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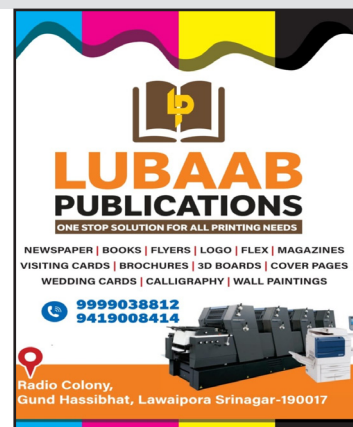
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15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless

Admin on High Alert as J&K
Braces for Heavy Rain, Snowfall

■ HT News Desk / KINS

SRINAGAR, OCT 04: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has gone into high alert mode following a severe weather advisory, predicting widespread rain and snowfall across the Union Territory from October 5 to 7, 2025.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Srinagar, an active Western Disturbance is set to affect both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing moderate to heavy snowfall over higher reaches and heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of the Jammu division.

The system is expected to be most intense from the evening of October 5 till the afternoon of October 7.

The affected areas in the Kashmir region include Anantnag, Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shopian, Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg, and Kupwara-Sadhna Pass, where heavy snowfall is likely. Light snowfall is also expected in mid-altitude areas, while the Kashmir plains may experience moderate



to heavy rainfall. Parts of Jammu division could witness thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms, and winds gusting up to 60-70 kmph, the IMD said.

In response, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as per news agency Kashmir Indepth

News Service (KINS) has directed all administrative departments to remain fully prepared to tackle any eventuality.

"Our priority is the safety of every citizen. All district and divisional

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BJP To Contest Polls For All Four
Rajya Sabha Seats In JK

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: The BJP on Saturday decided to contest all four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir that are lying vacant since February 2021. The election for these seats is scheduled for election on October 24, a year after the Assembly polls in J&K.

The core committee of the party, which met here today, is learnt to have prepared a panel of four, including Sat Sharma, Dr. Nirmal Singh, Ravinder Raina and Sunil Sethi, for contesting the polls.

Sharma is president of the J&K unit of BJP, while Singh is a former deputy chief minister. Raina lost the Assembly elections against the National Conference candidate Surinder Choudhary who is now the deputy CM of J&K. Sethi is the chief spokesman of the BJP in J&K.

With its strength of 28 in the 90 member Assembly, the BJP can win only one Rajya Sabha seat. However, the PDP and Peoples Conference, which shared power with the BJP in J&K, have not yet opened their cards on the issue of support in these elections. It is to be seen which way the AIP of the detained Engineer Rashid goes.

The panel of BJP probables will be sent to the party high command for the final decision.



The core committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Tarun Chugh, BJP national general secretary. Sat Sharma, J&K BJP chief and union minister Dr. Jitendra Singh were among those present.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing a historic transformation in governance and development. He stressed that

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JKBOSE Class 10 Exams Begin Nov 3

15% Relaxation in Syllabus Granted

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 04: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has notified the date-sheet for Class 10th Annual/Regular, 2025 (Oct-Nov session), scheduling the examination from November 3 from 11 am to 2 pm.

In all, nearly 95,000 students

from Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division including students from Ladakh UT are expected to take up the exam, which the Government has restored back to October-November session.

As per the date-sheet, the exams will commence on November 3 for Mathematics subject followed by Social Sci-

ence on November 7.

The examination for Science subject has been scheduled on November 11 while English paper will be held on November 14.

The Urdu/Hindi papers have been scheduled on November 17, Computer Science on November 19 while as

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J&K Govt Kicks Off Budget Preparations For 2026-27

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, OCT 04: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has initiated an exercise to prepare the annual budget for the next financial year.

To begin with, the Finance Department has asked all departments to start the budget preparation for 2026-27.

"All administrative departments, Heads of Departments (HODs), Budget Controlling Officers, and Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) are requested to start the



budget preparation exercise for the year 2026-27 in right earnest, to enable examination, compilation, and consolidation of these estimates within the administrative departments for onward submission to the Finance Department," reads a circular issued by the Finance Department, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

As per circular, all administrative departments have been directed to submit their recommendations to the Finance

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J&K Govt Bans
Sale, Storage of Unsafe
Frozen Meat Products

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 04: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has imposed an immediate ban on the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution, and sale of frozen and chilled meat products that fail to meet statutory safety and labeling standards under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI), 2006.

The prohibitory order, issued by Smita Sethi, Commissioner of Food Safety (Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration), J&K, follows extensive inspections by the Food Safety Wing of the Drugs and Food Control Organization, during which large quantities of rotten, decomposed, and unlabelled meat products were found at multiple locations across the Union Territory. The unsafe stocks were subsequently seized and destroyed in accordance with law.

According to the order as per news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS), the seized products were missing mandatory labeling particulars such as the batch or lot number, date of manufacture, expiry date, storage conditions, FSSAI licence number, and manufacturer's details, all of which are required under the Food Safety & Standards (Labelling &

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IGP Reviews Policing Progress In Jammu,
Stresses Alignment With India 2047 Vision

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, OCT 4: Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti on Saturday reviewed the Action Taken Reports on various recommendations of multi-sectoral policing in the Jammu region and emphasised aligning all initiatives with the national vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

The review meeting, chaired by the IGP, was held in view of preparedness

ahead of the forthcoming 60th edition of the national conference of DGPs and IGPs to be held in Chhattisgarh next month.

"IGP chaired a meeting at the Zonal Police Headquarters in Jammu to review the progress on recommendations from the previous DGPs and IGPs Conference," a police officer said.

The high-level meeting was attended by top police officials of the region,

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Machail Mata Yatra
Suspended for 3 Days
Due to Bad Weather

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, OCT 4: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district suspended Machail Mata pilgrimage for three days from October 5 following an inclement weather advisory issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), an official said on Saturday.

Earlier, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board had also announced suspension of

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Srinagar Police Attaches Property Worth
₹2 Crore Belonging to Designated Terrorist

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 4: In a significant step towards dismantling Terror networks and their support structures, Srinagar Police has attached a three-storey residential house constructed over 15 marlas of land (Survey No. 43 min, Estate Khushipora), located at Rose Avenue, HMT. The property, valued at approximately ₹2 Crore, stands recorded in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh S/o Khawja Anwar Sheikh, father of designated terrorist "Sajad Ahmad Sheikh @ Sajad Gul", as per rev-

enue records and verification from Tehsildar Central, Shalteng, Srinagar.

The attachment has been executed in connection with FIR No. 235/2022 under sections 13, 38, 20 UAPA and 2/3 EIMCO Act, registered at Police Station Parimpora.

Proceedings were initiated under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), empowering authorities to attach properties used or intended to be used for terrorist activities. The action was carried out in the presence of the concerned Executive Magistrate.

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Div Com Urges BSNL to Cover Shadow Areas

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 04: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to address ongoing network coverage problems in shadow areas across various districts, including Srinagar, Kupwara, Shopian, and Anantnag. The meeting highlighted the need to improve mobile connectivity in these areas, with a focus on the timely erection of telecom towers.

He instructed BSNL to submit a phase-

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Div Com Kashmir Reviews
City Decongestion
Measures

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 4: In a bid to streamline traffic mobility in city, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a high-

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LG Kavinder
Gupta Chairs Security
Review Meeting in
Ladakh

■ HT News Network

LEH, OCT 4: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, today chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the prevailing security scenario in UT Ladakh.



During the meeting, senior officials of the UT Administration, Ladakh Police, Army, and Central Armed Police Forces

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Citizen, Panchayat Participation Key to Clean, Green J&K: Javid Dar

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 04: Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K today organised the culmination ceremony of Swachhotsav 2025 at RDD Park, Harwan, marking the grand conclusion of the 15 day long Swachhata Hi Seva campaign across the Union Territory.

The event was graced by Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, as Chief Guest. He appreciated the active participation of citizens, panchayats and various stakeholders in the campaign, adding that their active participation is must for achieving the vision of a clean and green Jammu & Kash-

mir.

MLA Hazrabal Salman Sagar; Secretary RDD Mohammad Aijaz Asad; Director General Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Director Rural Development Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; other senior officers RDD, district administration and representatives of Swachh Bharat Mission were also

present on the occasion.

In his address, the Minister underscored the need to continue the cleanliness drive beyond campaigns and events, stressing that cleanliness should become an integral part of daily life and faith.

"Cleanliness is not just a duty, it is part of our faith. Every citizen must act responsibly to keep their

surroundings, water bodies, and public spaces clean. The true spirit of Swachh Bharat lies in sustained community participation," the Minister said.

He highlighted that clean water bodies are lifeline for communities, and protecting them from pollution must remain

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Admin on High.....

administrations must stay alert, ensure readiness of control rooms, and respond swiftly to any distress calls,” the CM said in a review meeting.

KINS further reported that Divisional Commissioners of both Jammu and Kashmir have activated all field officers, including those from district administrations, police, PWD, PDD, and health departments, to remain stationed at their respective headquarters and coordinate immediate response measures in case of emergencies.

“All departments have been put on standby, particularly those handling essential services and transport. Our teams are closely monitoring river levels, road conditions, and weather updates,” a senior official from the Divisional Commissioner’s office told KINS.

Meanwhile the DMRRR in an advisory has cautioned that the weather system could lead to:Disruption of surface transport, including the Jammu–Srinagar and Srinagar–Leh National Highways.Land-slides, mudslides, and shooting stones in vulnerable areas. Waterlogging in low-lying regions due to rising water levels in rivers and streams.Damage to crops and horticulture, prompting farmers to halt field operations between October 5 and 7. Power and communication outages in some snow-affected and high-altitude areas.

The department has urged citizens to remain vigilant, follow official advisories, and avoid unnecessary travel during the peak weather period.

The department has also issued safety guidelines:

Do’s: Stay indoors during heavy rain, snowfall, or thunderstorms.Keep emergency supplies such as food, water, medicines, torches, and batteries ready.Drive cautiously and avoid unnecessary travel. Secure rooftops, farm equipment, and loose objects.Ensure the safety of elderly, children, and specially-abled members. Move to safer locations if advised by authorities.

Don’ts:Do not venture into flooded rivers, streams, or nallas.Avoid touching fallen electric wires or exposed electrical equipment.Refrain from traveling on landslide-prone or snow-covered roads.Do not engage in outdoor activities during hail storms or strong winds.Avoid staying in avalanche-prone or snow-laden structures. Do not block natural drainage channels.

Emergency Contact Details:Helpline: 112. Landline: 0194-2502254, 0194-2950767. Mobile: 7006067453, 9086131746

The Union Territory Emergency Operation Centre (UTEOC) at Hari Niwas, Gupkar Road, Srinagar, has been fully activated, with disaster management teams, police, and local administration on standby for rescue and relief operations.

Authorities have appealed to citizens to follow only official updates issued by the IMD and DMRRR and avoid spreading unverified information on social media.

“The situation is being closely monitored. We urge people to remain calm, stay informed, and cooperate with the administration to ensure everyone’s safety,” a senior DMRRR official said.

BJP To Contest.....

the implementation of public welfare schemes must reach every beneficiary, ensuring transparency and last-mile delivery. He said that the collective resolve is to intensify organizational activities, strengthen public outreach, and make every citizen a partner in India’s journey towards self-reliance.

Meanwhile, The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a key meeting of its Core Committee at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review organizational progress, assess the prevailing political situation, and strategize future public outreach initiatives.

The meeting was chaired by Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary and Prabhari for J&K, and attended by Sat Sharma, President J&K BJP, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), along with senior party leaders including Dr. Narinder Singh, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, Dr. Nirmal Singh, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Ravinder Raina, and other key office bearers and functionaries.

The committee reviewed the successful completion of the Sewa Pakhwada 2025—a fortnight-long nationwide campaign organized from September 17 (Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s birthday) to October 2 (the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri). The campaign saw massive participation across Jammu & Kashmir, featuring activities such as cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, plantation initiatives, Ayushman Bharat awareness programmes, and welfare outreach for the underprivileged.

Addressing the meeting, Tarun Chugh described Sewa Pakhwada as a powerful medium to connect directly with people through meaningful service. He said the

campaign was not only a tribute to Prime Minister Modi but also a reaffirmation of the BJP’s core philosophy of Seva, Sushasan aur Gareeb Kalyan (service, good governance, and welfare of the poor). He urged party workers to continue this spirit of service throughout the year and act as ambassadors of public welfare and good governance.

Sat Sharma, while highlighting the ongoing Aatmanirbhar Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan, said the campaign—launched on September 25, the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, and culminating on December 25, the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee—aims to make self-reliance a people’s movement. “On the call of Prime Minister Modi, BJP will ensure this mission reaches every section of society, promoting Vocal for Local and empowering villages, farmers, youth, women, and the poor,” he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh lauded the transformative governance and developmental strides being made in Jammu & Kashmir under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership. He emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and last-mile delivery of welfare schemes to ensure that every beneficiary is reached. “The collective resolve must be to intensify organizational work, strengthen public outreach, and make every citizen a stakeholder in the journey towards self-reliance,” he added.

Ashok Koul called for stronger coordination among party functionaries, greater engagement at the grassroots, and a renewed commitment to carry forward the message of Seva, Swadeshi, and Self-Reliance to every household in Jammu & Kashmir.

JKBOSE Class.....

vocational subjects paper will be held on November 21. Subjects with smaller number of candidates like Home Science will be held on November 23, Music on November 25 and additional/ optional subjects including Kashmiri/ Dogri/ Bhoti/ Punjabi/ Arabic/ Urdu/ Hindi/ Persian/ Sanskrit on November 24.

The examination will conclude on November 27 with Painting/ Art and Drawing subject papers scheduled on that day.

