing interventions.

The Secretary reviewed the progress of key projects and schemes and emphasized the need for timely execution, effective monitoring and optimum utilization of funds to ensure that the intended benefits of these interventions reach the farming community. She stressed upon the officers to adopt a result-oriented and farmer-centric approach, strengthen field-level monitoring and ensure close coordination among all concerned stakeholders for expeditious implementation of developmental programmes.

Earlier, the Secretary had also reviewed the functioning and

DC Kulgam inspects ongoing construction works at JNV Mirhama

KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Thursday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing construction works at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Mirhama, to assess the physical progress of the prestigious educational infrastructure project and review the status of various components being executed at the site.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the progress of the project and reviewed the status of the ongoing civil, allied and developmental works. He interacted with the officers, engineers and representatives of the executing agency TCIL and sought a component-wise update regarding the execution of the works.

DC Rajouri reviews road safety measures, calls for comprehensive action plan

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee to review the road safety scenario and measures being undertaken across the district.

At the outset, the District Roll Out Manager iRAD/eDAR, Pankaj Sabharwal informed the meeting that 1,362 road accidents have been reported in the district since July 31, 2022, including 246 accidents during the current year so far.

The DC, as per an official statement, sought a detailed analysis of accidents occurring at identified black spots and directed the concerned officers to immediately undertake corrective measures. He stressed proper road signage, markings and other safety interventions at vulnerable locations and sought detailed reports from the concerned departments.

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER KHUMERIYAL

AUCTION NOTICE

An open public auction for disposal of old/dilapidated building structure/material at PS Chountwari Payeen Machil shall be held on 15-09-2026 (Tuesday) at 11:00 A.M. at the school premises. The building comprises Wood, Stones and other reusable construction material. Interested bidders shall produce a refundable security deposit in the shape of CDR amounting to 3,000/--(Rupees Three Thousand Only) drawn in favour of Zonal Education Officer, Khumeriyal, before participating in the auction. Security deposit of unsuccessful bidders shall be returned as per rules.

The auction shall be conducted on "as-is-where-is" basis. The successful bidder shall deposit the balance amount in the account of Zonal Education Officer Khumriyal as prescribed before lifting the material at own risk and cost.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

No: ZEO/Kh/2060-62

Dated: 10-09-2026

DIPK-5572/26
DATED: 10-09-2026

Zonal Education Officer Khumeriyal

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

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

Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2nd

Subject: Installation of Bore well along with submersible pumping unit and allied fittings for SWM Plant at MC Charishariel in District Budgam. (Sl. No. 01)
Reference: This office e-NIT No. 45/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/5304-20, dated: 21-07-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_318761_1.

Due to "NO Response" for the above mentioned work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 07-09-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	15-09-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	16-09-2026 11.00 PM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE)
Dep'tt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./9558 -72
Dated: 07-09-2026.

DIPK-5560/26
DATED: 10-09-2026

DC Bandipora reviews implementation of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme PRAGATI

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting Thursday at the Mini Secretariat to review the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) PRAGATI across the district.

The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) is a flagship initiative of the Government of India

aimed at promoting skill development through practical, on-the-job training. Operating under the "Earn While You Learn" framework, the scheme connects educated youth directly with industrial and commercial establishments, offering trainees hands-on work experience, industry-recognized certification, and monthly stipends partly supported by government co-funding.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the

need to achieve 100% onboarding of eligible commercial, private, and government establishments on the official apprenticeship portal. She pointed out that under the Apprentices Act, it is mandatory for establishments employing 30 or more workers to engage apprentices within the range of 2.5% to 15% of their total workforce. Units with 4 to 29 employees were also encouraged to join the scheme voluntarily to build a skilled local talent pool.

UNION TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

H.Q's: Lal Mandi, Near L.D Hospital Srinagar-190008.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 77/R&B/RAJ of 2026-27 issued under Endorsement No. 6684-94 Dated: 08.09.2026.

0194-2310283

rmb-rajbagh@jk.gov.in

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

	Name of Work	Base Cost Excl. GST (₹ in Lacs)	TOTAL / Adv. Cost (Base Cost + GST) (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor / Agency
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Construction of Lane and Drain from thre House of Mushtaq Ahmad Khan to the Harisa Shop at Saraibal.	5.73	6.76	₹300/-	₹13520/-	30 Days	Constituency Development Fund (CDF)	CEE/DEE
2	Constuction of Lane and Drain from the House of Bashir Ahmad to the House of Zahoor Nath at magermal Bagh.	4.95	5.84	₹300/-	₹11680/-	30 Days		

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Order No: 238-DDCS of 2026 Dated:03.09.2026.

Position of TS: Accorded

Position of Funds: Budgeted / Committed.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08.09.2026.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.09.2026.from 10:00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	09.09.2026.from 10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	15.09.2026 Up to 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16.09.2026 at 11:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender inviting Authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan & EMD should be between the Date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload Earnest Money/Bid security as mentioned above in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar. The Earnest Money/Bid security will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Performance and Additional Performance Security (if applicable) and Drawl of Agreement as per FORM-25 (Double Cover) .

Abnormally Low Bid Price :-

As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide NO.FD-CODE/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025.

which is reproduced as :-

➤ Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Gurantee/ Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance gurantee being 0.1% and this additional performance gurantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

➤ Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance gurantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance gurantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

➤ The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security & shall be released after the DLP is over successfully.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

1. Guidelines of the Govt. of India / Govt. of J&K UT and as per PWD FORM (25) Double Cover.

No. 6684-94
Dated : 08.09.2026

DIPK-5535/26
DATED: 10-09-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Rajbagh Division Srinagar



Curtains fall on J&K's maiden International Film Festival in Srinagar

Vibrant closing ceremony enthralls audiences; Union Minister congratulates UT administration for mega event

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 10: The first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) concluded in Srinagar on Thursday with a vibrant closing ceremony, bringing the curtain down on four days of films, discussions, masterclasses, cultural performances and industry engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The maiden festival, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), was organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K. It was held from September 7 to 10 across Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg, bringing together filmmakers, actors, technicians, artists, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from India and abroad.

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

Congratulating the J&K



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

He said the region's landscapes, heritage, literature, music, traditions and young talent offered enormous possibilities for filmmaking and storytelling, while calling upon filmmakers, producers and investors to explore the opportunities available in J&K.

Murugan also underlined India's growing ambitions in filmmaking, animation, gaming, music and emerging

digital formats, stressing the need to "create in India and create for the world."

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

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

The performance drew an enthusiastic response from the audience | [More on P6](#)

J&K must tell its own stories: CM Omar at IFFJK closing ceremony

Invites filmmakers to return, create, collaborate in region | Urges young storytellers to make a beginning

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir must move beyond being merely a beautiful filming location and become a place from where its own stories emerge, talent is discovered and films are conceived and created.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) here, Chief Minister Omar as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "The four-day festival had brought filmmakers and audiences together, connected established



professionals with young aspirants and created a platform for cinema from Jammu and Kashmir to engage with India and the world."

"You came as our guests, I hope you leave as friends of Jammu and Kashmir and

partners in what we are trying to build," the Chief Minister said.

120 FILMS FROM 30-PLUS COUNTRIES SCREENED

The Chief Minister said 120 films from more than 30 countries were screened during the festival, but its deeper value lay in the connections created between filmmakers, young talent and audiences. "A young writer meeting a director, an aspiring filmmaker learning from a professional or two people meeting here who may one day make a film together," he said.

He congratulated those recognised during the festival and | [More on P6](#)

J&K has immense cinematic potential: I&B Secretary

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 10: Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Chanchal Kumar on Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir has immense cinematic potential, with its landscapes, people, literature, music and traditions offering stories that can connect with audiences across India and the world.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK), Kumar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the festival has brought together local talent, Indian cinema and filmmakers from across the world and marked a promising new chapter in the region's cinematic journey. | [More on P6](#)

J&K will become Bollywood: Dr Farooq

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 10: National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday exuded hope that Jammu and Kashmir would itself become Bollywood.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of International Film Festival

of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) here, Dr Farooq, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I believe J&K will eventually develop its own strong film industry. I think we will ourselves become Bollywood."

He congratulated the organisers of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), expressing

Kashmiri Sufi music brings IFFJK closing ceremony alive

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 10: The closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK) came alive with the soulful strains of Kashmiri folk and Sufi music as renowned singer Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, popularly known as Gulzar Ganie, captivated the audience with his performance.

Gulzar Ganie presented

the popular Kashmiri Sufi kalam 'Yaar Doad Naar Khoth', penned by celebrated Kashmiri Sufi poet Wahab Khar. His soulful rendition filled the venue with the rich sounds of Kashmir's traditional musical heritage and drew warm applause from the gathering.

The performance, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), added a distinct | [More on P6](#)

Usha Uthup's power-packed performance closes IFFJK in style

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 10: Veteran singer Usha Uthup enthralled the audience with her power-packed performance at the closing ceremony of the first-ever International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (IFFJK) in Srinagar on Thursday, bringing the four-day festival to a rocking and memorable close.