In consideration of the disruptions in the academic calendar caused due to heat wave, torrential rains/ cloudbursts and floods, the JK BOSE has granted concession of 15% syllabus, making attempt of 85% marks equivalent to 100%.

The J&K BOSE has urged students to prepare seriously for the examinations while renewing its commitment to conduct the exams in observance of high standards of transparency.

The BOSE has exhorted invigilatory staff to be completely professional while discharging their duties in order to safeguard the purity and integrity of exams and requested school education department to extend cordial support in smooth and fair conduct of the examination.

J&K Govt Kicks.....

Department no later than October 30, after due scrutiny of the estimates.

“All administrative secretaries are requested to send budget proposals in respect of each HOD to the Finance Department by the notified date,” the circular states.

The calendar for discussion of departmental budget proposals shall be notified separately.

As per the circular, budget preparation at the Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) and Head of Department (HOD) levels shall be completed by October 20 and October 25, respectively.

According to guidelines issued by the Finance Department, the Revised Estimates for 2025–26 and Budget Estimates for 2026–27 shall be prepared against sanctioned posts for filled positions only, without any provision for vacant or deputational posts.

“A separate statement showing provision for vacant posts for 12 months in Budget Estimates 2026–27 and for six months in Revised Estimates 2025–26 shall be appended with the budget proposals,” the guidelines state.

The Finance Department has also directed that no creation of posts shall be anticipated or budgeted for in either the Revised Estimates 2025–26 or the Budget Estimates 2026–27 for the ensuing financial year.

According to the department, both the Revised Estimates for 2025–26 and Budget Estimates for 2026–27 related to works shall be projected by each HOD, DDO, and Budget Controlling Officer in consultation with the respective MLAs.

“Revised Estimates 2025–26 under CDF, DDC/BDC, and PRI/ULB grants shall be projected within the available grants, in consultation with Hon’ble MLAs, DDCs, BDCs, and PRI members,” the guidelines emphasise. (KNO)

IGP Reviews.....

both in person and through video

conferencing.

“During the session, the IGP reviewed the Action Taken Reports on various recommendations from earlier meetings, covering a wide range of contemporary policing and internal security issues such as cybercrime, technology in policing, counter-terrorism challenges, and reforms related to the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in law enforcement,” he said.

Officers were also encouraged to devise national-level strategies for law enforcement and to innovate to bring measurable improvements in police functioning, the officer said.

The IGP emphasised aligning all initiatives with the national vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

He underscored the importance of timely compliance with pending directives and ensuring that national-level policing guidelines are implemented in letter and spirit.

Chhattisgarh is set to host for the first time the All-India DGP-IGP Conference next month, where issues related to internal security, ongoing operations against Naxals, and cybersecurity will be discussed.

The 60th edition of the three-day conference, beginning November 28, will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while the valedictory session is likely to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

About 250 officers in the ranks of DGP and IGP are expected to physically attend the meeting, while more than 200 others will participate virtually.

A separate preparatory meeting was held today, under the chairmanship of Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, to review arrangements for the forthcoming National Police Commemoration Day, to be observed on October 21.

The IGP Jammu underscored the importance of the day, noting that Police Commemoration Day is not only a solemn occasion to honour the supreme sacrifices of police martyrs but also an opportunity to reinforce the bond between the police and the public.

He called upon all officers to ensure that the events are conducted in a dignified and seamless manner befitting the occasion.

Div Com Urges.....

wise report detailing all existing telecom tower sites & stages of work and urged to initiate the construction of towers at locations where land has already been transferred to the telecom company.

Regarding revenue & land transfer issues, District administrations were directed to resolve any revenue-related issues to facilitate the land transfer process for the timely completion of tower installation in shadow areas.

He emphasised on eliminating duplicate entries from the combined list of proposed tower sites to avoid redundant efforts and to streamline the process.

To address concerns regarding the erection of a tower near the Dachigam Wildlife Park, Div Com directed officials to find an alternative location for the tower at Mulnar to avoid potential conflicts with the park’s conservation efforts.

He instructed BSNL officers to adopt a proactive approach to pursue the cases with district administrations and other concerned officers.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Shopian; Additional Commissioner Kashmir; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Kupwara & Anantnag; Assistant Commissioner Central, DGM BSNL, OSD to Div Com and other officers.

Div Com Kashmir.....

level meeting with stakeholder departments to review ongoing and proposed measures aimed at decongesting major & interior roads in Srinagar city.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairpersons of LCMA, SDA, SSP Traffic Srinagar, ADC Srinagar, Chief Engineer R&B, Joint Commissioner SMC, and representatives from the Wildlife, Transport, and JKRTC.

The meeting held threadbare discussions on development of Multi-Level Parking at different locations, Widening of Boulevard Road, development of Smart City charging Infrastructure, operationalization of ITMS camers and traffic signals, regulation of E-Rickshaws and framing of Policy for influx of used vehicle.

On the occasion, he laid emphasis on expediting the creation of multi-parking facilities, particularly in high-density areas such as Nishat, Shalimar Bagh, Jama Masjid, Sanat Nagar, Bemina, and Batamaloo.

The meeting also discussed impact of the widening Boulevard Road to ease traffic pressure and enhance tourist and local movement besides allowing one-way traffic from Dalgate to Nehru Park.

Also, the meeting discussed the introducing one-way traffic movement on selected interior roads. It was decided to

start the initiative on the pilot basis to assess its effectiveness before wider implementation.

Development of charging infrastructure for Smart City electric buses to avoid bunching of e-buses was also discussed.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) to adhere to the committed timelines for the operation of traffic lights and ITMS cameras at 66 key junctions.

Further, Div Com urged to encourage private landowners along Boulevard Road to partner with the administration by lending land for parking purposes on tripartite basis.

He also called for regulation of e-rickshaws and demarcation of ‘No-Go Zones’ to reduce congestion on main roads.

The meeting deliberated on the need for a policy to regulate the increasing number of used vehicles being brought into Kashmir Valley.

To ensure effective execution, Div Com directed all departments to categorize proposed measures into short-term, mid-term, and long-term actions. He stressed on inter-departmental coordination and strict adherence to timelines to deliver impactful results.

Garg also emphasized for removal of bottlenecks across key corridors and urged all departments to work collectively to improve the urban transport ecosystem in Srinagar.

J&K Govt Bans.....

Display) Regulations, 2020. In several cases, the available information was either illegible or incomplete, making the products unsafe and misleading for consumers.

The Commissioner noted that under Section 3(1)(zz) of the FSSA, 2006, such food items fall within the definition of “unsafe food”, thereby attracting penal provisions under Chapter IX, including Section 59 of the Act.

Citing the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing & Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011, the order reiterated the minimum statutory standards for handling and storing frozen and chilled meat products, which include:Frozen meat must be stored and transported at –18°C or below;

Chilled meat must be maintained at 0–4°C for short-term handling;

Frozen meat should carry a “date of freezing” and must not be sold beyond 12 months from that date;

E-commerce deliveries must ensure at least 30% of total shelf life or 45 days before expiry, whichever is earlier, remains at the time of delivery;

Storage and transport facilities must have calibrated temperature monitoring devices with proper records;

The meat product label must clearly specify the animal species (e.g., goat meat, chicken, buffalo meat, etc.).

The order further stated that, as per Section 18(1)(f) of the Act, if there are reasonable grounds to suspect a food may pose a risk to human health, the Food Authority and the Commissioner of Food Safety are bound to take preventive measures and inform the public about the nature of the risk and actions taken.

Sethi emphasized that the action is being taken under Section 30 of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, empowering the Commissioner of Food Safety to prohibit the manufacture, storage, or sale of any food article in the interest of public health for a specified period.

“Having regard to the inspection findings and the potential health risk involved, a condition exists across the Union Territory that requires immediate preventive action in the interest of public health,” the order reads.

The ban will remain in force until further orders or until the administration is satisfied that the health risk no longer exists. (KINS)

Machail Mata.....

the pilgrimage during the same period as a precautionary measure.

Sixty-five persons, mostly pilgrims, were killed and more than 100 injured, and 32 others remain untraced following a cloudburst in Chisoti, the gateway village to the Machail Mata shrine on August 14. In another incident, 34 pilgrims lost their lives and 20 others were injured in a landslide along the Vaishno Devi track on August 26.

In view of the inclement weather advisory issued by the IMD, the movement of pilgrims towards the Machail Mata shrine shall remain suspended from October 5 to 7 as a precautionary measure, Kishtwar

District Magistrate Pankaj Kumar Sharma said in an order.

He said the decision has been taken in view of the forecast of adverse weather conditions, including heavy rainfall and potential landslides in the region.

“No pilgrim shall be permitted to proceed towards the shrine during the said (suspension) period,” Sharma said, requesting cooperation from all stakeholders and the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, authorities have issued advisories urging people to remain vigilant and avoid flood-and landslide-prone areas in the Doda district, following the IMD’s weather alert predicting rains and snowfall from October 4 to 7.

Doda Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh said that the residents should stay away from rivers and other water bodies and urged nomadic families not to camp near riverbanks. He further advised that pregnant women and critical patients be shifted to safer locations in advance.

“We have made all the arrangements. Teams of snow clearance and road clearance have been put in place. Route safety is our priority,” Singh told reporters in Doda.

Srinagar Police.....

Though the property is registered in the name of the terrorist’s father, investigation has revealed that Sajad Gul is an active stakeholder. He has been involved in facilitating terrorism, running anti-national propaganda, and inciting disaffection against the Government through various online and social media platforms.

This attachment forms part of the ongoing strategy of Srinagar Police to disrupt the financial, logistical, and operational networks of terrorism, including their cross-border sponsors and sympathizers.

The action sends a clear message that individuals or entities aiding terrorism will face strict legal consequences, including the forfeiture of illegally acquired assets.

Srinagar Police reaffirms its unwavering commitment to uphold the rule of Law, protect Peace and Public order.

LG Kavinder.....

briefed the Lt Governor about the present situation.

Speaking at the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor said, “The Administration is committed to maintaining peace, safety, and stability across Ladakh. Vigilance and preparedness remain key to addressing any emerging challenges.”

The meeting also discussed the roadmap for phased relaxation of restrictions, with Shri Kavinder Gupta emphasising that any easing of measures would be implemented carefully, balancing public safety with resumption of routine socio-economic activities.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the people of Ladakh for their exemplary restraint and cooperation, stating, “The cooperation and resilience of the people is instrumental in restoring normalcy in the region.” He further stressed the importance of continued coordination with security agencies to maintain peace, harmony, and stability in Ladakh.

The meeting was attended by senior officials of the UT Administration, heads of security agencies, and representatives from the Army and Central Armed Police Forces.

Citizen, Panchayat.....

our top priority.

He urged people to ensure that waste is managed at source and to actively support initiatives under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen for solid and liquid waste management.

Earlier, Javid Dar also laid the foundation stone for a new Community Facilitation Centre (CFC) at Harwan, aimed at strengthening local governance and improving public service delivery in the area.

The culmination ceremony witnessed vibrant participation from students, PRI members, officers, SHG members, and sanitation workers, who showcased their contributions through photo exhibitions, cultural performances, and waste-to-wealth displays highlighting innovative local efforts toward a cleaner environment.

The event concluded with a pledge on cleanliness and environmental responsibility, reaffirming the collective commitment to sustain the momentum of Swachhata Hi Seva and make Jammu & Kashmir a model of rural sanitation excellence.



Ganderbal Schools Gaining Momentum Under the Leadership of CEO Oneel Kumar Bhat

■ **Rayees Ahmad Kumar**

GANDERBAL, OCT 04: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir had announced the celebration of "Sewa Parv" from September 17 to October 2nd, 2025. As per an order issued weeks ago, the initiative aimed to promote public service, community participation, and inclusive governance. During this period, various activities centered around service and social responsibility were organized across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Sewa Parv is a national public service and cultural initiative in India, promoting the concept of "Sewa" (selfless service) as a form of patriotism and a path to a "Viksit Bharat" (developed India) by 2047. The observance, which took place from September 17th to October 2nd, focused on activities such as cleanliness drives, environmental action, community engagement, and cultural awareness, fostering social responsibility and cultural pride among citizens. In Ganderbal, under the dynamic lead-



ership of Chief Education Officer Mr. Oneel Kumar, all the schools of the eighteen clusters, from the very first day of the Sewa Parv program, geared up to showcase commendable performance by actively participating in all the activities as per the pre-issued calendar. Soon after the culmination of the morning assemblies, students, along with their teachers who acted as mentors, enthusiastically engaged in the scheduled activities. Geo-tagged photographs and videos were uploaded on the designated links for submission to higher



authorities. The entire course of events was systematically monitored by the district headquarters monitoring team. This program commenced on the very first day with cleanliness drives, where all students and staff members actively participated in cleaning classrooms, corridors, playgrounds, and the surrounding school premises. It was followed by a series of activities such as a "Say No to Drugs/Tobacco Campaign," which included poster-making and essay writing competitions aimed at spreading awareness among the

general public about the harmful effects of drugs and tobacco. Some of the notable highlights of the Sewa Parv program included Disaster Management Drills, where students were trained to respond effectively during emergencies and extend help to those in need; Plantation Drives, during which students and teachers pledged to plant and protect trees to make the environment more sustainable; and Donation Drives, through which students and staff collected old books, stationery items, clothes, and shoes to distribute among

underprivileged children. The Sewa Parv program concluded with the celebration of the 156th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 02-10-2025 across all educational institutions of the district. The main UT-level function was held at SKICC Srinagar, where the best-performing districts were felicitated by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji. In the school category, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Manigam, Ganderbal, was adjudged as the best-performing school and honored during the grand event. When the name of Chief Education Officer, Mr. Oneel Kumar Bhat, was announced to receive the award, the jam-packed hall of SKICC resonated with thunderous applause. Photographs and videos of the moment, showing the CEO receiving the award from the Hon'ble LG, went viral on social media, drawing immense appreciation. Teachers and officials of the district flooded congratulatory messages, proud to learn that BHSS Manigam had been recognized as the best-performing

school at the UT level. This achievement stands as a moment of pride and prestige, especially under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Hakeem Nazir Ahmad, the worthy Principal of BHSS Manigam. His consistent guidance and dedication enabled not only his own students but also the schools of the entire cluster to perform exceptionally well. His tireless efforts throughout the program ensured that every school remained vibrant, engaged, and enthusiastic—culminating in well-deserved recognition at SKICC Srinagar. Both educators and parents—the primary stakeholders of the education system—unanimously acknowledge that under the capable leadership of CEO Ganderbal, Mr. Oneel Kumar Bhat, the district's educational landscape is reaching new heights and making steady progress every day. His vision and dedication to transform the educational landscape of Ganderbal, are truly commendable. Nation needs such officers in education sector to give it a new and positive direction.

Mega Awareness Programme on Substance Abuse Held at GDC Kulgam

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, OCT 4: A mega awareness programme on substance abuse was organized today at Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam, jointly by the Chief Medical Officer Kulgam, GDC Kulgam, and the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC). The day-long event witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and civil society representatives, who gathered to raise awareness about the growing menace of drug addiction and the importance of



timely intervention.

Medical experts and resource persons, including Dr. Zubair Ahmad, Dr. Nadeem, Dr. Humayun, and Consultant Nusrat, addressed the audience and elaborated on the harmful physical, psychological, and social consequences of substance abuse. They emphasized the need for affected individuals to seek rehabilitation, counselling, and community support. Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), who was the chief guest on the occasion, said that a strong institutional framework has been established at district, block, and panchayat levels to effectively tackle the issue. He highlighted the role of the NCORD Committee, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, in coordinating anti-drug initiatives and ensuring strict enforcement of laws, following a zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse. Prominent speakers at the event included Chairman GCC and retired IAS officer Khurshid Ahmad Ganie, retired IFS officer Manzoor Ahmad Tak, Principal of GDC Kulgam Prof. Mohammad Abass Shah, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Showkat Ahmad, who also spoke in detail about the social and health impacts of drug addiction.

Adding a creative touch to the programme, students of GDC Kulgam presented cultural performances with powerful anti-drug messages, which were well-received and appreciated by the audience.

The event marked a collective effort to foster awareness, encourage dialogue, and mobilize community action to combat substance abuse in the region.

Students Step Inside Police Station: Bandipora Police Hosts Awareness & Quiz Programme

Familiarises Students with Policing, Laws & Traffic Management

■ **Aashiq Hussain**

BANDIPORA, OCT 3: In a unique initiative to strengthen community-police relations, Bandipora Police, in collaboration with Elixer Garden School, Aloosa, organised an educational programme at the Police Station Bandipora.

Around 50 students participated in the programme, where they were familiarised with the functioning of a police station and introduced to traffic management systems. The students were also briefed about the newly introduced criminal laws to enhance their



awareness of the legal framework.

To make the session more engaging, a quiz competition was held within the police station

premises. The winners of the competition were felicitated by SHO Bandipora, Inspector Iftikhar Ahmad, who encouraged the stu-

dents to stay informed, disciplined, and responsible citizens. The initiative was widely appreciated as a step towards nurturing trust and

understanding between the police and young learners, while also helping to spread awareness about law, order, and civic responsibility.

Drug Control Authority Conducts 23 Inspections in Anantnag; Action Taken Against Violators

■ **HT News Desk**

ANANTNAG, OCT 4: Acting on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, the Drug Control Department today carried out a comprehensive inspection drive across various locations in the district to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. A total of 23 inspections were conducted at medical sale establishments in Ganjiwara, Harnag, Takiya Behram Shah, and Railway Road. A joint team of Drug Control Officers led the inspection campaign.

During the drive, most shops were found in compliance with the mandatory surveillance equipment and computerized billing systems. However, two pharmacies—Al Noor Pharmacy, Harnag, and JB Pharmacy,



Harnag—were suspended on the spot for failing to maintain proper records of Schedule H1 medicines, a key requirement for tracking certain prescription drugs. Further, two licenses have been recommended for cancellation—SAP Pharmaceuticals and Surgicals (Ganjiwara) and Tabeeb IVF Center (Nanda Pharmacy), Railway



Road—for violating various provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the rules framed thereunder.

The Drug Control Authority reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safe, regulated sale and purchase of medicines, thereby safeguarding public health and ensuring compliance with the law.

Body of Budgam Man Found in Srinagar

■ **HT News Desk**

SRINAGAR, OCT 4: The body of a man from Budgam district was found in the Parimpora area of Srinagar, triggering a police investigation into the circumstances of his death. Police said the deceased has been identified as Firdous Ahmad Hajam, a resident of Budgam. The body was spotted by locals near the roadside in Parimpora, following which police were informed. A police team from Parimpora Police Station reached the spot soon after receiving the information and took possession of the body. The area was subsequently examined, and forensic samples were collected as part of the preliminary investigation.

Officials said the body has been taken to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities, including a post-mortem, to ascertain the cause of death.

"Initial proceedings have been taken up, and the cause of death will be confirmed only after the autopsy report is received," a police officer said.

Proclamation Issued Against Wanted Militant in Kulgam Under BNSS

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, OCT 4: In a significant development, the Court of Special Judge (Designated Court under the NIA Act), Kulgam, has issued a Proclamation under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) against a wanted militant involved in several militancy-related activities in the district. The proclamation has been issued against Zakir Ahmad Ganie, son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Ganie, a resident of Mutalhama, Kulgam. The accused is wanted in connection with FIR

No. 200/2023, registered at Police Station Kulgam, under Sections 13, 16, 18B, 20, and 38 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for his alleged involvement in unlawful and terror-related activities.

The Hon'ble Court has granted the accused 30 days to surrender before the competent authority. Failure to comply will result in further legal proceedings in accordance with the law. Notably, this proclamation follows the issuance of an open-ended Non-Bailable Warrant (NBW) against the accused. Acting on the court's



directions, a police team led by DySP Headquarters Kulgam pasted the proclamation notice at the accused's residence and

other prominent public places in the village to ensure wide dissemination and public awareness. This action marks another step

in the ongoing crackdown on absconding militants and reflects continued efforts to dismantle the militant support infrastructure in the region. Speaking on the development, SSP Kulgam, Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS), stated "The law will take its due course against those involved in militancy. We remain committed to ensuring peace, stability, and the safety of our citizens. Such actions reflect our firm resolve to bring every offender to justice and eliminate the menace of militancy from the district."

PCCF inspects Karnah Range, Kehmil Forest Division Kupwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 04:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force (HoFF), J&K S. K. Gupta, undertook an extensive tour of the Karnah Range under the Kehmil Forest Division Kupwara today, to inspect various infrastructure projects, review forestry works and interact with field staff and locals.

The PCCF inspected the Forest Rest House (FRH) TP near Bungus Valley and the Sadhna Top forest area, assessing the protection and maintenance of key forest assets.

He also reviewed the status of boundary pillars installation

and Soil Conservation works being executed in various places in Karnah, emphasizing the need for robust forest demarcation and Soil and moisture conservation measures.

Further inspections were carried out at the Block Officer's (BO) Hut at Teetwal. He also inspected and reviewed the Trek route development from Teetwal point to Simari, last village in Karnah. PCCF gave directions for development of Ecopark in Karnah and upgradation of Forest Rest House Teetwal.

The visit also included a review of greening initiatives, particularly the progress on the plantation in various Compartments like Co 21/kh, 32/kh and



33/ Kh and beautification drive around religious places of im-

portance, including the Sharda Peeth temple in Teetwal and the

Jamia Masjid in Karnah. During his visit, the PCCF held

interactions with Army Commanders stationed in the area, seeking their continued support and collaboration for accelerating greening and plantation activities, particularly in vulnerable and border areas.

While reviewing the progress of strategic roads, border area tourism, and pilgrim tourism, PCCF underscored the role of the Forest Department in facilitating sustainable development without compromising ecological integrity.

Addressing the forest staff, the PCCF directed them to adopt a people-friendly administrative approach and focus on sustainable forest development, ensuring the local community ben-

efits from forest conservation and eco-tourism initiatives.

On the occasion, the Conservator of Forests North Circle Irfan Ali Shah briefed the PCCF about the Ecotourism and Greening initiatives taken in the area under various development schemes in recent months.

The PCCF was accompanied by a team of senior officers, including Irfan Rasool, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; Irfan Ali Shah, Conservator of Forests, North Circle; Faisal Farooq, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Kehmil Forest Division; Deputy Director, Forest Protection Force (FPF), Kehmil, Shamsul Haq and other concerned officers.

ADC Budgam reviews Winter Preparedness in district

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 4:

In view of inclement weather conditions forecasted by the IMD, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness of all concerned departments.

The ADC directed officers to put in place a robust and comprehensive mechanism to mitigate public inconvenience.

He directed Executive Engineers, including the mechanical engineering wing, to formulate a detailed plan for snow clearance and restoration of road connectivity. He stressed to prioritize roads based on their strategic importance and traffic volume to ensure essential services and movement are not disrupted.

All Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been instructed to establish Control Rooms at their respective Sub-Divisional levels. These control rooms will function as the nodal points for public grievances and will monitor the daily progress of winter management efforts on the ground.

The Executive Officers of all Municipal Committees have been tasked with creating a dedicated plan to look after the sanitation, and sensitize the people not park their vehicles along the road side or even in the lanes which hinder the snow clearance efforts.

The PDD department has been directed to carry out advanced pruning of trees along power lines to prevent their uprooting from heavy snow, which is a major cause of power outages and damage to infrastructure.

The department was directed to keep adequate stock of transformers available at the district headquarters to mitigate the need during the winters.

The Assistant Director FCS&CA has been directed to create and maintain an advance buffer stock of essential commodities, with a special focus on ensuring the seamless supply to people living in the higher and remote reaches of the district.

CMO Budgam has been instructed to ensure the round-the-clock availability of paramedical staff and an adequate supply of medicines and medical equipment at all health centers to handle any winter-related emergencies.

Emphasizing the need for a seamless inter-departmental response, the ADC stated, "There shall be close coordination between all departments to achieve the best outcomes for the public conveniences. Our objective is to pre-empt challenges and ensure that the people of Budgam face minimal hardship this winter."

The meeting was attended by ACR Budgam, CPO Budgam, all SDMs, CMO, all Executive Engineers, Officers of Municipal Committees, AD FCS&CA and other concerned.

DLSA Budgam Conducts Legal Awareness Program for Jail Inmates at Central Jail Srinagar

LADCs deputed to educate inmates on their legal rights, entitlements, and access to justice

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 04:

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, organized the chain of events under the leaderships of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Arun Palli, and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar.

The programmes were conducted under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum and under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Budgam, O.P. Bhagat, and under the guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak.

The objective of the events/

programmes was to educate jail inmates about their legal rights and entitlements at various stages of the criminal justice process specifically during Pre-Arrest, Arrest, and Remand and to verify the status of sentence completion remission, Parole & release orders, record any instance of over incarceration etc.

DLSA Budgam had deputed its LADC's viz Lateef Ahmad Khan (Chief LADC), Nazir Ahmad Wagay (Deputy LADC), and Yawar Ali (Assistant LADC) to the central jail Srinagar who held discussions with the jail inmates and also covered essential legal aspects such as bail, parole, and furlough, with the aim of empowering prisoners to understand and assert their rights effectively. LADCs checked with the Jail authorities the status of the sentence comple-

tion etc. identified the UTP's for UTC and deliberated upon the assignments.

On the occasion, Chief LADC Budgam, elaborated on Access to Justice at the Pre-Arrest, Arrest, and Remand Stages, emphasizing the importance of seeking timely legal aid and assistance. He also discussed the concepts of parole and furlough, explaining their procedures and benefits for eligible inmates.

Deputy LADC Budgam, highlighted the legal rights of individuals during the pre-arrest, arrest, and remand stages. He focused on key aspects such as bail, detention, the right to legal representation, and provisions related to premature release, parole, and furlough of prisoners under the Prisoners Rules, 2022.

Assistant LADC Budgam, spoke

on the procedures concerning premature release, parole, and the rights of under-trial prisoners. He also interacted with prison authorities and inmates, stressing the importance of adhering to the latest Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and ensuring that the legal and human rights of prisoners are duly protected.

They also discussed the NALSA (Access to Legal Aid Services to Prisoners and the Functioning of Prison Legal Aid Clinics) Scheme, 2022, highlighting the role of Jail Visiting Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) in ensuring effective implementation. It was emphasized that the Prison Legal Aid Clinics (PLACs) must ensure that every prisoner receives legal assistance to file and pursue appeals before the Courts within the prescribed

time, thereby preventing the denial of the right to challenge convictions and sentences due to lack of legal representation.

The PLACs were also urged to ensure that no prisoner remains in custody beyond the sentence imposed by law.

The awareness programme marked a significant step towards empowering jail inmates with knowledge of their legal rights and facilitating their access to justice.

The DLSA, Budgam, reiterated its commitment to providing legal aid and assistance to the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society, including prisoners. The authorities expressed confidence that such awareness initiatives will play a vital role in promoting the cause of justice and ensuring that the rights of under-trial prisoners are protected and upheld.

DC Shopian Releases Annual Publications, District Statistical Handbook

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 4: The District Statistical Handbook 2023-24 was today released by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta during an event here.