Uthup, known for her distinctive and deep singing voice

and her work across pop, jazz and playback music, captivated the audience with her energetic performance, while her interaction with the crowd from the stage added to the excitement of the evening.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Uthup's performance emerged as one of the major highlights of the closing ceremony, with the audience responding | [More on P6](#)

'J&K's peak power demand likely to surge by 450 MWs'

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Sep 10: In coming three years, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require nearly additional 450 Megawatts (MWs) of power during the peak hours.

According to the official documents available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), authorities have projected that in the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir will have a peak demand of 3813 MWs.

It also said that in the coming fiscal 2027-28, the region is likely to require additional 151 MWs of power during the peak time with a total demand projection of 3964 MWs.

Furthermore, the projections said that in the year 2028-29, Jammu and Kashmir may require additional 300 MWs of power during the peak hours in comparison to the projected

demand of the ongoing fiscal.

The official figures also said that in the year 2029-30, Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a peak demand of 4262 MWs that amounts to 449 MWs of additional energy demand to the projection made for the year 2026-27.

Pertinently, as already reported by KNO, in the past 12 years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a surge in power demand by more than 24 percent.

The Government of India (GoI) had said that from the fiscal 2014-15 to 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a surge in demand of 3,971 MU.

The official figures further reveal that the annual energy demand in J&K rose from 16,214 Million Units (MU) in 2014-15 to 20,185 MU in 2025-26.

It also said that the peak power demand at 20,374 MU was recorded in 2024-25. | [More on P6](#)

Tanvir's remarks historically accurate, no need to apologise or clarify: Omar

Says Kashmir's past poverty is historical fact; asserts legal obligation to follow Vande Mataram provision

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Sep 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday defended National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq over his recent remarks, saying what he said was historically accurate and that neither he nor the party needed to apologise or issue any clarification.

Speaking to reporters here, the Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the poverty and hardships faced by Kashmiris in the past were well documented by historians and were not Tanvir's personal thinking.

"What Tanvir said is historically accurate. He does not



need to apologise or clarify what he said," Omar said.

He said Walter Lawrence and several other historians had written about Jammu and Kashmir, particularly about the poverty of Kashmiris and the hardships people faced under the system of Zaildars,

Chakdars and landlords.

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

He said there was a time when Kashmiris were extremely poor and had to face severe hardships even for basic necessities. "There was a time when Kashmiris were so poor that they had to come to the city with their pyjamas from the mosque. This is not Tanvir's own thinking. This is a historical fact," he said.

Abdullah said Sadiq's remarks should also be seen in the context of | [More on P6](#)

DGP commends joint team of security forces for commitment, efforts



Yogesh

Jammu, Sep 10: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday commended the commitment and efforts of joint team of security forces manning the strategically important

Doda-Kathua-Udhampur tri-junction area.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) DGP Prabhat visited a Joint Temporary Operating Base (TOB) manned by the jawans of Special | [More on P6](#)

World Suicide Prevention Day: 'Start the conversation,' say mental health experts

Psychiatrist Dr Guroo calls for responsible media reporting: avoid 'committed suicide', use 'died by suicide'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Sep 10: On World Suicide Prevention Day, mental-health experts have called for a shift in how society understands and discusses suicide, stressing that timely conversations, compassionate support and early professional intervention can help prevent loss of life.

Observed every year on September 10, the day seeks to raise awareness about suicide prevention and encourage communities to address

mental-health concerns without stigma or judgment. The current global theme, "Changing the Narrative on Suicide", carries the call to "Start the Conversation".

Senior Consultant Psychiatrist and TelePsychiatrist at TeleMANAS and IMHANS-Kashmir, Dr Mohd Abrar Ahmad Guroo, said suicide should not be viewed merely as an individual act but as the outcome of complex psychological distress that requires understanding and timely intervention.



"In clinical practice, we often see people who are not

necessarily seeking death but are desperately seeking an end

to unbearable pain. When a person feels trapped and cannot see another way forward, timely support can help create that alternative," Dr Guroo told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said stigma and silence often prevent people from seeking help at the stage when intervention could make the greatest difference.

According to Dr Guroo, changing the language around suicide is also an important part of changing the narrative. He advocated avoiding terms

such as "committed suicide", which can carry an element of blame, and using terms such as "died by suicide" instead.

He highlighted the responsibility of the media in reporting suicide-related incidents. "Responsible reporting is extremely important. Sensational headlines, unnecessary details about the method or location and repeated imagery can potentially cause harm, particularly among vulnerable people. Reports should instead provide context, focus on prevention and recovery,

and tell readers where help is available," he said.

Dr Guroo said suicide prevention should not be seen as the responsibility of psychiatrists alone. "A teacher who notices a significant change in a student, a colleague who checks on someone who has withdrawn, or a family member who simply asks, 'Are you really okay?' can make a difference. Suicide prevention is a community responsibility," he said.

Recognising warning signs Mental-health professionals say people | [More on P6](#)

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: A Sacred Covenant of Mutual Rights & Responsibilities

Marriage in Islam is not merely a social contract; it is a sacred covenant founded on mutual rights, responsibilities, and the fear of Allah. The Quran describes the marital relationship as one of sakinah (tranquility), mawaddah (love), and rahmah (mercy), establishing it as a source of comfort and protection for both partners. The foundational principle of spousal rights is reciprocity. The Quran declares, "And they (women) have rights similar to those (of men) over them, according

to what is equitable" (2:228). This verse establishes a clear framework of mutuality—neither spouse is superior to the other in dignity, and the rights of one are the responsibilities of the other. The husband's primary responsibilities are financial maintenance and protection. The Quran states, "Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means" (4:34). This is not a mark of superiority but a division of

responsibility. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) emphasised this duty, saying, "Give her food when you eat, clothe her when you clothe yourself, and do not strike her face or revile her." The wife's responsibilities include guarding the home and family in her husband's absence and contributing to the household's well-being. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "The best of you is the best to his wife." He also advised, "I urge you to treat women kindly." The wife's role is not one of subservience but of

partnership. Beyond material provisions, both spouses owe each other emotional and spiritual support. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "The most perfect believer in faith is the one whose character is finest and who is kindest to his wife." He also said, "The best of you are those who are best to their families." The Quran commands both spouses to "live together on a footing of kindness and equity" (4:19). When disputes arise, patience, communication, and consultation should guide the resolution. The

Prophet's domestic life exemplifies this: he shared household tasks, consulted his wives, and treated them with respect and affection. In an age where family structures are under strain, Islamic teachings offer a timeless model of partnership based on mutual respect, shared responsibility, and compassion. Rights are not weapons to be wielded but trusts to be honoured. When spouses fulfil their responsibilities with sincerity, the home becomes a sanctuary of peace and a reflection of divine mercy.

The 5 Most Dangerous Marriage Expectations Social Media Has Given

A wedding lasts for a day, but marriage is the life that comes afterward

Luxury weddings. Constant romance. Perfect husbands and wives. "Relationship goals." And the expectation that a happy marriage should always feel happy. Scroll through Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, or any social media platform today, and marriage can begin to look almost magical.

We see beautifully decorated homes, surprise flowers, expensive anniversary dinners, matching outfits, romantic vacations, thoughtful gifts, and couples laughing together in perfectly edited videos. There is nothing inherently wrong with any of these things. The problem begins when we start comparing our real marriages to someone else's carefully selected moments.

Social media can quietly teach us to believe that a successful marriage must look a certain way, and for Muslims, this can be particularly dangerous when those expectations begin to replace the Islamic understanding of marriage.

Allah gives us a very different picture of what marriage is meant to provide. In Surah Ar-Rum, Allah says, "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy" (Qur'an 30:21).

Notice what Allah highlights: tranquility, affection, and mercy. He does not describe marriage as a life of luxury, constant excitement, or uninterrupted happiness. He describes something much deeper. Marriage is meant to become a place of sakinah, where two people can find comfort and security, and a relationship built upon affection and mercy.

One of the first expectations social media has dramatically changed is the idea that a wedding must be extraordinary. Today, weddings can easily become visual productions. The venue must be impressive, the decorations must be spectacular, the clothes must be luxurious, the photography must look cinematic, and every moment must be worthy of posting. It is easy to start believing that the more beautiful and expensive the wedding, the more successful the marriage will be.

But a wedding lasts for a day, while marriage is the life that comes afterward. There is nothing wrong with celebrating a nikah beautifully or sharing happiness with family and friends, but when appearances become more important than the actual responsibilities of marriage, priorities have shifted. A couple can spend enormous amounts of money creating a wedding that looks perfect while beginning their married life under financial pressure.

Another couple may have a simple nikah and a modest celebration but build a deeply loving and peaceful home. Which marriage is more successful? The one that photographs better? Islam teaches us to look beyond appearances. When the Prophet spoke about choosing a spouse, he mentioned qualities such as wealth, family status, beauty, and religion, but directed believers toward religion as the quality that should ultimately be prioritized. The person you marry matters far more than the wedding you have.

Another expectation social media has created is that a good spouse should be romantic all the time. Online, marriage can look like one continuous romantic experience. Every morning begins with affection, every anniversary involves a surprise, every disagreement is resolved beautifully, and every ordinary moment becomes a romantic memory. But real marriage is not a two-minute relationship montage.

Real marriage involves tired mornings, bills, work, household responsibilities, misunderstandings, different personalities, family pressures, parenting, illness,



and emotional exhaustion. Sometimes love looks like flowers or a surprise dinner, but sometimes love looks like washing the dishes because your spouse is exhausted.