The event was organized by the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Shopian which was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz CPO and other district officers.

The DDC appreciated the initiative of the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer and emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate and up-to-date statistical data for effective planning and monitoring of developmental activities in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer said that the handbook is a comprehensive compilation of authentic data from all major sectors, including



population, health, education, agriculture, industry and rural development. She added that the publication aims to serve as a reliable reference for administrators, planners, researchers and the general public to facilitate evidence-based planning and informed

decision-making.

The officer expressed her gratitude to all line departments for providing the requisite data and appreciated the efforts of her office staff for their dedication in compiling and finalizing the document.

Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir Reviews Dachigam Sheep Breeding Farm Relocation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 04: Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah, today reviewed the progress of work on the ongoing project for the Relocation of Sheep Breeding Farm from Dachigam to Khimber, Srinagar.

The review meeting was conducted at the project site, where detailed discussions were held regarding the pace of work and requirements for its early completion. The Director stressed upon the executing agencies to maintain inter-departmental coordination and ensure timely removal of all bottlenecks hampering the project.

He directed the officers to strictly adhere to the quality standards during execution and called for expediting civil, electrical and allied works so that the farm becomes fully operational within the stipulated timeframe.

The Director reiterated that the Department is committed to strengthening the infrastructure of sheep husbandry in Kashmir. He said the relocation project will not only enhance the breeding facilities but will also help in introducing modern practices, boosting the overall productivity of the sector and ensuring better services to sheep breeders.



While interacting with the officers, Dr. Shah highlighted the importance of Sheep Breeding Farms in meeting the growing demand for quality livestock and emphasized that such projects play a crucial role in augmenting the rural economy by supporting farmers and pastoral communities.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Division Dalgate, concerned AEEs, Deputy Director SBF Khimber, and officers of the farms. The participants assured full cooperation and pledged to work in synergy for the successful and timely completion of the relocation project.

DC Rajouri reviews safety measures amid adverse weather forecast Stresses on readiness of essential services, amenities

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 4:

In view of the adverse weather forecast, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review preparedness measures and ensure the safety and well-being of the people, particularly those residing in snow-bound and far-flung areas.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of high altitude roads in Budhal and Thanamandi, with special focus on roads providing connectivity to Army posts, and directed the concerned authorities to remain alert and ensure timely clearance of snow and restoration of connectivity. He further instructed the officers to



disseminate messages among the tribal population in the upper reaches regarding the weather situation.

Reviewing the power supply

scenario, the DC directed the Power Department to take adequate measures for uninterrupted electricity supply to vulnerable areas. He asked the de-

partment to provide protective gear to field staff for their safety. He emphasized on identifying gaps at the ground level and staying fully prepared to address any emergency.

The Sheep Husbandry Department was instructed to spread awareness in local languages so that herders can easily report about emergency situation and seek help in case of any eventuality. The Education Department was directed to conduct safety audits of all Government schools, as also ensure similar audits are carried out in private institutions.

The DC also reviewed the preparedness of SDRF and directed the department to conduct drills to ensure readiness for any exi-

gency. The Health Department was instructed to strengthen Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in far-flung areas to meet healthcare needs during adverse weather conditions.

The meeting was attended by ADC Chander Prakash; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; SE Tilak Raj; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; DySP Satish Kumar; Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Ex. En PDD, Ex. En PHE, Deputy Controller SDRF and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

Additionally, ADC Kalakote Tanvir Ahmed, ADC Kotranka Dilmir Choudhary, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa and ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma participated in the meeting virtually.

Series of Collaborative Programmes Kickstart at Gurez

Efforts Hailed by Tribal Farmers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 04: In a major step towards strengthening the agricultural landscape of Gurez Valley, a series of collaborative programmes were launched by Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS) in partnership with KVK/MAR&ES Gurez.

The initiative aims to enhance productivity, promote niche crops, and uplift tribal farmers through technological interventions and hands-on support.

The programmes were conducted across various pockets of the valley, including Koragbal, Naibasti (Bagtore), and the remote Angaikoot Tulail, drawing overwhelming participation from the local tribal farming community.

Providing an overview of the first event at Naibasti, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Lone, Professor and PIAICRP on Pulses, highlighted that Rajmash holds immense potential as a major crop in Gurez. He stressed that



adopting the package of practices developed by the institute would significantly boost both yield and quality.

Dr. Seerat-un-Nissa, Associate Professor, emphasized the importance of soil health and adherence to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for maximizing returns under Gurez's unique agro-climatic conditions.

At Koragbal, the team underscored the role of fodder oats (Var. SFO-01) introduced under HADP:15 (Rainfed), as a sustainable solution to address fodder scarcity in the region.

Continuing their outreach, another programme was held at Angaikoot Tulail as part of the University's flagship initiative for the conservation of local Gurezi sheep and improvement of fodder availability under HADP:01 (Seeds).

To support farm operations and reduce drudgery—particularly among farm women—various farm tools and prototypes were distributed among the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, Head KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, expressed deep gratitude to Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, for his visionary leadership, and appreciated the continuous support from Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, and Director Research, Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik.

Dr. Malik reaffirmed the commitment of KVK/MAR&ES to work on niche crops and organic cultivation models to enhance productivity and income of Gurezi farmers.

During the events, Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq, Dr. Shahida Altaf, and Dr. Touseef Ahmad also shared their insights for the benefit of the farming community.

The participating farmers hailed the initiative, expressing sincere gratitude to SKUAST-Kashmir for conducting such impact-driven programmes in one of the most far-flung tribal regions of the district.

ADDC Shopian reviews progress under Mission Yuva, Dharti Aabha & Adi Karmayogi

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 04: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone reviewed the progress of Mission Yuva, Dharti Aabha and Adi Karmayogi here at Mini-Secretariat today.

The meeting was convened to take stock of the ongoing activities and progress achieved under the said programmes and to formulate future strategies for their effective implementation in the district.

At the outset, ADDC highlighted the objectives of Mission Yuva, Dharti Aabha and Adi Karmayogi, stressing that these initiatives are aimed at empowering youth, creating livelihood, opportunities, strengthening self-employment avenues, promoting sustainable agriculture, ensuring skill development and building capacity of various sections of society. He emphasized that coordinated action plans are crucial for maximizing the impact of these programmes on the ground.



The ADDC reviewed department-wise achievements and sought inputs from the concerned officers regarding the present status of works and interventions being carried out. He laid stress on enhancing convergence among departments and directed officers to put in extra efforts for ensuring visible results.

ADDC directed for focussing on counselling, awareness and motivation programmes for youth to channelize their energies towards constructive and skill-based activities.

The Health Department was asked to strengthen health awareness and wellness initiatives, while Agriculture and allied sectors were instructed to frame innovative models for sustainable livelihood.

Banking institutions were directed to ensure hassle-free credit linkages for youth entrepreneurs and self-help groups, while Employment officers were asked to organize regular orientation and entrepreneurship development programmes. The NRLM and DIC were also advised to work in close coordination with field functionaries to facilitate community mobilization and enterprise development.

ADDC emphasized that Mission Yuva and related initiatives are not mere schemes but platforms to transform the potential of youth into concrete development outcomes. He impressed upon all officers to monitor field activities regularly, identify bottlenecks and ensure saturation of benefits under various schemes.

The meeting concluded with the commitment that all line departments shall work in synergy to make Shopian a model district in terms of youth empowerment, livelihood generation and inclusive growth.

The meeting was attended by District Programme Officer, ICDS, Zaheer Ahmed; SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer, Shopian along with BMO Keller, Chief Agriculture Officer, Lead District Bank Manager, Assistant Director Employment, District Aadhaar Manager and other concerned.

Poshan Project Reasi celebrates Poshan Maah at Agharjitto

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, OCTOBER 4: The Poshan Project Reasi today celebrated Poshan Maah with great enthusiasm at Lower Batora, Panchayat Agharjitto, as part of the ongoing nationwide Poshan Maah initiative. The event aimed to enhance awareness about nutrition, health and overall well-being among rural communities.

The event was chaired by District Programme Officer (Poshan Reasi) Sudarshan Kumar along with CDPO Reasi Suninderjeet Kour. She educated the participants about the objectives of Mission POSHAN and the significance of Poshan Maah celebrations in promoting healthy living and combating malnutrition.

As part of the celebrations, several engaging ac-



tivities were organized, including nutrition awareness sessions, demonstration of healthy recipes and interactive engagements with local women and children. These sessions emphasized the importance of balanced diets, child health and the effective utilization of various government nutrition schemes available to families in the region.

The celebration witnessed active participation from Panchayat members, Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, mothers and children from the local community.

The programme concluded with a message encouraging the community to adopt nutritious food habits and ensure the health and well-being of every child and mother in the district.

Shantamanu inaugurates Mega Science event at Jammu

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 4: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education department, Shantamanu inaugurated the 52nd Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2024-25 and Divisional Level National Science Seminar (NSS) 2025, held together as a Mega Science event at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo here today.

The event was hosted by the State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) J&K, Divisional Office Jammu and marked the divisional culmination of these nationally acclaimed science initiatives.

Joint Director DSEJ, Joint Director SCERT, Joint Director Central, experts from NCERT, New Delhi- Prof. Ramavater Meena and Prof. T. P. Sharma, National RSBVP Coordinator, students and other officers were present on the occasion.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from seventy young innovators, twenty seminar toppers and teachers from the ten districts of Jammu Division.

The ACS in his captivating address on the occasion, motivated the students to embrace curiosity, strengthen scientific foundations and step forward with confidence to shape



their future and wished them to begin their journey as innovators and leaders of tomorrow.

In her opening remarks, Joint Director SCERT, Prof. Sindhu Kapoor, praised the efforts of students and educators emphasizing SCERT Jammu's commitment to fostering scientific passion, creativity and innovation among the young minds for the betterment of the society.

Under the 52nd Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP), sponsored by NCERT, forty seven innovative models were exhibited under the theme "Science and Technology for Society". The exhibits addressed pressing issues like natural farming, waste management, and renewable energy solutions and were evaluated by an expert jury comprising faculty members of different colleges. Twenty-one outstanding models (three from each sub-theme) were shortlisted to represent Jammu Division at the 52nd Rashtriya Bal

Vaigyanik Pradarshani 2025.

The Science Seminar saw ten district-level winners delivering insightful presentations on the theme "Quantum Age Begins: Potential and Challenges." Their talks blended traditional wisdom with modern sustainability practices and were enriched by the expert inputs from Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, Professor of Agronomy, SKUAST-Jammu.

The first position was bagged by Thakur Anirudh Singh from The Nature Lap International HS Pouni (Reasi), Banshika Devi from Vikas Memorial High School Laiter, Reasi secured second place and Sachi Sharma from Spring Dale English School Changran stood third.

Thakur Anirudh Singh from The Nature Lap International HS Pouni (Reasi), securing first position will showcase his talent at the UT-level, with the opportunity to represent Jammu & Kashmir and showcase their talent at the National Science Seminar 2025 in Bangalore.

Deputy Secretary, School Education Department, in her concluding remarks, lauded the efforts of the students and SCERT Jammu for organizing such enlightening programs. She gave away the medals and certificates to the students in recognition of their remarkable efforts.

Mega Awareness, Distribution Camp organised at Achabal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 04: A

mega awareness and distribution camp was organised by the Department of Social Welfare, Anantnag in collaboration with the District Information Center, Anantnag and Cultural Wing, DIPR Kashmir today at Achabal.

Secretary DLSA, Fozia Paul graced the event as Chief Guest while SDPO Achabal attended as Guest of Honour.

Principal GHSS Achabal, TSWOs, officials of SW & other departments, civil society members and a large number of senior citizens attended the camp.

Addressing the gathering,

Secretary DLSA briefed about the legal services and rights available to the senior citizens and called for implementing holistic measures for the elderly and senior citizens so they age with respect and dignity. She advocated for a rights based approach to ensure social security and overall welfare of

senior citizens and other vulnerable sections of society.

On the occasion, officers from Social Welfare highlighted the services and facilities provided by the department to senior citizens such as Old Age Pension, Hearing Aids and Old Age Homes.

During the program, colorful

cultural items like skits and songs on rights of senior citizens and Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan were presented by the officers of Cultural Wing, DIPR Kashmir.

At the conclusion, carrom boards and other sports kits were distributed among the senior citizens for their recreation and psychological well being.

Judicial Academy organizes One Day Workshop on Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 at Mominabad

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 04:

Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, The Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy, the Judicial Academy organized a One Day Workshop on the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 – Law, Practice and Procedure at its premises in Mominabad, Srinagar, for Judges of the District Judiciary of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The programme commenced with the introductory remarks by Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta, who outlined

the objectives of the workshop and emphasized the increasing significance of arbitration as a preferred mechanism for resolving disputes.

The workshop was conducted by Advocate Manish Mehrotra who spoke on "Strengthening Arbitration and its Enforcement in India."

In his introductory remarks, he emphasized that the "foundations of arbitration lies on less technicalities and more on substantial justice".

Mehrotra provided an overview of the domestic arbitration ecosystem, highlighting current challenges such as high costs, delays, inconsistency in arbitral proceedings, and post-award enforcement delays. He emphasized that expeditious post-award enforceability is crucial and that



courts must remain conscious of this aspect to ensure the efficiency of the arbitration system.

He further noted a significant gap in the quality and training of arbitrators in India, advocating for robust panels and routine training programs for arbitrators, lawyers handling arbitration disputes, and judicial officers, un-

derscoring that capacity building must extend beyond the courts to the entire arbitration ecosystem.