Sometimes love is an affectionate message, while at other times it is simply remaining patient when you are frustrated. This is why the Qur'anic concept of rahmah, or mercy, is so important. Allah did not only mention affection between spouses; He mentioned affection and mercy. There will be moments when affection comes naturally, but there will also be moments when mercy is what keeps you gentle with one another.

A marriage cannot survive on romance alone. It requires compassion, patience, forgiveness, responsibility, and the willingness to continue treating your spouse with kindness even during difficult seasons.

Social media has also encouraged another unrealistic expectation: the belief that our spouse should be perfect. We see videos of the endlessly patient husband, the emotionally intelligent wife, the spouse who always knows exactly what to say, the person who never forgets an important date, never loses their temper, communicates perfectly, and seems to understand their partner without explanation.

Eventually, we can begin looking for this imaginary person in our own marriages. But there is no perfect husband and no perfect wife. Marriage brings two imperfect human beings together. You will discover habits you did not notice before marriage. You will misunderstand one another. You will sometimes say the wrong thing. Your spouse will have weaknesses, and so will you. That does not necessarily mean you married the wrong person.

Sometimes it simply means you married a human being. The Sunnah teaches us to value character, faith, and good qualities rather than searching for an impossible standard of perfection. Social media, however, allows us to see the finished product without seeing the struggle behind it. We may see a loving husband on camera

without seeing the difficult conversation the couple had the night before. We may see a smiling wife without seeing the exhaustion behind the smile. We have to remind ourselves that we should never compare our behind-the-scenes to someone else's highlight reel.

Perhaps one of the most damaging expectations is the idea of "relationship goals." The phrase sounds harmless, but it can slowly turn another person's marriage into the measuring stick for our own. You see another couple traveling and suddenly your marriage feels boring. They buy a house and you feel behind. They have children and you begin questioning your own circumstances. They post romantic messages and you wonder why your spouse doesn't express love in the same way. They celebrate an anniversary extravagantly and suddenly your own celebration feels inadequate.

Slowly, someone else's marriage becomes the standard by which you judge your own. But social media gives us access to moments, not entire marriages. We don't know their financial situation, their private struggles, their disagreements, their disappointments, or what happens when the camera is turned off. A couple may post one beautiful photograph from a holiday while privately dealing with serious difficulties.

Another couple may never post anything at all and have an extraordinarily loving marriage. Your marriage does not need to be Instagram-worthy to be meaningful. Some of the most precious moments in a marriage are the ones nobody else sees: the quiet conversation after Fajr, the meal prepared after a long day, the dua made for your spouse, the apology, the forgiveness, the private joke, or the sacrifice that nobody applauded. These moments may never become content, but they may be exactly what makes a marriage strong.

Perhaps the most dangerous expectation social media has created is the belief that marriage should make us happy all

the time. We are constantly shown couples who appear to be enjoying every moment of life together, and it can become easy to believe that if we are frustrated, lonely, bored, or disappointed, something must be fundamentally wrong with our marriage. But marriage can bring enormous happiness while still containing difficult moments.

Life itself was never designed to be a continuous state of happiness. There will be financial difficulties, illness, grief, disagreements, parenting challenges, and seasons when one spouse has to carry more responsibility because the other is struggling. Islam does not describe marriage as an endless emotional high. Allah describes spouses as a source of tranquility, affection, and mercy. Tranquility is different from constant excitement.

A peaceful marriage may not always feel exciting. Sometimes it simply feels safe, stable, familiar, and comforting. Sometimes the greatest blessing is knowing that someone is beside you through the difficult seasons of life. The goal should not be to chase constant happiness but to build something good, meaningful, and pleasing to Allah.

So what should Muslims expect from marriage if social media has given us so many unrealistic expectations? Perhaps the answer is to return to the Qur'an. Allah gives us a beautiful framework: tranquility, affection, and mercy. These qualities require work. Tranquility means creating a home where your spouse feels safe. Affection means continuing to nurture love rather than assuming it will take care of itself.

Mercy means recognizing that the person beside you is imperfect, just as you are. Marriage is not about finding someone who perfectly completes your fantasy. It is about finding someone with whom you can build a life. And building a life requires patience, sacrifice, forgiveness, communication, responsibility, and faith.

The next time you see a couple online and think, "Why isn't my marriage like

that?" pause for a moment. You are looking at a few seconds of someone's life, not their entire marriage. The next time you think, "My spouse doesn't do these romantic things, so maybe they don't love me," ask yourself how your spouse might be showing love in ways that social media does not celebrate. Perhaps they work long hours to provide.

Perhaps they take care of responsibilities when you are exhausted. Perhaps they listen when you need someone to talk to. Perhaps they make sacrifices quietly. Perhaps they express love differently from the couples you see online. Love does not always look cinematic. Sometimes it looks ordinary, and ordinary can be beautiful.

There is a kind of marriage that will probably never go viral. It will not receive millions of views or become someone's "relationship goals." There will be no trending audio, perfect photoshoot, or carefully edited montage.

Instead, there will be two people waking up for Fajr, making dua for one another, disagreeing without humiliating each other, apologizing when they are wrong, forgiving one another, raising children, dealing with financial difficulties, supporting each other through illness, helping each other return to Allah after spiritual weakness, and growing older together. That marriage may never impress strangers on the internet, but it may be far closer to what Allah intended.

Social media will continue showing us perfect weddings, perfect couples, perfect homes, perfect anniversaries, and seemingly perfect lives. But we should never allow a perfectly edited image to make us dissatisfied with a real life. Your marriage does not have to look perfect. It has to be real, sincere, compassionate, and rooted in what pleases Allah. Perhaps the most beautiful marriage is not the one everyone envies online. It is the one that quietly brings two people closer to Allah.

Courtesy: IslamiCity

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

FDA intensifies enforcement drive across J&K

Conducts label, packaging scrutiny, 455 food samples examined, 35 found non-compliant

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10: The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K conducted a special enforcement drive across all districts of the Union Territory to examine compliance with the prescribed requirements relating to labelling and display of food products.

During the drive, 455 food samples were scrutinized, 35 samples were found non-compliant with the prescribed labelling requirements. Notices have been issued to the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs), to rectify the deficiencies within the stipulated period. Further action shall be taken in accordance with law in case of non-compliance.

The scrutiny, as per an official statement, was carried out with reference to the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 and covered packaged food products including spices, edible oils, dairy products, bakery and confectionery items, honey, rice, beverages, coffee, dry



fruits and other food articles. The labels were examined for compliance with mandatory declarations, including name and nature of the food, ingredients, nutritional information, batch/lot number, date

of manufacture/packing, Best Before/Expiry Date, MRP, details of the manufacturer/packer, FSSAI License/Registration Number, vegetarian/non-vegetarian logo and other prescribed declarations.

The scrutiny also covered health, nutritional and other claims appearing on food labels with reference to the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018. The concerned FBOs were directed to remove or rectify claims found to be misleading or not in conformity with the applicable regulatory requirements.

Where violations are established, penal action shall be taken under the relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Section 52 provides for a penalty which may extend to 3 lakh for misbranded food, while Section 53 provides for a penalty which may extend to 10 lakh for misleading advertisements. Section 61 for furnishing false information provides for a penalty which may extend to 10 lakh.

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

Commissioner SMC launches online waste bin booking service for Srinagar city

‘Our focus is to bring municipal services closer to citizens through technology’

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, along with Joint Commissioner SMC, Suhail Ul Islam on Thursday launched the Online Waste Bin Booking Service, a digital facility aimed at making the process of requesting waste bins simpler, faster and more accessible for citizens.

The service enables residents to submit their requests online without physically visiting SMC offices. The initiative, as per an official statement, is part of SMC's efforts to expand digital services and make civic service delivery more transparent, efficient and citizen-friendly. The system will also help the Corporation maintain a structured digital record of requests, monitor their status and facilitate better deployment of resources and field staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner said the initiative reflects SMC's commitment to citizen-centric governance and technology-driven service delivery.

“Our focus is to bring municipal services closer to



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

Citizens can submit their waste bin requirements along with necessary details, including their location and contact information, through the official SMC website: smcsrinagar.jk.gov.in

The Commissioner directed

the concerned officers and field functionaries to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of the service. He also stressed the need for wider public awareness so that residents can make full use of the digital facility.

The initiative is part of SMC's ongoing efforts to strengthen sanitation and solid waste management through digital services, transparency, accountability and greater citizen participation, with the broader objective of building a cleaner, smarter and more responsive Srinagar.

Apprenticeship awareness meeting organised in Kulgam



KT News Desk

KULGAM, SEPTEMBER 10: An awareness meeting regarding the Apprenticeship Training Scheme was organized Thursday by ITI Kulgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam.

The aim of the session was creating awareness about apprenticeship opportunities among the youth and various educational and training institutions of the district.

During the meeting, Superintendent ITI Kulgam, Saahil Rashid, briefed the participants about the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, highlighting its objectives, eligibility, registration process and the benefits available to candidates and establishments.

A detailed presentation on the Apprenticeship Scheme

was also presented, covering important aspects such as candidate registration, establishment registration, on-the-job training, stipend, skill development and employment opportunities.

It was highlighted that apprenticeship provides youth with valuable practical, industry-oriented skills and workplace experience, helping bridge the gap between education and employment and enhancing their employability.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Kulgam stressed upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards promoting apprenticeship and ensuring that maximum eligible youth benefit from the scheme.

The meeting was attended by the Principals of Degree Colleges, Kulgam, Frisal and D.H. Pora, principals of ITI and training institutes, representatives of schools, and other concerned.

Legal Metrology Department seizes 930 packages of short-quantity dry fruits in Pampore

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 10: In a significant enforcement action aimed at safeguarding consumer interests and curbing unfair trade practices, the Legal Metrology Department has detected and seized 930 packages of dry fruits from a wholesaler in Pampore namely Khanday traders after the packages were found to contain substantially less quantity than the quantity declared on their labels.

The action, as per an official statement, was taken after the complaint was received by the department against a wholesaler located in Pampore wherein the aggrieved consumer had stated that the wholesaler was distributing underweight products to Consumers.

During inspection of the premises, the Department found that the packages were being offered for sale to consumers with a declared quantity of 250 grams per package, whereas the actual quantity was found

to be short by approximately 60 grams in each package. The packages were containing substantially less quantity than what had been declared on the package and for which the consumer was liable to pay.

The discrepancy constitutes a serious violation of the provisions governing declarations and correctness of quantity under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, besides amounting to an unfair trade practice causing financial prejudice to consumers. Taking cognizance of the violation, the Legal Metrology Department registered a case against the concerned wholesaler and, as an immediate enforcement measure, seized all 930 packages found in violation. The seized stock shall remain subject to further proceedings under the applicable provisions of law.

The Department has reiterated that the quantity declared on any pre-packaged commodity must correspond

with the actual quantity contained therein. Any deliberate or negligent short weightment deprives consumers of their legitimate entitlement and undermines transparency and fairness in the marketplace.

The Legal Metrology Department has further stated that strict action shall be taken against persons found indulging in short-quantity practices, overcharging, misdeclaration or any other malpractice affecting consumer rights. Enforcement teams have been directed to maintain close vigil over wholesalers, retailers and other establishments dealing in pre-packaged commodities.

The Department has also appealed to consumers to remain vigilant and to verify the declared net quantity, MRP and other mandatory declarations on packaged commodities before making purchases. Consumers are encouraged to report instances of short quantity, overcharging or other violations to the Legal Metrology Department for prompt action.

BBBP: SWD Budgam organises awareness-cum-distribution programme

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 10: Social Welfare Department, SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Budgam, organised an Awareness-cum-Distribution Programme at Government Middle School, Beerwah.

The programme, as per an official statement, was organised

under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative with the objective of promoting education, health, dignity, safety and empowerment of the girl child.

During the programme, school bags along with stationery items and sanitary kits were distributed among deserving girl students. The initiative was aimed at supporting the educational needs of girl students

while promoting awareness regarding menstrual hygiene, personal health and well-being.

As part of the awareness session, the students were sensitised about the importance of education, gender equality, personal hygiene, menstrual health and safety, besides being informed about various women- and girl-centric welfare schemes and initiatives being implemented by the Government.

Viksit Bharat@2047

District Youth Officer highlights VBYLD MY Bharat initiatives in Baramulla

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 10: District Youth Officer Baramulla, Srijan Singh Patel, Thursday addressed a press conference to highlight the objectives and significance of the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) being organised under the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) initiative.

Speaking to the media, District Youth Officer, as per an official statement, said that VBYLD provides a national platform for young people to share their ideas, perspectives and innovative solutions and actively contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. He said the initiative is aimed at fostering leadership, creativity, innovation and a strong sense of responsibility among the youth.

He emphasised that the youth are not merely the future of the country but important stakeholders in its present development journey. Their ideas, aspirations and active participation can play a significant role in shaping a progressive, inclusive and developed India.

The District Youth Officer further highlighted that VBYLD offers young participants an opportunity to express their views on matters of national importance, showcase their talents and cultural heritage, and engage in meaningful activities related to nation building. He encouraged the youth of Baramulla to actively participate and utilise the platform to put forward their



ideas and perspectives.

He also called upon educational institutions, youth organisations and other stakeholders to facilitate wider participation of young people in MY Bharat and VBYLD activities. He said that collective efforts are essential to ensure that the benefits and opportunities offered through such youth-centric initiatives reach maximum numbers of young people.

Appealing to the youth of the district, Srijan Singh Patel urged them to come forward with confidence, creativity and a spirit of service, stating that the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 can be realised through the meaningful participation and contribution of the country's young generation.

He also sought the cooperation of the media in creating greater awareness about the initiative and encouraging youth participation across the district.

JJM 2.0 Jal Shakti Deptt submits implementation, reform plan

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 10: The Jal Shakti Department, Jammu and Kashmir, has finalized its Comprehensive Implementation and Reform Plan (CIRP) under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0. This marks a significant step towards strengthening the water supply infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The plan, as per an official statement, reaffirms the department's commitment to timely completion of all ongoing Water Supply Schemes. Its main focus is to ensure sustainable and reliable drinking water services for the rural population of Jammu and Kashmir.

The CIRP constitutes a strategic, time bound operational framework by the UT, outlining scheme wise completion timelines, financial allocations, reform commitments and governance milestones for JJM 2.0. It provides a

comprehensive roadmap for implementation of JJM 2.0 in Jammu and Kashmir, with emphasis on timely completion of schemes, improved service delivery, operation and maintenance, source sustainability, water quality and institutional reforms.

As part of the CIRP, J&K has committed that all new schemes shall be completed within the timelines prescribed by the National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM). Retrofitting schemes shall be completed from the resources of the Union Territory, thereby ensuring optimal utilisation of the existing infrastructure and strengthening the functionality and service delivery of rural water supply schemes.

In order to facilitate the implementation process, funds to the tune of 128 crore comprising 116 crore as Central Share and 12 crore as UT share have been released to the PHE Divisions across J&K. The process for

release of payments against eligible works has also been initiated by the concerned divisions.

The finalisation of the CIRP marks an important step towards the effective implementation of JJM 2.0 in Jammu and Kashmir. The plan places renewed emphasis on moving beyond mere creation of infrastructure towards assured, sustainable, reliable and quality drinking water services while ensuring accountability, timely execution and efficient utilisation of resources.

The Jal Shakti Department remains committed to work in close coordination with the National Jal Jeevan Mission, field formations, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other stakeholders for achieving the objectives of JJM 2.0 and strengthening the rural drinking water service delivery.

The reform plan is readily available on JJM-2.0 IMIS dashboard for the stakeholders access.

Director Mission Poshan attends Poshan Maah celebrations in Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 10: Director, Mission Poshan J&K, Sajad Hussain Ganai, Thursday attended the Poshan Maah celebrations organized at ICDS Office Budgam, wherein various activities were held to highlight the importance of nutrition, early childhood care and education, maternal health and the overall well-being of children.

Addressing the gathering, Director Mission Poshan J&K, said that the primary aim and objective of the programme is to ensure that the benefits and services of ICDS reach every eligible citizen. He said that the department is providing a range of services aimed at ensuring the holistic development of children and the well-being of mothers, including early childhood care and education, nutrition support and assistance in immunization of newborns in coordination with the Health Department.

The Director, as per an official statement, emphasized the importance of providing proper nutritional guidance



and support to expectant and lactating mothers, stating that adequate nutrition and care during pregnancy and lactation play a vital role in ensuring the healthy growth and development of children.

As part of the celebrations, Director Mission Poshan administered an oath to the participants, urging them to work collectively towards the goal of making Budgam a malnutrition-free district. The participants pledged to contribute towards promoting healthy nutritional practices and ensuring that the benefits of various Poshan and ICDS initiatives reach all eligible

beneficiaries.

Sajad Hussain further said that the department is committed to ensuring the enrolment of every eligible child under the programme so that appropriate care and support are provided from the early stages of life. He stressed that proper nutrition, healthcare, early childhood education and a supportive environment are essential for ensuring the mental, physical and overall healthy development of children. He also called upon field functionaries to strengthen community outreach and ensure that the intended benefits of various schemes and

services reach the grassroots level.

Programme Officer, Budgam, Samar Naik, highlighted the significance of observing Poshan Maah. She stressed the need for creating greater awareness among the public regarding proper nutrition, child care, maternal health and the importance of early childhood development. She also underlined the role of the department in ensuring effective delivery of services to beneficiaries through the network of Anganwadi Centres across the district.

On the occasion, various speakers, including Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Supervisors and Anganwadi Workers, deliberated on the functions and responsibilities of the department. They highlighted the important role being played by the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in providing nutrition support, early childhood care and education, maternal and child health services and creating awareness among communities about healthy practices.

Unique governance model for Ladakh under Article 371: CS Kundra ‘No statehood or legislature, but sui generis model; proposed framework requires constitutional amendment’

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Sep 10: The Ladakh administration on Thursday said the proposed governance model in the Union Territory would neither be a state nor a Union Territory with a legislature, but some other body vested with powers.