Mehrotra also elaborated on the grounds for setting aside arbitral awards under Section 34. He also explained the role of courts in enforcing arbitral awards under Section 36 and the judicial approach to the con-

tentious debate of "seat versus venue." Drawing upon legislative amendments and judicial precedents, he stressed the need for consistency and efficiency in arbitral enforcement.

"Scope of Injunctive Relief under Section 9 of the Arbitration Act," was also discussed.

Mehrotra examined the com-

parative dimensions of Section 9 (court's power) and Section 17 (tribunal's power) in granting interim reliefs. He discussed injunctions, asset protection, status quo orders, and the standards of "just and convenient" relief, while also highlighting the limits of judicial intervention. He further addressed Section

29-A, dealing with courts' power to extend arbitral timelines, underlining the balance between efficiency and fairness.

Key highlights of recent amendments and landmark judgments were also discussed, with participants encouraged to reflect on their practical implications in arbitration proceedings.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session and feedback, where participants engaged in discussions on challenges faced in arbitral enforcement and interim reliefs.

The programme was marked by active participation and thoughtful discussions, reinforcing the Academy's commitment to equipping the judiciary with the necessary knowledge and skills to strengthen dispute resolution frameworks.

HT EDITORIAL

Mass Communication professionals crave for jobs

Public Relations is an important subject of Mass Communication & Journalism course being taught in the different universities and colleges of the country. The basic aim of this subject is to acquaint the students with the latest trends of the overall field of public relations. It is also done so that they deliver to the best possible level as and when they are asked to do so by a corporate house, government department or any undertaking.

It is quite unfortunate that the concept of public relations has not been understood by most of the people in Kashmir. It is due to this reason that the people who receive education in this field are kept at bay as and when any organization needs the services of a public relations officer or public relations specialist. Instead of appointing Mass Communication pass-outs the people at helm appoint youth who have got degrees in some other subjects. This has squeezed the job options for the Mass Communication professionals and they are at the receiving end.

In the other parts of the world the Mass Communication professionals have not to run after the jobs since there are many options available to them. Getting appointed as a public relations officer or public relations specialist is seen as a good option by the youth who received education in the subject of Mass Communication & Journalism. The public relations expert gives a new dimension to the functioning of a government department, corporate house or any other organization.

There is a general notion among the people that a person who has a degree in the subject of Mass Communication & Journalism can become a journalist only. This notion needs to be removed since there are many other job options for a Mass Communication & Journalism pass-out. But for this the people more so those who are decision makers in the government and private sectors need to be aware about the developments taking place on the ground.

These people should appoint the Mass Communication & Journalism professionals to the positions of public relations officers or public relations specialists. Once this happens then such professionals would understand that sky's the limit for them and they need not to be worried about their future. As on date the Mass Communication & Journalism professionals feel that they have been pushed to the wall since not many jobs are available to them in the field of Journalism and allied fields.

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Mother's Love Never Dies



■ Mool Raj

Every 18th January 1998, I revisit the memories. I remember the woman who taught me the meaning of sincerity, sacrifice, and silent strength. I remember the prayers she whispered, the dreams she nurtured for me, the dignity she carried. And I remember that while she may no longer walk beside me, she walks within me.

Love is not bound by time. It neither begins nor ends—it simply exists, eternal and unyielding. For most of us, this timeless love begins with our parents. They do not merely give us birth; they initiate a bond that is very strong and transcends mortality. Their love begins with our first breath, but it does not end with their last. When they pass, their love remains—etched into our memories, our values, our very being.

On 18th January 1998, this bond breached physically but did not end. My life changed irreversibly as my Beloved Mother Smt Nanti Devi passed away on this day and eternalised our love and liberated it from the mortal circumferences. Not only did that day mark the death of my Mother, and the birth of a new identity—an orphan, it also freed me from the restrictions of loving her when she was not beside. I was in my teens then, too young to fully grasp the magnitude of the loss. It is only with age and maturity that one begins to comprehend the true value of a parent, especially a Mother who is considered as Dearest One On This Planet Earth. And as the years passed, I came to understand that losing a Mother in your teenage years is not just a personal tragedy—it is a spiritual and emotional catastrophe.

In the early years, the pain was muted by confusion. I did not yet know what I had lost. But as I grew older, I began to feel the absence more acutely. The love I had for my Mother matured in her absence, and love that matures without presence becomes something deeper, more entrenched. It burns within you, like a fire that consumes but also illuminates. It transforms your life into a living flame of sacrifice, longing, and memory.

These twenty seven years have altered almost everything. From architecture to relationships, from life to livelihood, from priorities to preferences—everything has shifted. But one thing remains unchanged: The Love I carry for my Mother. It is a



love that has grown stronger with time, not weaker. It is a love that sustains me in a world full of covers and camouflages. The Mother is the backbone of the child. This truth resonates deeply with me. A Mother is not just a provider—she is a pillar. She makes us feel special, supports our aspirations, and helps us realise our dreams. She works tirelessly so that we may live without worry. As long as our Mother are alive, we are shielded from the harshness of the world. But when they die, the universe seems to collapse. It is as if the spine has been broken, and we are left unsteady, unable to stand to confront the world and its harsh nature.

I lost my Mother at a time when I was studying in Jammu University doing my PG in Environmental Science not even fully conscious of what loss meant. I did not realise then that I had lost the only person whose love was truly unconditional. Parents sacrifice their entire lives to build ours. They are the architects of our emotional and moral foundations. And when one of them is gone, especially the Mother, the scaffolding of our lives begins to tremble.

My Mother was the second name of glory and honour for me. Her sincerity still sustains me. In a world that often values appearances over authenticity, her integrity remains my guiding light. She was not just a woman of words—She was a woman of prayers. She would always pray for my success, just as my Father continues to do. And a Mother's prayer is like the prayer of a prophet for her nation. It carries weight. It carries grace. She who has a virtuous

Mother, her roots are strong." My Mother was virtuous, and because of her, I feel rooted even in her absence. She is the door to my dignity, the source of my strength. Her love was not loud, but it was lasting. It was not flamboyant, but it was foundational. My Mother Love was more in need of affection than affection needs a relationship. My bond with my Mother was built on deep affection. It was a relationship that did not require constant validation—it simply was. And that is why her absence feels so profound. Because the love did not die with her. It stayed. It grew. It matured.

Every 18th January, I revisit the memories. I remember the woman who taught me the meaning of sincerity, sacrifice, and silent strength. I remember the prayers she whispered, the dreams she nurtured for me, the dignity she carried. And I remember that while she may no longer walk beside me, she walks within me.

In a world that often forgets the quiet heroes, I choose to remember mine. My Mother there was not just a parent—she was a presence. And even in her absence, she remains the most powerful presence in my life.

As I mark his twenty seven death anniversary, I do so not with despair, but with reverence. Because love, as I have come to understand, does not end. It begins—and then it stays. Forever.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

World Teachers' Day – 5 October 2025

Education Must Become a Powerful Medium to Transform the War Mentality



■ Lalit Garg

World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on 5 October under the aegis of the United Nations. On this day, teachers in general, and some working and retired teachers in particular, are honored for their special contributions. The observance commemorates the joint conference held in 1966 by UNESCO and the International Labour Organization, where the status of teachers was discussed and recommendations were made. Since 1994, it has been celebrated annually in over a hundred countries, and in 2025 it marks the 33rd World Teachers' Day. This year's theme is "Redefining Teaching as a Collaborative Profession." The message is that teaching should not remain the responsibility of an individual alone. Teachers should share experiences with one another, adopt new technologies, and strengthen the education system collectively. In doing so, teachers will not only feel fulfilled in their profession but will also be able to provide better education to students. The theme highlights that in order to improve education; teaching must be elevated from an individual effort to a profession of collaboration and partnership. When teachers share ideas and distribute responsibilities, education becomes more effective and inspiring.

Teachers are not merely transmitters of knowledge; they sow the seeds of innovation, equality, and transformation in society. They inspire children to

dream and to dare to fulfill those dreams. Teachers are the ones who can truly deliver the message of peace and coexistence in the world. If they are given respect, support, and opportunities, then through education we can build an ideal society and a global structure of peace. In 2025, the largest assembly of World Teachers' Day is being held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

World Teachers' Day is not just a formality or an occasion to felicitate teachers—it is an opportunity to deeply reflect upon the state and direction of education. It is the time to ask what education is giving today, and what it ought to give. Why has education become merely a tool to increase hunger for jobs, business, and consumerism? Why have foundational values like morality, peace, coexistence, and non-violence disappeared from it? If the aim of education is only knowledge acquisition or employment, then it is incomplete. The ultimate goal of education is to make a human being truly human, to orient them toward coexistence, peace, and non-violence.

Today, the world is surrounded by fear, violence, war, and tension. Technology and science have given us facilities, but also the arms race, the stockpiling of nuclear weapons, and violent tendencies. In such a dire scenario, education cannot remain confined to textbooks. It must become a movement, a global campaign that plants the values of peace, non-violence, and harmony as a culture within every heart. Today's education system, influenced by Western consumerist culture, is producing a mentality of competition, profit, and ego. Children may obtain degrees in schools and colleges, but qualities like compassion, kindness, truth, friendship, and cooperation are not being cultivated within them. Since society is built by education, an incomplete education will only cre-

ate an incomplete society. Therefore, a new kind of education is needed—one that blends science and technology with spirituality and ethics, one that allows us to hear the "voice of the soul." Education must not only nourish the intellect but also nurture the heart and sensibility.

The greatest crisis facing humanity is war and violence. War is not only fought between armies; it lives in our thoughts, our desires, and our cultures. The role of education is to change this war-mentality. Education must teach children and youth that true strength lies not in violence but in non-violence, not in war but in peace. Mahatma Gandhi said, "If we are to have peace, we must begin with the children." This education must not be limited to curricula but should become part of daily behavior. Teachers themselves should embody peace, and through their conduct and lives demonstrate that conflicts are not resolved through weapons, but through dialogue and consensus.

Education cannot be left solely to government schemes or institutional structures. It must be carried forward as a movement—one that teaches non-violence, fosters a culture of dialogue, prioritizes humanity over divisions of caste, religion, and nation, awakens sensitivity toward the environment and nature, and encourages the spirit of cooperation. This movement will succeed only when teachers understand their role not just as transmitters of knowledge, but as guides to life itself. They must be like lamps, burning themselves to illuminate others. Their personality should radiate integrity, honesty, compassion, and service. A teacher should not only teach the syllabus, but teach life itself.

As one thinker said: "A teacher is not one who gives you knowledge of facts, but one who inspires you to think." For

this, not only an educational revolution but also a teacher revolution is needed.

Today, there is a need for teachers who can touch the hearts of children, who are not only concerned with careers but also with character-building. Education must not be only career-oriented but life-oriented. If the world is to have peace, if terrorism, violence, and wars are to end, then we must change the direction of education. Seeds of peace and non-violence must be sown in childhood. Conditions of non-war are not created merely by treaties, but by values. Education must become a stream of values. The new age of education must resolve to prepare human beings who excel not only in material prosperity but also in spiritual height—who do not create weapons but hold the lamp of compassion and cooperation in their hands—who do not believe in exploiting others but in sharing happiness.

World Teachers' Day reminds us that education is not merely the concern of teachers and students—it is the concern of all humanity. If we give the right direction to education, the world can become a heaven; if we give it the wrong direction, it can turn into hell. Today, we need not only a global education movement but also a teachers' movement in which every nation, every society, and every individual participates. The new education system will be the one that replaces the culture of war with the culture of peace, transforms violent tendencies into non-violent consciousness, and places cooperation in place of selfishness as the mantra of life. That will be the true celebration of education. That will be the real message of World Teachers' Day.

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The Veterans: Symbol of Pride and Peace



■ M S Nazki

The veterans: You're a Grand Old Flag, You're a high-flying flag. And forever in peace may you wave. You're the emblem of the land of love.....Only General Vicky the Lucky (hope you don't mind it sir.....we used this phrase for yourself Lt. General V. Lakhera)! Lucky we called you because you understand a man in uniform, few people can do that! You are lucky to have such a mindset!

I have done things that haunt me at night so you can sleep in peace. I have been away from my family for a long time so you can be safe with yours. I have sacrificed a lot in my life so you can live in freedom.....!

A veteran who comes home from war is returning from one of the most intense experiences a human being can have. Even if he was not under fire every day, he woke up every morning as part of a team. He started every day with a purpose, and a mission that mattered to those around him!

Surround yourself with fellow veterans. The patriots and the heroes. Those who raised their right hand and took an oath to defend freedom. But most of all surround yourselves with brothers and sisters who feel your pain, who know your struggles, and who would do anything for you and you for them,

The Director General Assam Rifles Outreach Drive Campaign involves initiatives to support and engage with their extended family, including veterans, widows, and their dependents through events offering healthcare, grievance redressal, and digital welfare services via the Sampark Setu app.

The campaign also promotes community engagement through activities like tree plantation drives, sports, and cultural events, aiming to strengthen bonds and foster goodwill between the Assam Rifles and the local populace in regions like Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Manipur.

Key Aspects of the Outreach Drive Campaign: Veteran and Family Welfare: Healthcare Support: Providing free medical check-ups and medicines to veterans and their families.

Grievance Redressal: Facilitating the resolution of veterans' grievances, with some resolved on the spot and others taken for further action.

Digital Services: Registering veterans on the Sampark Setu mobile app for digital access to welfare services.

ECHS and Bank Help Desks: Setting up help desks to assist with issues related to the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and banking services.

The ECCHS (Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme) and banks coordinate on financial matters related to the scheme, such as beneficiary reimbursement and contributions!

While specific bank help desks are not provided by ECCHS, beneficiaries with financial or bank account-related issues should contact ECCHS support and their respective bank's customer service directly.