Speaking to media persons, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Secretary Ladakh Ashish Kundra said a sui generis model, which does not exist anywhere else in the country, will be

carved out for Ladakh. “It is not going to be a state, for sure. It is not a UT with legislature, but it is some other body which will have these powers,” he said, adding that its nomenclature was yet to be finalised and discussions were underway. Kundra, who is also part of the sub-committee constituted on Ladakh, said the Sixth Schedule had certain limitations in the context of the region. “It was subsequently explained that this model has its limitations. Therefore, the Central

Government is willing to go ahead and offer something more. That ‘more’ is coming through Article 371,” he said. He added that the proposed framework would be provided to Ladakh through a constitutional amendment, which would require a two-thirds majority in Parliament for approval, and stressed that political consensus across parties would be necessary. During the sub-committee meeting on Wednesday, Kundra said members of the LAB and KDA were asked a set

of questions about the powers of the proposed UT-level body and the LAHDC. “There are certain questions regarding the relationship between the UT-level body and the LAHDC - for instance, what powers will come under the jurisdiction of the LAHDCs and what powers will come under the UT-level body,” he said. He added that there was a discussion yesterday regarding the UT-level body to be constituted under Article 371 of the Constitution.

PIB Kochi media delegation visits Zojila tunnel project

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Sep 10: On the fourth day of the ongoing press tour to Jammu and Kashmir, a 13-member media delegation from the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Kochi, visited the Zojila Main Tunnel Project to gain first-hand insights into the progress, construction activities and strategic significance of the major infrastructure project connecting Jammu and Kashmir with Ladakh.

The Zojila Tunnel Project is being implemented by the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

During the visit, Yousef Es'haghpour Rahimabadi, Team Leader of the Authority Engineer for NHIDCL Zojila



Road and Tunnel Projects, briefed the media delegation on the project, its construction activities and the safety measures being adopted. He highlighted the importance of the project for the nation, particularly in strengthening strategic logistics and ensuring reliable connectivity to Ladakh. The Zojila Main Tunnel is approximately 13.15 kilometres long. The bi-directional tunnel is being constructed between Baltal

in Jammu and Kashmir and Minamarg in Ladakh. The main tunnel project is expected to significantly improve connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The tunnel will reduce the travel time across the Zojila Pass from around 2–3.5 hours to approximately 20–30 minutes. It is also expected to provide all-weather connectivity by overcoming the prolonged winter closure of the Zojila Pass, which earlier

remained inaccessible for nearly five to six months due to heavy snowfall. During the interaction, Yousaf highlighted the extensive safety arrangements incorporated into the project and said that the tunnel would bring multiple benefits, including improved movement of essential commodities and fuel towards Ladakh, enhanced travel time and safety, and greater logistical efficiency. He also noted that the project would generate employment opportunities and contribute to economic development in the region. The delegation also visited Sonamarg, where the journalists experienced the picturesque landscape and lush greenery of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K will become

hope that the festival would open new avenues for young talent in the region.

Dr Farooq said the initiative was a “very good thing” and hoped young boys and girls would make the most of the platform. “Artists, writers, music directors and film directors will emerge from here. Our children are good in every field,” he said.

“Congratulations, congratulations,” Dr Farooq told organisers and participants of the festival. (KNO)

Curtains fall

and added a local musical flavour to the closing celebrations.

The 4-day festival featured a diverse cinematic programme, including International Competition, Best Debut Director, Jammu & Kashmir Select, Bharat Panorama, Cinema of the World, Documentary/Hybrid and Short Films, besides masterclasses, in-conversation sessions, panel discussions, special screenings and retrospectives.

The festival's programme also covered areas including direction and screenplay, cinematography, editing, acting, sound, animation and AI, documentary filmmaking, regional cinema, industry development and co-production, providing opportunities for interaction between established professionals and emerging filmmakers.

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

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

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

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

J&K must tell

thanked the jury, filmmakers, delegates and members of the film fraternity who participated in the inaugural edition.

‘THE SCREEN CAME BACK TO KASHMIR’ Recalling his remarks at the opening of the festival about Jammu and Kashmir's long association with cinema, CM Omar said the past few evenings had witnessed something special as films that shaped Kashmir's visual memory were screened again in the region. “Those films and others from that era have returned to Dal Lake,” he said.

He said films including Jungle, Arzoo, Kashmir Ki Kali and Kabhi Kabhie had been screened against the very landscapes that helped make them memorable. “For decades, Kashmir travelled to audiences through a cinema screen. This week, in a sense, the screen came back to Kashmir,” Omar said.

‘NOSTALGIA CANNOT DEFINE OUR FUTURE’ The Chief Minister, however, said nostalgia could not define the future of Jammu and Kashmir's film industry. “Our ambition must go beyond being a beautiful filming location. Jammu and Kashmir must increasingly become a place from which stories emerge, talent is discovered and films are conceived and created,” he said.

CM Omar said Jammu and Kashmir had far more to offer cinema than its landscapes, with stories rooted in its cities, towns and villages, as well as its languages, literature, music, craft, history and everyday lives. “Our landscapes may bring filmmakers here, but our stories, our people and our professional filmmaking environment can bring them back,” he said.

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

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

CM Omar said the success of IFFJK a decade from now should not be measured merely by the number of films screened or personalities

attending, but by the careers launched, opportunities and collaborations created and the stories from Jammu and Kashmir that reach audiences across India and the world.

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

IFFJK SHOULD BECOME YEAR-ROUND PLATFORM

Omar said IFFJK should grow beyond a four-day annual event into a continuous platform for screening, learning, training and collaboration throughout the year. “Government can provide a platform and an enabling environment, but a vibrant film culture must be sustained by the creative community itself,” he said.

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

CINEMA CAN CREATE JOBS, STRENGTHEN LOCAL ECONOMY

Highlighting the wider economic potential of cinema, the Chief Minister said filmmaking could support professionals, local services, artists, jobs and businesses. “Films coming to Jammu and Kashmir should therefore leave behind not only valuable images but also skills, employment and stronger local capabilities,” he said.

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

‘COME BACK TO SHOOT, WRITE, TEACH, COLLABORATE’

Addressing visiting filmmakers, actors and delegates, CM Omar extended an invitation to return to Jammu and Kashmir. “Come back to shoot, write, teach, collaborate and discover more of Jammu and Kashmir,” he said.

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

URGES YOUNG STORYTELLERS TO BEGIN

Addressing young filmmakers and storytellers, CM Omar urged them to learn the craft, experiment and begin telling stories from their neighbourhoods, villages, families and generations. “Some of cinema's most powerful voices are intimate and local. What matters is that the voice be authentic and the craft remain strong,” he said.

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

‘J&K SHOULD INCREASINGLY REFLECT ITSELF THROUGH CINEMA’

Reflecting on the setting of the closing ceremony, CM Omar said Dal Lake had for centuries reflected the mountains, sky and changing seasons around it, while cinema had reflected the spirit of the world. “Perhaps the opportunity before us now is for Jammu and Kashmir increasingly to reflect itself through cinema—to tell its own stories, its own voices with confidence and to share them with audiences across India and the world,” he said.

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

‘CURTAIN COMES DOWN, BUT NOT THE IDEA’

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

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

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

J&K has immense

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

He said people in the region have grown up watching films depicting Kashmir and its landscapes, while the opening of Kashmir's first

multiplex in 2022 marked a revival of the theatre experience. “Hosting an international film festival adds a promising new chapter to the journey,” Kumar said.

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

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

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

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

He also highlighted WAVES Bazaar, describing it as another platform connecting creators with buyers, producers, distributors and potential collaborators. “Filmmakers and creative enterprises from Jammu and Kashmir can showcase their films, explore commercial partnerships and reach national and international markets. It can help turn a promising creative project into a business opportunity,” he said.

Kumar further invited young people from J&K to explore opportunities at the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), being developed in Mumbai as a National Centre of Excellence for animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality, with support from leading industry and technology companies. “I invite young people from Jammu and Kashmir to explore the opportunities to acquire industry-relevant skills and prepare for careers in these fields,” he said.

He said such skills could also help young people work with local art, architecture, cultural traditions and heritage and turn them into animation, games and immersive experiences. Kumar said the Ministry and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir could work together to bring these opportunities closer to young people through college outreach, workshops, guidance and participation in national initiatives.

He said the Centre and J&K could also explore possibilities of collaboration in film production, presentation and promotion of shooting locations, besides connecting local professionals with existing productions. “Involving local youth as trainees and crew members can help these productions contribute to lasting skills and livelihood opportunities,” he said.

Kumar said the festival itself could become a continuing meeting point where local stories find producers, creative talent find mentors and promising projects find wider audiences.

Congratulating the award winners, he urged young creators from J&K to draw inspiration from their surroundings, develop their craft and pursue their ideas with confidence. “To all the young creators of Jammu and Kashmir, I would say draw inspiration from your surroundings, develop your craft and pursue your ideas with confidence. Your stories have a place in India and world's creative future,” he said.

Kumar further wished the festival continued success in the coming years and said he looked forward to seeing new talent and collaborations emerging from the initiative. (KNO)

Usha Uthup's

enthusiastically as she took the stage and added a vibrant musical finale to the inaugural edition of IFFJK.

Her energetic stage presence, distinctive voice and interaction with the audience kept the closing ceremony lively, with filmmakers, artists, delegates, young filmmakers and cinema lovers joining in the celebrations.

Usha's performance turned the concluding evening into a celebration of music and cinema, with the singer engaging directly with the crowd from the stage and receiving loud applause throughout her performance.