Community Engagement: Environmental Initiatives: Organizing tree plantation drives, such as the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, to promote ecological stewardship.

To "plant one tree in mother's name" refers to the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (A Tree in the Name of Mother) campaign in India, a mass plantation drive that combines environmental protection with a tribute to mothers. To participate, you plant a tree as a symbolic gesture to honor your mother and pledge to care for the tree and Mother Earth.

Cultural and Sports Events: Hosting friendly volleyball matches to foster sportsmanship and strengthen bonds with local communities.

Youth Engagement: Conducting career awareness campaigns and other programs to empower and connect with the youth.

Locations: The campaign spans various regions, including Mizoram, Uttarakhand, and Manipur.

But Lt General VL (Vikas Lakhera) Director General Assam Rifles has many other



The home of the free and the brave. Ev'ry heart beats true! For the Tricolor, Where there's never a boast or brag. But should auld acquaintance be forgotten, Keep your eye on the grand old flag!
Assam Rifles outreach drive: A beacon of hope for veterans and their families. The Assam Rifles has taken a significant step towards addressing the challenges faced by its veterans, Veer Naris, widows and dependents. In response to the grievances expressed during the mega rally, interaction with veterans and ARESA conclave, the Director General of Assam Rifles conceptualized an outreach drive to connect with its veterans across India and Nepal

schemes in his fold!

And this one is special:

The home of the free and the brave, Ev'ry heart beats true! For the Tricolor, Where there's never a boast or brag. But should auld acquaintance be forgotten, Keep your eye on the grand old flag!

Assam Rifles outreach drive: A beacon of hope for veterans and their families. The Assam Rifles has taken a significant step towards addressing the challenges faced by its veterans, Veer Naris, widows and dependents. In response to the grievances expressed during the mega rally, interaction with veterans and ARESA conclave, the Director General of Assam Rifles conceptualized an outreach drive to connect with its veterans across India and Nepal.

Creation of Veterans Cell at HQ DGAR. To implement this initiative a Veterans Cell was established at HQ DGAR, staffed with two Officers and six clerical personnel. This cell was tasked to visit various states to record grievances and provide medical aid to those in need.

Outreach Drive: A success story. The veterans Cell team first visit to Uttarakhand proved to be a resounding success with five outreach drives conducted and over 400 grievances recorded. The team also visited bedridden Ex-Servicemen at their residences and provided much-needed

support. Encouraged by the positive response the team expanded its outreach drive to other states including West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Mizoram and recorded 892 grievances, visited 21 bedridden ESM and Widows in their hometowns and also provided Med aid to 599 ESM and NOKs.

Impact and Future Plans. The outreach drive campaign has received an overwhelmingly positive response from ESM, particularly widows and bedridden ESM and their families residing in remote areas. The Veterans Cell, HQ DGAR will continue this drive, visiting the remaining states of India and Nepal to ensure that all veterans and NOKs receive the support they deserve.

A Commitment to Veterans Welfare. The Assam Rifles outreach drive initiative demonstrates its commitment to the welfare of its veterans and their families. By providing a platform for grievance redressal and medical aid, the organization is working towards improving the lives of those who have served the nation.

The freedom to go anywhere you want without fear, Thank a veteran, thank a veteran, For the freedom to choose what you read and write and what you hear, Thank a veteran, thank a veteran!..... MD!

83 soldiers, including two officers, paid tribute to the brave soldier at the Unit War Memorial in Jalukie, it said, adding that on January 8, 2001, while the unit was stationed in Shangshak, Manipur, Singh made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while fighting with militants in Ukhrul. Deen Dayal Singh was his name!

The Assam Rifles troops also paid a visit to the braveheart's native place, where they met his relatives and presented a token of remembrance on behalf of the Assam Rifles.

Naib Subedar Shyam Gurung: Naib Subedar Shyam Gurung hailed from the picturesque East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, a region renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and proud martial traditions. Nestled among rolling green hills and mist-covered valleys, this land has long produced brave soldiers who have served with distinction in India's armed forces. Growing up in such an environment, Nb Sub Shyam was deeply inspired by stories of courage and sacrifice passed down through generations in his community. These accounts of honour and selfless service instilled in him a profound sense of duty and patriotism from an early age. Determined to follow in the footsteps of those who had dedicated their lives to the nation, he set his sights on a military career.

After completing his schooling, he joined the Indian Army and was recruited into the 33 Assam Rifles battalion, part of the storied Assam Rifles—the oldest paramilitary force in India. Headquartered in Shillong, the Assam Rifles is celebrated for its operational excellence, its distinguished legacy of protecting India's borders, and its pivotal role in maintaining internal security across some of the country's most difficult and strategically sensitive regions.

Within this elite force, Naib Subedar Shyam Gurung exemplified discipline, dedication, and courage—qualities that defined both his service and the proud traditions of the Assam Rifles.

Bishnupur Ambush (Manipur): 19 Sep 2025

In September 2025, Naib Subedar Shyam Gurung's unit, the 33 Assam Rifles, was deployed in Manipur—a region that had recently witnessed a sharp surge in militant activity. Since the beginning of the year, there had been a significant escalation in cross-border insurgency and smuggling operations along the 1,643-km-long, largely unfenced border between Manipur and Myanmar. Recognizing the growing threat to regional stability, the Indian Army and paramilitary forces intensified their coordinated counter-insurgency operations, with the 33 Assam Rifles playing a crucial role in maintaining security and order in the volatile area. As part of these efforts, routine troop movements were essential to ensure logistical support, rotation, and operational readiness across various company operating bases. On 19 September 2025, a column of 33 Assam Rifles troops was scheduled to move between its Patsoi Company Operating Base and the Nambol Company Operating Base in Bishnupur district. This route, which passed through the Imphal–Dimapur National Highway (NH-2) near Nambol Sabal Leikai—approximately 8 km from Imphal airport—was considered a denotified area, generally regarded as carrying minimal risk compared to active conflict zones.

At around 5:40 p.m., when the truck carrying troops, returning from a flood-relief mission, was making its way along NH-2 toward Nambol, it was suddenly struck by an ambush from armed militants. The attackers unleashed indiscriminate fire, turning what was thought to be a secure stretch of road into a scene of intense combat. The encounter underscored the ever-present risks and unpredictability faced by our armed forces. Amidst the chaos, Naib Subedar Shyam Gurung and Rifleman Ranjit Singh Kashyap fought with courage, displaying steadfast bravery in the face of grave danger. Both were mortally wounded, yet their determination never wavered—they laid down their lives defending their comrades and fulfilling their mission with unwavering resolve.

Rifleman Ranjit Singh Kashyap hailed from Balenga village in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh and was born on 21 November 1989. Growing up in a region known for its rugged terrain and resilient people, he imbibed values of hard work, determination, and service to the nation from an early age. After completing his schooling, he chose the path of uniformed service and joined the Indian Army, where his sense of duty and discipline soon distinguished him. He was recruited into the 33 Assam Rifles battalion, a part of the storied Assam Rifles—the oldest paramilitary force in India, with its headquarters in Shillong.

Renowned for its operational excellence and deep-rooted legacy, the Assam Rifles has, for decades, safeguarded India's bor-

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ders while simultaneously undertaking the difficult responsibility of maintaining internal security in some of the country's most volatile and strategically sensitive regions, particularly the North-East. Within this elite force, Rifleman Ranjit Singh Kashyap embodied the very ethos of the Assam Rifles.

After serving for a few years, he got married to Ms Savitri and the couple was blessed with a daughter, Dhani. His unwavering discipline, strong sense of duty, and unflinching courage not only earned him respect among his comrades but also reflected the proud traditions of the force he served.

In September 2025, Rifleman Ranjit Singh Kashyap's unit, the 33 Assam Rifles, was deployed in Manipur, a region that had recently witnessed a sharp escalation in militant activity. Since the beginning of the year, cross-border insurgency and smuggling operations have intensified along the 1,643-km-long, largely unfenced border between Manipur and Myanmar. The porous terrain and growing network of insurgent groups posed a serious threat to regional security, demanding constant vigilance and a robust counter-insurgency response. To address this challenge, the Indian Army and paramilitary forces launched intensified operations, with the 33 Assam Rifles at the forefront. Their responsibilities extended beyond direct combat to include border management, area domination, and maintaining stability in volatile districts. Within this framework, routine troop movements between company operating bases were critical for ensuring logistical support, rotation of personnel, and maintaining overall operational readiness. On 19 September 2025, one such movement was scheduled between the Patsoi Company Operating Base and the Nambol Company Operating Base in the Bishnupur district. The designated route ran through the Imphal–Dimapur National Highway (NH-2), passing near Nambol Sabal Leikai, approximately 8 kilometers from Imphal airport. The stretch was classified as a denotified area, generally regarded as secure compared to active conflict zones. However, the deceptive calm was shattered that evening.

Each sacrifice is known to everyone but soon forgotten but I do not!.....(MD)!

So finally we close up: Thank a veteran, thank a veteran, Fighting so courageously for our life and liberty... For the freedom to speak freely and protest the government, Thank a veteran, thank a veteran... For the freedom to pick military leaders who will represent your voice Thank a veteran, thank a veteran... (MD)

Adulterated Food: A Silent Health Emergency in India



■ Munish Bhatia

Modern life in India is changing at a rapid pace. From metropolitan cities to small towns, every street and neighborhood today is surrounded by fast food and street food stalls. Outside colleges, you'll find chaat and pakoras; around offices, burgers and noodles; and in night markets, cheap food vendors — all of which have become an inseparable part of urban lifestyle. People are often drawn by taste and low prices, choosing where to eat based on crowds rather than hygiene. But few ever stop to think about how clean or safe that food really is. This very carelessness has now turned into a silent crisis threatening the health of Indian society.

While cheap and tasty food sounds attractive, the reality is far more dangerous. Unscrupulous traders target both the consumer's pocket and palate. Detergent in milk, refined oil in ghee, colored powder in spices, and chemically tinted sweets — all these have become common practices. A few years ago, investigations in Delhi, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh revealed that nearly 70% of milk sold in the market was adulterated in some form. The same holds true for everyday essentials like chili powder, turmeric, and gram flour.

The most dangerous form of adulteration is the use of artificial food colors and essences. While they make food look attractive, once inside the body they sow the seeds of cancer, liver damage, kidney failure, and hormonal imbalance. Ironically, colors banned in European countries for being hazardous to health are freely used in Indian sweets, snacks, and beverages.

The biggest tragedy today is that the greed for profit has crushed human sensitivity. The competition in the food industry has become so fierce that traders stoop to any level for "cheap production." The use of substandard oils like palm oil is a major example. While many countries have restricted its use due to health risks, in India it is used in almost every processed food — biscuits, noodles, chips, snacks, and even sweets.

In our country, the obsession with quantity over quality has grown rapidly. As a result, consumers are also



drawn toward cheaper products. They fail to realize that the food costing ₹20 today may cost their health dearly in the future. This reflects a social mindset error — where we value short-term gain over long-term well-being.

To ensure food safety, India has institutions like the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). These bodies have legal powers to inspect food, cancel licenses, and act against offenders. Yet, the ground reality is grim. The number of food inspectors is limited, lab testing is slow, and corruption has weakened the monitoring system. In small towns and rural areas, food safety officers rarely conduct inspections. This negligence has emboldened adulterators. There have been instances where mineral oil is mixed with edible oil, and even detergent powder is used in sweets. The question arises — when the government is promoting campaigns like Swachh Bharat and Fit India, shouldn't strict action against food adulteration be part of the same mission?

Adulterated food is not just an economic or moral offense — it is a grave public health crisis. Long-term consumption of such food leads to a slow poisoning of the body. The problem is even more serious for children, whose bodies are more sensitive. Artificial colors and chemicals can cause skin diseases, allergies, asthma, and hyper-

activity. Adulterated oils and fats increase the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and cholesterol. Contaminated milk and dairy products cause digestive disorders and liver diseases. With repeated consumption, the immune system weakens. Ultimately, cheap food turns out to be very expensive — slowly damaging every cell of the body.

The harsh truth is that the government alone cannot monitor every street and every shop. Therefore, the key to escaping this web of adulteration lies in public awareness. We must consciously decide what and where we eat. Prefer home-cooked meals, ask questions when buying from local vendors, and always check the FSSAI license number, manufacturing date, and ingredient list on packaged items. Campaigns such as "Healthy Food — Safe Life" can be organized at schools, community groups, and village levels. If society begins to take this issue seriously, traders too will be compelled to improve for fear of losing customers.

The fight against food adulteration is not just a matter of law but a collective moral responsibility. The government must categorize food adulteration as a serious crime, ensure speedy action, and impose strict punishment on offenders. At the same time, small vendors and hawkers should be included in training and licensing programs to maintain

hygiene standards. On the other hand, citizens too must play their part — if we find unhygienic conditions or suspect adulteration in a shop or restaurant, it is our duty to report it. FSSAI's mobile app has been created for this very purpose, yet very few people use it.

The food we consume today forms the health foundation of our next generation. If we fail to act now, diseases like cancer, heart ailments, and diabetes could soon reach epidemic levels in our society. This will not only affect individual health but also have a severe impact on national productivity and the economy. A sick society can never become a strong nation. Therefore, it is time we rise above the lure of taste and cheapness and prioritize our health.

Food is not merely a means to fill the stomach — it is the source of life's energy. When adulteration poisons it, it doesn't just harm the body, but also sickens the very soul of society. The fight against adulterated food must unite law, administration, society, and individuals.

Ultimately, we must remember that health is the greatest wealth. Ignoring it for the sake of cheap food is a dangerous illusion — one that threatens not just our lifestyle but the future of our coming generations. We must stay alert and aware, for safe food is not just a legal right, but a fundamental right to life itself.

Disease Relief in Autumn from a Balanced Lifestyle



■ Vijay Garg

With the arrival of autumn after rainy season, the sky becomes clear and the sun's rays begin to shine. It changes the nature. The water of the rivers and ponds becomes pure. The shade on the ground looks even more pleasant. There is a special kind of purity in the whole environment. This season has been considered balancing both mind and body. Autumn has a different significance in Indian cultural life than the major festivals like Navratra, Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali and Autumn Purnima. It sends a message of joy, holiness and delight. Winter comes after autumn. Winter begins at the end of this season.

In the rainy season, accumulated defects in the body begin to appear in autumn. The intense rays of the sun especially increase bile defect, which causes bile diseases to be more visible. At this time, diarrhea, acidity and other urinary growth disorders become common. Skin diseases such as ringworms, coughs, itching, fungi and skin on the mouth and tongue also increase this season. There are more problems such as eye irritation and redness, headache and body burning. At this time, increased gallbladder causes other blood disorders and abdominal problems. So it is necessary to pay special attention to diet, routine and lifestyle in the fall.

Diet is especially important for digestion and body balance this season. should consume a sweet, cool and light diet at this time Acute substances such as onions, carrots, peppers etc. are helpful in digestion Grains such as barley, wheat, rice and corn provide nutrition and energy to the body. Fruits such as grapes and raisins are considered particularly beneficial. In addition, the consumption of milk and ghee calms the stomach to provide cooling and refreshment for the body. A balanced diet keeps health safe this season and reduces the chances of disease.

Should wear clean and light clothes this season The consumption of candies, cool air and flowers is healthier. It's great to enjoy the moon at night and avoid the sun during the day. Working hard these days and getting proper sleep is the key to health.

Refining activities are extremely effective for controlling and calming pests in the autumn. At this time, diarrhea is considered particularly superior because it balances the body by removing bile defect from its roots and increasing immunity. In addition, acne and bleeding are extremely beneficial in the prevention of urine and blood related defects. Drinking cold water provides the body with coolness and refreshment Medications like candies, asparagus and almonds are also helpful in calming the urine and keeping the body healthy this season. Regular cleaning and the use of medications reduces the likelihood of gastrointestinal diseases this season. This season's water is special. If it rains from the sky in autumn, the water is smooth and digestible. These days, the water doesn't even boil. Mature by the sun's rays and the coolness of the moon, it makes water pure and life-giving. It is considered excellent for digestion and showering. It is called as beneficial in Ayurveda.

As in summer and spring, the consumption of yogurt is forbidden in Ayurveda. These days, herbs have to be collected for medicinal purposes. Their usable organs are characterized by an excellent sense of their qualities in specific seasons. In autumn the bark, stems and algae of plants have their extreme medicinal properties that are effective in treating various diseases. So they should be collected at this time. It is also particularly worth keeping in mind that all seasons are instructed not to drink too much water but summer and autumn are two seasons where you can drink as desired.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

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GHSS Dhargloon Student Wins Top Honors, Chosen for NCERT National Showcase

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, OCT 4: DIET Poonch, is proud to announce a significant achievement in vocational and scientific education: Faiz ul Wahid, a Class 12 student from Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Dhargloon, Balakote (District Poonch), has secured the First Position in the prestigious Union Territory (UT) Level competition in Automobile Project organised by SCERT J&K at Jammu & Srinagar.

Faiz ul Wahid's innovative project, which stood out for its practical application and technical depth, was judged the best among competing entries from



across the UT. His victory earns him the distinct honour of representing Jammu and Kashmir at the forthcoming National Level Competition, to be organized by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in New Delhi.

This exceptional accomplishment is a strong testament to the efforts being made to integrate quality education and vocational skills within J&K's school system, particularly under the Vocational Education component of Samagra Shiksha.

The DIET extends heartfelt congratulations to the student for his brilliance and ingenuity. Special commendation is given to the school leadership and faculty for fostering an environment of innovation: Principal Sh. Natiq Hussian Shah Jaffri, for his administrative support and vision.

Guide/Escort Teacher Er. Javid Iqbal (Vocational Trainer - Automotive), under whose expert guidance the project was designed, developed, and successfully showcased.

This achievement highlights the potential of J&K's youth in technical fields and reinforces the commitment to nurturing talent that can compete on a national stage.

Public Notice

My son's Date of Birth (DOB) wrongly mentioned in school records as 21-03-2016 instead of 22-03-2016. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Principal Hill Crest School Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**BASHIR AHMAD MIR F/O UMER BASHIR
R/O PUSNAG TEHSIL KREERI**

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticides/Fertilizers/Seed License under the name Farm Edge Solutions Pvt Ltd situated at Aglar Pattan. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. (Aabid Ashraf S/o Mohammad Ashraf Bhat R/o Aglar pattan) Cell No. 6005461490.

Public Notice

My son's Date of Birth has been wrongly written as 21/03/2016 in her date of Birth certificate while his correct date of Birth is 22/03/2016 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**NameBASHIR AHMAD MIR
F/OUMER BASHIR
R/O ...PUSNAG KREERI
DOB ...22/03/2016**

Public Notice

I have lost my daughters school discharge certificate at somewhere bearing admission no 1284 Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of GOVT BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BAGHI DED MARI SRINAGAR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name.... RIYAZ AHMAD RATHER
F/O AYAT RIYAZ
R/O ..SHUNGLIPORA
CLASS ...3RD**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of PEER ISHTYAK AHMAD S/O PEER SHAMAS UD DIN R/O THINDIMA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that LT MUNEEERA AKHTER W/O PEER SHAMUS UD DIN has passed away on 06/06/2025 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , PEER ISHTIYAK AHMAD son 35 Govt employee
- 2.... , PEER SUHAIL AHMAD SON 35 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of PEER ISHTYAK AHMAD S/O PEER SHAMAS UD DIN R/O THINDIMA KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

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The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of NELOFAR JAN D/O MOHD DILAWAR KHAN R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 17/03/1994 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of MEHMOODA BEGUM S/O AB GANI TRUMBOO R/O KREERI Tehsil kreeri Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/05/1960 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Son's name PARVAIZ AHMAD SIRAJ S/O MANZOOR AHMAD SIRAJ R/O WATERGAM .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204040000862 wants to be registered on my name MANZOOR AHMAD SIRAJ F/O PARVAIZ AHMAD SIRAJ R/O WATERGAM .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name...MANZOOR AHMAD
F/O .PARVAIZ AHMAD SIRAJ
R/O ...WATERGAM WAGOORA**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name GH AHMAD WANI S/O AB AZIZ WANI R/O TILAGAM Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0213040000215 wantsto be registered on name HILAL AHMAD WANI S/O GH AHMAD WANI R/O TILAGAM .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name....HILAL AHMAD WANI
S/O GH AHMAD WANI
R/O TILAGAM PATTAN**

Public Notice

My daughters name has been wrongly written as FARHAT SHOWAT D/O SHOWAAT AHMAD MALIK in her date of Birth certificate while her correct name is FARHAT SHOWKET D/O SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK R/O WAGILLA which needs to be corrected .If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR Wagoora/BDO Wagoora Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name.... SHOWKET AHMAD MALIK
F/O FARHAT SHOWKET
R/O WAGILLA
ZONE ...WAGOORA**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE SEED PATHOLOGIST KASHMIR

Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare Department,
Lal Mandi Srinagar
Pathological Predicted Crop Advisory (4th Oct 2025 to 7th Oct 2025).

As per the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, an active western disturbance is likely to affect Jammu & Kashmir and adjoining areas from 04th October to 07th October, 2025, with peak activity during the night of 05th October to the morning of 07th October.

Moderate to heavy rain/snowfall over higher reaches and light to moderate rain at middle and lower reaches are expected. There is also a possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms, and gusty winds (40–60 kmph) in some areas like Distt. Anantnag /Kulgam /Shopian /Baramula /Kupwara /Ganderbal /Bandipora etc.

Advisory for Farmers:

1. Suspend all farm operations (sowing, harvesting, spraying, irrigation, etc.) from 04th to 07th October to avoid losses due to rain and wind.
2. Secure harvested crops properly by covering them with polythene sheets or storing them under safe sheds to prevent damage from rain and hail.
3. Drain excess water from fields of vegetables, orchards, and nurseries to avoid water logging and crop damage.
4. Avoid spraying of pesticides and fertilizers during this period, as they may get washed away and cause financial loss.
5. Orchardists are advised to provide support to fruit trees (especially apple, pear, walnut) to minimize damage from strong winds and heavy rainfall.

Farmers are requested to remain cautious and follow advisories regularly for further updates.

Issued in the interest of the farming community.

Sd/- Seed Pathologist Kashmir

DIPK: 6822/25 | Dated: 04-10-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department of Agriculture Kashmir, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, J&K NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture in the Kashmir Division of Jammu and Kashmir has established **24/7 Control Rooms** in all 10 districts OF KASHMIR DIVISION in response to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Weather Advisory for heavy rainfall, snowfall, and potential hazards like landslides and flash floods from **October 4-7, 2025**. These Control Rooms are tasked with monitoring weather conditions, coordinating with farmers, and facilitating rapid response to protect agricultural assets, including crops and orchards.

For assistance or to report issues, farmers and stakeholders are advised to contact the following officers of the Agriculture Department, Kashmir:-

Name	Designation	Mobile No.	Email Address
Aman Jyoti	Joint Director Agri. Extension Kashmir	7889587594	agriidaek-kmr@jk.gov.in
Mohd Rafiq	CAO Shopian	9797357385	CAOSHOPIAN123@GMAIL.COM
Sabeena Kouser	CAO Baramulla	9419033633	chiefagri-bla@jk.gov.in
Asifa Nabi	CAO Ganderbal	7006690696	CAOGBL123@GMAIL.COM
Javed Samoon	CAO Bandipora	7006630750	CAOBPRAGRI111@GMAIL.COM
Idrees Bashir	CAO Srinagar	9796702171	CAOSGR111@GMAIL.COM
Naseer Ahmad Khan	CAO Budgam	9797791871	CAOBUDGAM@GMAIL.COM
Farooq Ahmad Reshi	CAO Kulgam	9419017877	CAO1KULGAM@GMAIL.COM
Waheed U Rehman	CAO Pulwama	9419091753	AGRIPUL@GMAIL.COM
Mohd Iqbal Khan	CAO Kupwara	9622839097	CAOKUPWARA@GMAIL.COM
Shahnawaz Shah	CAO Anantnag	7889369803	AGRIANG@REDIFFMAIL.COM

**Sd/- Agriculture Production & Farmers
Welfare Department Lal Mandi, Srinagar**

DIPK: 6801/25 | Dated: 04-10-2025



Rana lays foundation stone for approach roads to Mendhari Nallah

Also reviews developmental scenario of Mendhar Constituency

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

MENDHAR, OCTOBER 04: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today laid the foundation stone for the construction of approach roads to the downstream bridge over the Mendhari Nallah.

The vital infrastructure project, sanctioned at a cost of 339.20 lakhs, will be executed by the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department.

During the foundation-laying ceremony, Rana directed the Executive Engineer of the R&B department to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated timeline.

He stressed the importance of adhering to high quality standards and technical specifications, emphasizing that durable road infrastructure is essential for long-term public convenience and regional development.

Reaffirming Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to enhancing road connectivity in remote and underserved areas, Rana noted that improved infrastructure is a key driver of socio-economic growth and accessibility in rural areas.

Later, the Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the overall developmental scenario in Mendhar Constituency.

Highlighting the crucial role of horticulture and agriculture in bolstering the rural economy, Rana called for increased outreach and awareness among farmers and the general public regarding various government schemes and welfare initiatives.

He directed the concerned departments to organize awareness camps, workshops and field demonstrations at the village level to ensure that information reaches the grassroots, enabling maximum public participation



and benefit.

The Minister also held a de-

tailed review of ongoing and proposed works under the Prad-

han Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Public Works

Department (PWD).

He instructed officials to expedite the tendering process, monitor progress rigorously, and ensure timely completion of all infrastructure projects.

He also reviewed the status of road restoration efforts following recent landslides and directed the timely preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new road projects under various schemes.

In the education sector, Rana called for swift implementation of developmental initiatives aimed at improving educational infrastructure, teaching standards and learning outcomes.

He emphasized the need for optimal utilization of existing human resources and integration of digital learning tools to enhance the quality of education, particularly in rural schools.

Addressing the healthcare situation, the Minister highlighted the importance of im-

proving healthcare access and service delivery in underserved areas.

He directed health officials to undertake outreach programs to enhance community awareness and ensure equitable access to primary healthcare services.

The Minister underscored the importance of interdepartmental coordination, proactive governance and transparency in the execution of development works.

"The Government is committed to ensuring inclusive and holistic development that reaches every section of society, especially those in far-flung and rural areas," Rana stated.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Health, Rural Development, PWD and PMGSY departments, along with field-level officers and representatives from various line departments.

DC Udhampur hands over sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 04: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries under the Mission YUVA scheme here at a brief function held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh, General Manager JK Bank, Tariq Ali, DGM, Lalit Parkash and AGM, Naresh Kumar.

While interacting with the beneficiaries, the DC congratulated them and informed them about various welfare schemes launched by the Government aimed at supporting unemployed youth. She emphasized that Mission YUVA is not merely a financial assistance programme, but a movement to promote self-reliance and entrepreneurship among the youth.

The DC urged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial assistance judiciously and work towards establishing sustainable and dignified livelihoods. Appreciating the coordinated efforts of J&K Bank in processing and facilitating cases under the scheme, she stressed the need to expedite the disbursement of financial assistance in a smooth and hassle-free manner.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the government for launching the Mission YUVA initiative, which provides financial assistance and continuous handholding support for setting up their own business ventures.