She further provided a fitting finale to an event that brought together the film fraternity, young talent and cinema lovers from Jammu and Kashmir, India and abroad.

The first edition of IFFJK brought together

filmmakers, artists and cinema enthusiasts from India and abroad, with 120 films from over 30 countries screened during the four-day festival.

With music, cinema and enthusiastic audience participation coming together on the final evening, the inaugural IFFJK signed off on a celebratory note, setting the stage for a larger and more vibrant festival in the years ahead. (KNO)

Kashmiri Sufi

Kashmiri cultural flavour to the closing ceremony, creating a deeply evocative atmosphere and highlighting the enduring appeal of the region's Sufi musical tradition.

Wahab Khar is regarded as one of Kashmir's celebrated Sufi poets. His poetry, deeply rooted in spirituality, devotion and the cultural ethos of Kashmir, continues to resonate through traditional Sufi and folk music. His kalams remain an integral part of the region's rich oral and musical heritage.

Gulzar Ganie, a renowned exponent of Kashmiri folk music, Sufiyana Kalam and Chakri, has devoted decades to preserving and promoting Kashmir's traditional musical heritage.

The performance added a fitting cultural touch to the IFFJK closing ceremony, celebrating Kashmir's enduring legacy of music, poetry and artistic expression. (KNO)

DGP commends

Operations Group (SOG), Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

DGP Prabhat interacted with personnel deployed at the Joint TOB and commended them for their alertness, dedication and operational commitment. He emphasised the importance of maintaining high levels of vigilance and ensuring close coordination among all security agencies to effectively address emerging security challenges.

The DGP was accompanied by the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone Tejinder Singh, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban (DKR) Range Sargun Shukla, Deputy Inspector General, Udhampur-Ramban Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda.

An official said that during the visit, senior officers reviewed security arrangements, operational preparedness and counter-terrorism measures being implemented by the joint forces in the region.

“They also assessed the prevailing security situation and discussed steps to further enhance inter-agency coordination, area domination and surveillance across the strategically sensitive belt,” he added.

The visit was part of ongoing efforts by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies to strengthen the security grid and reinforce arrangements in vulnerable and strategically significant areas. (KNO)

Tanvir's remarks

the progress made by Kashmiris, who, he said, had moved from poverty to educating their children and producing doctors and engineers.

“Maybe this was his intention: that we have come here from that poverty, where we educate our children. We are making our children doctors and engineers,” Omar said.

The CM also alleged that the BJP and PDP were playing the “match” together and had a common agenda in raising the issue. “Tanvir does not need to apologise for this. Nor does he need to give any clarification. Nor does my party need to apologise for this. Tanvir did not do anything wrong,” he said.

Vande Mataram row On the Congress opposing the singing of the full stanzas of Vande Mataram at government functions, the Chief Minister said the government was bound to follow the law as long as the existing legal provisions remained in force.

He said the National Conference had never accepted Vande Mataram as a party and would not accept it in the future, but said it would fulfil its legal and statutory obligations.

“If the Congress government comes, I pray that the Congress government comes as soon as possible and abolishes this in Parliament. Let them do it. We have no objection,” he said. “However, as long as the law exists, we have to follow it.”

Omar said the function involving two Governors, the Lieutenant Governor and the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court, would necessarily include the National Anthem. He said under the existing provision, the full stanzas of Vande Mataram had also become compulsory at such government functions.

He said the provision was applicable across the country and not merely to Jammu and Kashmir, including in states governed by the Congress.

He further said failure to comply with the provision could lead to legal action. “So what does the Congress want? For Kashmiris to be imprisoned with this excuse? This is a statutory obligation,” Abdullah said.

On Kashmiri Pandit employees' accommodation

Responding to a protest by Kashmiri Pandit employees over accommodation, Omar questioned the basis of the protest, saying those for whom transit accommodation was ready had already been allotted accommodation.

“Not a single one is on the road. Not one of them is homeless. Where the transit accommodation is ready, they have been allotted,” he said.

He asked which Kashmiri Pandit employee was currently without accommodation and said anyone genuinely facing the issue should approach the authorities.

On filmmaking opportunities for local youth

The Chief Minister reiterated the government's efforts to create opportunities for local youth in filmmaking and related fields. “I said on the first day itself that we are trying to get our local kids to do camera work, production, all these things. They should do courses in this. And there should be film shootings here,” he said.

He said local youngsters should be given opportunities to work in the film and production sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Delhi summit, Cabinet meeting

On the upcoming summit in Delhi, the CM said a major event was scheduled for September 12, with leaders from Russia, China, South Africa and Brazil among those participating.

He said a Cabinet meeting had also been called, noting that the government holds a Cabinet meeting every month. “The governance agenda cannot be stopped,” Omar said, adding that the summit would not affect the government's functioning or its regular governance work. (KNO)

‘J&K's peak power

The Gol had also said that the actual power supply position of the region jumped from 13,119 MU in 2014-15 to 20,166 MU in 2025-26 that amounts to a massive 53.7% increase in available energy. (KNO)

World Suicide

experiencing severe psychological distress may show warning signs, including persistent hopelessness, withdrawal from family or friends, talking about being a burden, loss of interest in everyday activities or significant changes in behaviour.

However, experts caution that no single sign necessarily means that a person is suicidal. Rather, noticeable and sustained changes in behaviour or emotional well-being should prompt a supportive conversation and, where necessary, professional assessment.

Dr Guroo said people should not hesitate to ask directly if they are worried that someone may be considering suicide. “A direct and compassionate question can open a door for someone who has been suffering in silence. Asking about suicidal thoughts does not put the idea into a person's mind,” he said.

He stressed that listening without judgment is often the first step towards helping a person in crisis. “People in distress do not always need immediate advice. Sometimes they first need someone who will listen, stay connected and help them access professional support,” he said.

Tele-MANAS provides round-the-clock support

With mental-health services increasingly being made accessible through telemedicine, Tele-MANAS has emerged as an important avenue for people seeking psychological support.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare says the national Tele-MANAS service provides mental-health support through 14416 and 1-800-89-14416, with services including counselling, clinical interventions, follow-up and referral to in-person care where required.

Dr Guroo said easy access to support is particularly important for people who may hesitate to immediately approach a hospital or mental-health facility.

He said suicide prevention begins well before a crisis reaches a hospital and requires families and communities to take emotional distress seriously. (KNO)

'All set for BRICS 2026!': PM Modi shares video of preparations at venue ahead of mega Summit

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday shared a video clip featuring a montage of visuals of the decorated Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the BRICS Summit, and the preparations for the mega conclave.

The nearly 30-second video, pepped up with catchy background music, was shared by the prime minister on Instagram, X and other social media platforms.

"All set for BRICS 2026! @brics2026," Modi posted.

The video contains visuals of the Bharat Mandapam, the sprawling complex in central Delhi, which has been decked up for the Summit that is being held on September 12-13 under India's chairship.

Modi had inaugurated the Bharat Mandapam complex in July 2023, ahead of the G20 Summit which was then hosted by India.

With New Delhi putting the finishing touches on the summit, China has confirmed President Xi Jinping's attendance, marking his first trip to India after a seven-year gap.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir



Putin, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto are among the top leaders attending the crucial meet in the national capital.

The main road facing the Bharat Mandapam complex has been decked up and several prominent roundabouts have also been illuminated ahead of the big-ticket event in the national capital amid

heightened security.

In the post shared by Modi, the video depicts the architectural details of the complex, the design elements, decor, the Summit room, meeting rooms, the tall Nataraja statue installed in front of the main building, as well as flags of India and other countries.

BRICS, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, was

expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year.

It emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade. India is a founding member of the BRICS and has previously held its chairship three times, in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

The country assumed its fourth BRICS chairship on January 1, and has since then hosted a large number of meetings under various thematic tracks such as finance, environment, diplomacy, law, culture and tourism.

India is steering the BRICS grouping as a vital complementary platform to champion the Global South's core developmental priorities, top Indian officials said on Thursday.

PM Modi meets Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, discusses partnership

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 10: Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, 50th Imam of the Ismaili Muslims, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, and the two discussed India's partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in agriculture and rural development, among other areas.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V began his India visit on September 9 following an invitation from Vice President C P Radhakrishnan. He will be in India until September 15.

"Happy to meet His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V. Fondly recalled his father, the late Aga Khan IV and his enduring contributions to development efforts. Discussed ways to further strengthen our partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network in healthcare, agriculture, rural development, youth and women empowerment," Modi said in a post on X.

In a statement, the prime minister's office said Modi appreciated AKDN's

longstanding contributions in India, particularly in sustainable urban development, water conservation, healthcare, rural sanitation, skill development for youth and women empowerment.

Modi also commended AKDN's pioneering efforts in preserving India's cultural heritage through the restoration and rejuvenation of historic sites across the country.

"His Highness the Aga Khan reaffirmed AKDN's commitment to India's inclusive growth and social progress. He appreciated India's transformative development initiatives and shared his perspectives on the role of innovation in advancing human welfare," the statement said.

Aga Khan will be visiting Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad, where the AKDN is involved in various development and community initiatives.

This is his first visit to India since his accession as the 50th Imam of the Ismaili community.

EC recognises TVK as registered political party

CM Vijay thanks people

PTI

Chennai, Sep 10: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Thursday said the EC has recognised his TVK as a registered political party in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and allotted it the "whistle" election symbol.

Hailing the electoral mandate for his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, which he launched two years ago, Vijay outlined his government's priorities while reflecting on the party's performance in the 2026 Assembly elections.

In a message to his supporters posted on X, the CM described the TVK's rise in the 2026 Assembly elections as an "unprecedented miracle" in Tamil Nadu politics.

"The Election Commission of India has announced your Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam as a registered political party in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Union Territory," he told his followers and supporters.

"With 35 per cent of the votes, you have elevated the TVK to the status of the single largest party," Vijay said, adding, "Honouring your verdict, with the support of democratic forces, I stand committed to the ideal of an honest, corruption-free administration."

The party secured 35 per cent of the votes in the recent Assembly election, 27 months after its formal launch, he said, reaffirming the state government's commitment to "secular social justice" and transparent governance.

He pledged to repay the electorate's faith through sustained public service and welfare initiatives across the state.

Stressing the ideological roadmap of the secular social justice alliance, Vijay expressed gratitude to the Tamil community, party cadres and campaign organisers whose efforts supported the TVK's first electoral campaign.

IMF welcomes India's efforts to modernise statistical framework



PTI

Washington, Sep 10: Amid the ongoing debate over the credibility of India's latest GDP estimates, the IMF has welcomed the country's efforts to modernise its statistical framework, saying the incorporation of a new Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Producer Price Index (PPI) series should help improve the accuracy of GDP estimates. "The lat-

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

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

macroeconomic statistics.

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

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

"This upward surprise was driven by stronger-than-expected activity in the services sector, and also in exports," Kozack said. "I think what we would say is the outcome also underscores the resilience of the Indian economy, despite the energy price shock. And it also means that, you know, as we've been saying for quite some time, that India does remain a key growth engine for the world," the IMF official said.

Provisional answer keys released for UGC-Net re-exam for 3 subjects: NTA

PTI

New Delhi, Sep 10: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Thursday released provisional answer keys for UGC-NET re-exam of English, Commerce and Sociology, officials said.

"UGC NET June 2026 provisional answer keys for the examination of English, Commerce and Sociology are now available. Candidates can submit challenges from 10 to 13 September 2026 through the official portal," the NTA said in a post on X.

The NTA had last month announced the retest for three papers of the UGC-NET June 2026 examination -- English, Commerce and Sociology -- following complaints about several errors in these papers.

The English paper was on September 9 from 9 am to noon in first shift, while the Commerce paper was conducted the same day from 3 pm to 6 pm in second shift.

The Sociology paper was held on September 10 from 9 am to noon in first shift.

WB CM issues 'strict medicine' warning to 'anti-national' sympathisers at Jadavpur University

PTI

Kolkata, Sep 10: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenudh Adhikari on Thursday launched an unprecedented attack on Jadavpur University's Left-leaning teachers and students, stating sympathisers of "anti-national forces" on the campus require to be administered "strict medicines".

Adhikari was defending the West Bengal Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which was introduced and passed by members with 171-15 votes during a special session of the state Assembly.

The Bill empowers the government to transfer teaching and non-teaching staff from one state university to another, among a total of eight such institutions across the state.

Adhikari directed a sharp barb at those "unhappy" with government service conditions and the proposed transfer mechanism, asking them to quit their jobs.

"Those who are facing much difficulty with these conditions of government jobs are welcome to quit. Hang a shoulder bag, become a full-time worker and sell Ganashakti (CPI(M) mouthpiece). Once in a while you can also go around the New Market area collecting donations with a tin container in your hand," he said.

"Those who give appointment also retain the right to set the conditions of appointment. The appointees have no such right," he asserted. Speaking of the rationale behind the transfer provisions, Adhikari said faculty and employees could be deployed to newer or weaker universities to strengthen those institutions.

The CM said Bengal wasn't the first to implement such a transfer policy, and stated that the provision already exists in states like Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

"This process has also begun in Gujarat and Bihar. We got this done before them," Adhikari said. Responding to a question from opposition MLAs, Adhikari said the state had constitutional powers to make laws in matters concerning education since the subject falls under the concurrent list of the Constitution.

He also clarified that the amended Act will take precedence over all previous Acts of the state on the particular subject or on individual Acts governing the universities.

Name exclusion complaints will be '110 pc' resolved before next LS polls: CEC

■ Hails Special Intensive Revision



PTI

Ahmedabad, Sep 10: After the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, complaints received regarding name exclusions will be "110 per cent resolved" before the next Lok Sabha elections, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said on Thursday.

During an event at the Ahmedabad Management Association, Kumar also said everyone has the right to criticize in a democracy.

"We should have stronger and stronger shoulders to take these bullets every single day," asserted the CEC, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat.

Asked whether thousands of complaints received during the SIR exercise could be resolved before the next Lok Sabha elections, he confidently said, "110 per cent".

SIR had happened earlier in 2003-04, he added.

"Our focus is to clean the roll of those who are absent, shifted, death, duplicate and foreigners. As a constitutional authority, we depend on documents. Regarding foreigners, we depend on documents. You have to provide your documents or your parents' documents to prove you are Indian," he said.

There can be two categories, either one does not have documents or one is a foreigner, Kumar opined.

"If your name is not in the electoral rolls, you can complaint to SDM. If it is rejected you can appeal to district collector and second appeal can be filed to state CEO (Chief Electoral Officer). Then you can go to court," he said.

After SIR in some 12 states, poll authorities have received zero appeals

against name deletion, Kumar said, adding that he monitors the process regularly.

The conditionality is that one has to be eligible, and the Constitution or the election commission cannot help "if you are not eligible", Kumar said.

"In a democracy everybody has the right to criticize. We should have stronger and stronger shoulders to take these bullets every single day," he said.

He was replying to a question on whether a line can be drawn with regards to relentless criticism of Election Commission of India by some that it affects the faith of common people in the constitutional body.

"I do not think we can draw a line. Any number of lines you can draw and every one of them will be breached. It is OK to take the criticism," he added.

India's election system is a vast and transparent mechanism that successfully keeps the world's largest democracy vibrant and is conducted in strict adherence to the Constitution, election laws, and the directives of the Election Commission of India, Kumar said in his speech at the event.

Organizing Lok Sabha elections in a country with approximately 900 million (90 crore) voters constitutes the world's largest electoral exercise, he pointed out.

"Approximately 18 million (1.8 crore) personnel are engaged in election duties during general elections. The successful conduct of elections involving such a vast workforce and electorate stands as a testament to the unique capability of India's election system," he said.

The distinctive feature of India's electoral process is the participation of representatives from political

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Zia u din S/o: Mohammad Yousuf Shah R/o: Magreepora.
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Mohamad Shah Dio: Zia u din Shah as 21-01-2013 at Guru Hospital.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Sameer Ahmad Dar S/o: Mohd Ramzan Dar R/o: Khawfa Gilgad.
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death)

...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Mother namely Raja Begum w/o: Mohd Ramzan Dar as 24-06-2014 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation.If the date fixed is declared holiday,the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

Chinese President Xi Jinping to arrive in India for BRICS Summit

PTI

Beijing, Sep 10: Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit India this week to attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the foreign ministry announced on Thursday.

This will be Xi's first visit to India in nearly seven years.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Xi will attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 12 to 13, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

During his visit, Xi is expected to meet Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the summit, according to sources here.

The visit is expected to be a high-profile diplomatic engagement with implications for the ongoing efforts to stabilise bilateral ties between the two Asian powers as well as for BRICS cooperation amid a volatile global situation, particularly the West Asia conflict and the Russia-Ukraine war.

As the current chair of the influential grouping, India will host the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12 and 13 in New Delhi.

Xi last visited India in 2019 for an informal summit with Modi in Mamallapuram near Chennai.

He had earlier visited Goa in 2016 to attend the BRICS summit and made his first visit to India in September 2014, when he held extensive talks with Modi. The 2014 visit came during the first terms of both leaders.

Xi's forthcoming visit is significant, as it comes amid efforts by India and China to normalise relations after a prolonged freeze following the 2020 Eastern Ladakh standoff. Ahead of Xi's visit, National Security Advisor



Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held extensive talks in Beijing last month on the boundary issue, maintaining peace and tranquility along the border and steps to improve bilateral relations.

During the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks held in Beijing on August 25, the two sides reached an eight-point consensus and agreed to advance discussions on an "Early and Substantial Harvest" of boundary delimitation and border management.

Against the backdrop of these substantive discussions on the boundary and wider bilateral issues, a Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit is expected to be closely watched for indications of the future course of India-China relations.

The New Delhi BRICS summit will bring together the world's major emerging economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

platform for emerging economies to advocate for greater representation in global governance, reform international financial institutions, strengthen trade and investment links, and advance sustainable development goals.

According to Chinese officials, Xi's participation underscores Beijing's continued commitment to the BRICS framework and its role in shaping a more inclusive global order.

The discussions are expected to cover a wide range of shared interests, including expanding intra-BRICS trade, strengthening payment systems, boosting cooperation in science and technology, addressing climate change, and coordinating positions on major international issues.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last

year.

It emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade.

In a media statement, the Ministry of External Affairs had said India's BRICS chairship is guided by the theme: 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', reflecting Prime Minister Modi's vision of a people-centric approach rooted in the spirit of 'Humanity First'.

India is a founding member of the BRICS and has previously held its chairship three times, in 2012, 2016 and 2021. India assumed its fourth BRICS chairship on January 1. The year 2026 also marks a milestone as BRICS completes 20 years since its establishment.

Over the years, BRICS has steadily evolved into a comprehensive framework for cooperation across the three foundational pillars of political and security, economy and finance, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Philippines ferry fire kills 5, Dozens Missing



AP

Manila, Sep 10: Rescuers struggled on Thursday to get into a passenger ferry that had caught fire and burned overnight off the western Philippines, leaving five people dead and 86 missing, officials said. By nightfall, search and rescue operations were halted but were to resume in the morning.

So far, 43 people have been rescued, coast guard spokeswoman Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said.

The ferry MV June Aster was afloat but listing off the town of Coron after the fire that started on Wednesday evening. Smoke still rose from the charred vessel by midday Thursday.

Cayabyab said authorities were still trying to confirm reports that two foreigners were onboard, checking the

names on the manifest and coordinating with local government officials and the shipping company on the identities of the fatalities, survivors and missing.

According to the manifest, 134 people were onboard, 117 of them passengers and 17 crew. The vessel had a capacity to carry 306 passengers and 27 crew.

The 53-metre-long ferry had sailed from the capital of Manila and was near its destination of Coron in Palawan province when the fire was reported by the shipping company around 6:45 pm on Wednesday, the coast guard said.

Rescuers have been trying to enter the ship but have encountered difficulty because of thick smoke. "Our objective now is to enter the ship, to check the situation so we can assess

the situation," Cayabyab said. Later on Thursday evening, search and rescue operations were suspended and will resume in the morning, she added.

Cayabyab said it was unclear what caused the fire, which one survivor said may have begun in the cargo hold, and the coast guard was coordinating with the shipping company and maritime authorities to get more details.

The survivor reported "a loud explosion, then followed by smoke and fire," she added. "As per the testimony of the survivor, everything happened quickly; within seconds the fire spread."

A coast guard ship and high-speed response boats were joined in the search and rescue by a military vessel and other government boats, volunteers and

fishermen.

The coast guard made a radio broadcast to ships nearby to be on the lookout for passengers of the ferry. It has also coordinated with coastal villages in case some passengers drifted to the shore.

Images of the Wednesday night rescue efforts showed coast guard personnel tossing life jackets to survivors as the ferry burned in the background. Passengers were helped into smaller boats taking them to shallow water, and body bags were laid out at what looked like a port.

Bad weather and big waves challenged rescuers. The ferry was around 4 nautical miles off the village of Turda when it sent a distress signal but strong sea currents had dragged it to a distance of 7.68 nautical miles off Turda.

Coron is a popular tourist destination known for clear blue waters, limestone cliffs and rock formations.

Ferries are frequently used for transport in the Philippine archipelago. Sea accidents are not uncommon due to storms, badly maintained vessels, overcrowding and spotty enforcement of safety regulations, especially in remote provinces. In 1987, the ferry Dona Paz sank after colliding with a fuel tanker in the central Philippines, killing more than 4,300 people in the world's deadliest peacetime maritime disaster.

Zelenskyy arrives in Canada seeking more military support for Ukraine



AP

Calgary, Sep 10: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in Canada on Thursday for talks with Prime Minister Mark Carney, his latest international trip aimed at locking in future support for Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion.

Ukraine is under pressure from Russia's air war, which is using ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones to pierce defences. Moscow's attacks have targeted Ukraine's power grid ahead of the upcoming winter as part of its campaign to demoralise civilians, Ukrainian officials say. Recent US efforts to stop the more than four years of fighting have delivered no significant breakthrough, although Washington-brokered talks between delegations from Moscow and Kyiv are expected to continue.

"The main focus will be on supporting Ukraine in protecting our skies and preparing for the winter," Zelenskyy said of his Canada trip in a social media post. "We will discuss how to strengthen our resilience, support our people, and ensure that Ukraine has the capabilities it needs to defend itself." Zelenskyy's

arrival on Wednesday night in Calgary, Alberta, came the day after his flight from Moldova to Norway was delayed when authorities closed Moldova's airspace because of a drone incursion.

The aerial drone battle between Russia and Ukraine has grown in scale since Russia's all-out invasion in February 2022, and Ukraine's neighbours Romania and Moldova have reported repeated drone incursions.

A Ukrainian sea drone wounded 28 people, including two children, on the waterfront in the Russian city of Sochi, local officials said. They said that beach infrastructure had been damaged but did not provide further details. Russia's Ministry of Defence said Thursday that its forces shot down 448 Ukrainian drones overnight. The drones were destroyed over 13 Russian regions, as well as the annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and the Black and Caspian seas, the ministry said. Falling debris from a Ukrainian drone set fire to a home in Russia's southwestern Voronezh region, killing one woman and wounding two other people, local Gov. Alexander Gusev said Thursday.

Plenty of motivation to keep moving forward: Mohammed Shami



PTI

Chennai, Sep 10: Mohammed Shami has not played for India since March 2025 but the veteran pacer on Thursday asserted that his motivation level has not dipped, and is still eyeing the "next level" in his career.

Shami's last Test appearance was even further back during the World Test Championship final against Australia at the Oval in 2023. "There are plenty of reasons to stay motivated if you look for them. At this level, if you aren't self-motivated, your approach is wrong. No matter what stage you're playing at, your eyes must always be set on the next level," Shami said after the Duleep Trophy final in which East Zone defeated South Zone on the basis of first innings lead.

The 36-year-old took two important wickets of Ravichandran Ashwin and Sheikh Rasheed to rock South's middle-order in the title clash here.

It helped East wrap their rival's first innings for 336 and gain a match-defining lead of 372 runs.

Shami was delighted that East Zone's title win coincided with his 100th first-class game.

"As far as satisfaction goes, achieving this in my 100th match—and that too in a winning Duleep Trophy final—is special. East Zone has won this after a very long time. You've seen how we performed. "Every single boy put his heart and soul into this campaign to get us here. To achieve this in these conditions, in this heat, is outstanding. As for me, whether it's your first match or your 100th, it doesn't matter—the effort and the approach remain exactly the same," he said.

East zone lifts Duleep trophy after 13-Year title drought

PTI

Chennai, Sep 10: East Zone translated their complete dominance over the last 12 sessions into a Duleep Trophy victory after 13 years, overwhelming South Zone on the basis of a massive first innings lead on the fifth and final day of the final here on Thursday.

East Zone sauntered to 388 for seven in their second innings, swelling the overall lead to 760 runs even as the match ended in a draw.

Mohammad Kounian Quraishi joined the list of century-makers in this match with an unbeaten 116, his maiden three-figure mark in two-match-old first-class career.

Quraishi, who added 150 runs with Anukul Roy (64) for the seventh wicket stand, reached the milestone in 179



balls with a brace off left-arm pacer CV Milind.

But way before the teams shook hands at 2.10 pm signalling a draw, East had wrested the trophy after posting a mammoth 708 runs in their first innings, which helped them construct a 372-run lead.

East's second innings was a mere continuation of their show of power in the match.

Starting the day from 217 for five, the Ishan Kishan-led side, as it happened in the first innings, was seldom troubled by direction-less South bowlers.

Seasoned Mohammed Siraj bounded in for a while, showing intensity and pace. While it was satisfactory from a personal point of view, the effort remained futile otherwise. The lack

of support for Siraj and a toothless batting effort also reflected the flawed selection as far as South squad is concerned.

The South management chose to ignore in-form and proven players such as Karun Nair, Mayank Agarwal and Sai Kishore and the replacements never really could step up.

But plenty of East Zone players did that. Skipper Kishan made a stunning 270 in the first innings to underline his red-ball readiness while veteran Mohammed Shami, who was playing in his 100th first-class match, put to shame some younger names with a spirited effort. Kumar Kushagra scored his sixth first-class hundred while his Jharkhand team-mate Shikhar Mohan made a fifty filled with class and poise.

October 2027 still far away: Rohit on WC

PTI

Mumbai, Sep 10: October 2027 is still far away, said star Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma on Thursday as he responded to a query on whether he would play the ODI World Cup at that time.

The one-line response came on the sidelines of an event here, a rare comment from the former captain amid swirling speculation around his participation in the mega-event and the course his career will take given he longer plays the T20I and Test formats.

"October 2027 is far away,

we will see about it then," said Rohit when asked about his participation at the Global Fintech Fest by a member of the audience here.

The 2027 ODI World Cup is to be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

He was also asked whether, in case of an Indian title win, there would be an open bus parade to celebrate with fans much like 2024 when the team led by Rohit carried out a victory parade in Mumbai after its T20 World Cup triumph in the West Indies.

"....I do not think a bus parade would be possible

now," Rohit replied.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has made it clear that there is no room for speculation around the batting great as he batting well. Rohit had scored a century in his last outing for India in ODIs.

"He is playing superbly in all matches. So what more do you want? In the last match (against England), he scored 138 runs, so why is there speculation? I do not want to give some fodder for the speculators," Saikia told reporters after the BCCI's review meeting here at its headquarters some days ago.