Jammu Development Authority conducts anti-encroachment drive and sealing of unauthorized commercial structures

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 4: In continuation of its efforts to reclaim public land and enforce building regulations, the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) carried out an anti-encroachment drive at Rajpur Koular and sealed multiple unauthorized commercial structures in Bari Brahmana and Jammu South areas.

During the anti-encroachment operation at Rajpur Koular, the JDA team demolished an under construction illegal structure at-



tempting to encroach prime JDA land. The illegal structure being

raised was a fresh attempt to encroach JDA land under Kh. no. 65

of Village Rajpur Koular, Tehsil Bari Brahmana, District Samba.

Simultaneously, in Bari Brahmana and parts of Jammu South, the JDA enforcement teams sealed several commercial structures found to be in violation of building bye-laws and land use regulations. These actions were taken following due notice to the violators and in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Control of Building Operations Act. It is pertinent to mention here that such drives are part of a broader initiative to uphold the rule of law, prevent un-

authorized constructions and protect public assets. The Jammu Development Authority remains committed to planned urban development and strict action will continue against encroachments and illegal constructions.

The JDA urges all residents and stakeholders to cooperate and ensure compliance with the legal framework for land use and construction. Citizens are also encouraged to report any instances of unauthorized encroachments to the concerned authorities.

Cultural Unit Srinagar organizes skits on drug abuse under Nasha Mukti JK Abhiyan

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 04: The Cultural Unit Srinagar organized a skit today, at New Genius Public School, Nawab Bazar, Srinagar, under the "Nasha Mukti JK Abhiyan".

The skit was aimed at creating awareness among students and the local community about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of

leading a healthy, responsible lifestyle.

Through engaging performances, the students depicted real-life situations, highlighting the consequences of substance abuse and the positive impact of making the right choices.

The event was graced by the Cultural Officer, Kashmir, who addressed the audience and appreciated the efforts of the school and students in

promoting a drug-free lifestyle. He encouraged the youth to take proactive steps in spreading awareness about the ill effects of drugs and to act as responsible role models in their communities.

As part of the program, students and participants also took a pledge to remain free from drugs, reinforcing their commitment to personal well-being and social responsibility.

BGSBU academia hails remarkable progress made by University

Flays elements spreading false narrative against the Varsity

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 4: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Rajouri has strongly condemned the deliberate attempts being made to tarnish the University's image, particularly at a time when the admission process is underway.

The University fraternity firmly asserts that such baseless and misleading narrative is intended to undermine the remarkable progress BGSBU has achieved in recent months across academic and administrative fronts.

Since Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, assumed additional charge as Registrar around eight months ago, BGSBU has undergone a phase of transformative growth and renewal. Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the University has rolled out 27 new Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes, established six new academic departments, and launched four-year UG programmes with multiple entry-exit options to foster flexibility, innovation, and global competitiveness. The introduction of cutting-edge courses in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning,

along with comprehensive programmes in Tourism and Management at the Diploma, UG, PG, and Ph.D. levels, reflects BGSBU's commitment to future-ready education.

This academic expansion has been mirrored by a remarkable surge in admissions, with over 1,000 students enrolling across various Diploma, UG, and PG programmes this year—a testament to the growing confidence of students and parents in the University's vibrant academic ecosystem and progressive governance model.

For the very first time, BGSBU has integrated field-based experiential learning into its academic structure, particularly for students of professional programmes. In a recent collaboration with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), students were given the opportunity to visit and study key tunnel projects—an initiative designed to bridge classroom learning with real-world exposure and industry relevance.

Promoting linguistic diversity and regional identity, the University has established a Centre for Research in Gojri, Pahari and Kashmiri Languages and launched MA and BA programmes in these disciplines, reaffirming its dedication

to safeguarding the cultural and linguistic heritage of the region.

BGSBU continues to advance its digital transformation and transparency agenda through the full-scale adoption of Samarth ERP, enabling end-to-end digitalization of admissions, examinations and student services and ensuring seamless, efficient and accountable governance.

In terms of infrastructure, the University has secured 20 crore under RUSA to strengthen its academic and physical infrastructure, and 2 crore under CAPEX for the development of state-of-the-art smart classrooms. Over the past year, developmental grants have been optimally utilized, ushering in a new era of growth after years of dormancy. Renovation of three hostels has been completed, with work on others in progress. A new academic block has been constructed to accommodate the growing student population, while renovation of faculty quarters, academic blocks and conference halls is also underway through concerned government agencies.

For the first time, smart classrooms are being established across multiple departments, equipped with modern teaching aids, in-

teractive panels, and digital learning tools. This initiative represents a major leap towards transforming traditional teaching spaces into dynamic, technology-enabled learning environments that enhance student engagement, participation, and academic delivery.

Driving innovation and skill development, BGSBU has established a Startup Cell, an Entrepreneurship Development Cell, a Tinkering Lab, and an Institutional Innovation Council to nurture creative thinking, support student-led ventures and build a robust innovation ecosystem on campus.

Very recently, the University also hosted its first-ever Startup Hackathon, marking a milestone in its journey towards fostering creativity, innovation and problem-solving among students.

In pursuit of sustainability, the University is on course to become a carbon-neutral campus through a 1 MW solarization project in collaboration with the J&K Science and Technology Department and JKEDA—reflecting its long-term commitment to clean energy and sustainable practices.

To promote women's empowerment and education, BGSBU

offers special incentives, including a 50% fee concession for the only girl child and the top two meritorious female students, along with civil services coaching for 30 girls under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.

For the first time, RFID-enabled identity cards have been introduced for students, faculty, and staff, enhancing campus security, operational efficiency and digital integration.

BGSBU has placed strong emphasis on student well-being and holistic growth. For the first time, a comprehensive University Induction Programme was conducted, with a special focus on mental health, drug abuse awareness and adjustment to university life — demonstrating the University's proactive approach to supporting students beyond academics.

Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University reaffirms its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, inclusivity and transparency. The University urges all stakeholders to disregard false and malicious propaganda and to continue their faith in BGSBU's mission of shaping responsible, skilled and socially conscious citizens prepared to lead in a rapidly evolving world.

DC Udhampur Flags off Group of Farmers on Exposure Visit to Himachal Pradesh

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 04: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today flagged off a group of 30 farmers on an exposure visit to Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, Palampur under the centrally sponsored scheme ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency).

The visit has been organized under the Promotion of Floriculture component of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), with the aim of introducing farmers to modern interventions in agriculture and allied sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored the significance of such exposure visits in broadening the outlook of the farming community and familiarizing them with innovations being practiced across the country. She noted that hands-on learning and direct interaction with agricultural scientists would help farmers adapt scientific techniques to local conditions, thereby improving yield and income levels.

The DC also commended the Agriculture Department for its consistent efforts in arranging capacity-building and knowledge-sharing programmes for farmers. She added that the Udhampur district has immense potential in floriculture, horticulture and vegetable cultivation, and such initiatives will prove vital in realizing this potential.

During the visit, the farmers will study demonstration farms, experimental plots, improved plant varieties and crop trials at the university. They will also interact with experts from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) on key aspects like organic farming, eco-friendly pest management, water-use efficiency, protected cultivation, and climate-resilient cropping systems.

The exposure visit will particularly benefit participants by providing practical insights into hill and mountain agriculture, an area where Himachal Pradesh has made remarkable progress. Farmers will be able to witness successful case studies and adopt replicable models suitable for the agro-climatic conditions of Udhampur district.

Among others present during the flagging-off ceremony were Chief Agriculture Officer Harbans Singh, District Agriculture Officer (Extension) Sudhir Manhas, and Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (Ramnagar) Ashwani Abrol.



Sharks, Rays, Ghost Sharks face increased threat from deep-sea mining, warn researchers

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: The habitats of thirty species of sharks, rays, and chimaeras—also known as ghost sharks—overlap with proposed deep-sea mining sites, posing new threats to their survival, according to a research published in Current Biology.

Led by oceanographers at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, the study reveals that nearly two-thirds of these species are already at risk of extinction due to human activities. Deep-sea mining, which disrupts the seafloor and releases sediment plumes into the water, could further heighten their vulnerability.

"Deep-sea mining represents a new threat to these animals, which are crucial to ocean ecosystems and human culture," said Aaron Judah, lead author and oceanography graduate student at UH Manoa. "Highlighting this risk allows us to recommend conservation measures to protect these populations."

The team combined global species range maps from the IUCN Shark Specialist Group with mining contract areas assigned by the International Seabed Authority. They also considered species-specific traits like reproduction and diving depth to gauge mining impacts. For example, species such as skates and chimaeras lay eggs on the seafloor, making



their nurseries vulnerable to mining operations.

The study assessed well-known species like whale

sharks, manta rays, and megamouth sharks, alongside lesser-

known deep-sea species including pygmy sharks, chocolate skates, and point-nosed chimaeras. Findings indicate that discharge plumes could impact 30 species, while seafloor disruptions might affect 25 of them. For 17 species, mining could impact more than half of their depth range.

Deep-sea mining is planned in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone—a vast abyssal plain stretching from waters near Hawai'i across the eastern Pacific. Understanding its effects on marine life and dependent communities is crucial for informed management.

"Sharks and their relatives are the planet's second most threatened vertebrates, largely due to

overfishing," said Jeff Drazen, senior author and SOEST professor. "Given their vulnerability, they must be included in discussions on the environmental risks of deep-sea mining."

The researchers have recommended establishing monitoring programs, integrating sharks and rays into environmental impact assessments, and creating protected areas. Such steps could be incorporated by the International Seabed Authority and mining contractors during scientific baseline evaluations.

"Many of these species are highly mobile and could be affected beyond mining zones, especially near Hawai'i," Judah added. UNI

All 50 States of US will see devastating economic hit in shutdown: White House

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: The White House today said all 50 States of the United States will see devastating economic hit in the Democrat shutdown.



The Council of Economic Advisers in the country warned that the U.S. could lose 15 Billion Dollars in GDP each week the government is shut down and will spark off a crisis that will ripple across every state.

New data underscores the nationwide fallout—with all 50 states likely to face job losses, reduced consumer spending and disruptions to vital programs.

The White House highlighted the staggering cost of Democrats' "recklessness" with new state-by-state analyses, revealing a crisis that "punishes" American families.

A monthlong shutdown may mean 43,000 plus more unemployed Americans, the White House said. It said women and children in need could lose access to their critical benefits.

"Consumer spending will fall as a result of lost wages from furloughed workers and reduced federal contract spending," it said.

The US government has shut down for the first time in about seven years after Republicans and Democrats failed to agree to a deal to fund the Federal government. The Congress is required to approve spending bills by October one every year to fund various departments and agencies of the Federal government. However, this year the government and the opposition could not reach an agreement so far. UNI

UIDAI waives charges for Aadhaar biometric updates for children aged 7-15

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has waived off all charges for Mandatory Biometric update (MBU-1) for children aged 7-15 years, a move which is expected to benefit around 6 crore children, an official statement said today.

The waiver of MBU charges for the said age group began on October 1 and will be in force for a period of one year.

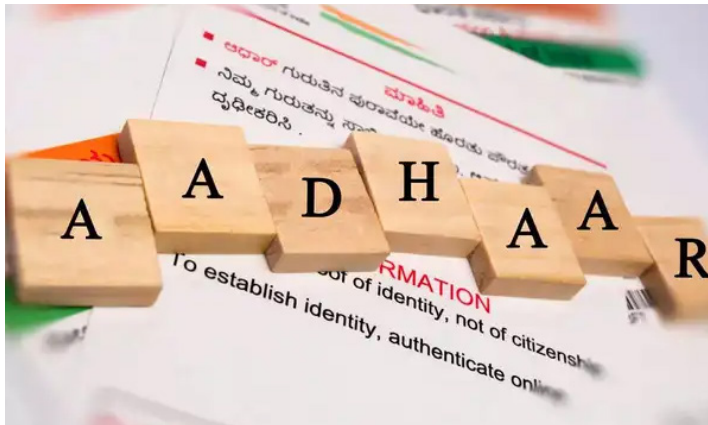
A child under the age of five enrolls for Aadhaar by providing the photograph, name, date of

birth, gender, address and birth certificate. Fingerprints and iris biometrics of a child are not captured for Aadhaar enrolment below the age of five because these are not mature at that age.

As per existing rules, therefore, fingerprints, iris and photo are mandatorily required to be updated in his/her Aadhaar when the child reaches the age of five years.

This is called first Mandatory Biometric update (MBU).

Similarly, a child is required to update biometrics once again upon reaching the age of



15 years, which is referred to as the second MBU.

The first and second MBUs, if performed between 5-7 and

15-17 years of age respectively, are thus free of cost. Thereafter, a prescribed fee of Rs. 125 per MBU is charged. But with this decision, MBU is now effectively free for all children in the age group of 5-17.

Aadhaar with updated biometric facilitates ease of living and ensures seamless usage of Aadhaar in availing services such as school admissions, registering for entrance examinations and availing benefits of scholarships, DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) schemes, etc wherever applicable. UNI

FM launches three-month nationwide awareness campaign on unclaimed assets

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said today that if the three 'A's—Awareness, Accessibility and Action—are fulfilled, the money lying in safe custody can be rightfully claimed by the people with proper documents.

The Minister was speaking at the launch of a three-month (October-December 2025) Nationwide Awareness Campaign on Unclaimed Assets in the Financial Sector (Your Money, Your Right) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

"I urge you all to become ambassadors of this campaign, reach out to people you know, ask if they hold any papers of unclaimed financial assets, and guide them to register on the portal to claim what is rightfully theirs. This initiative has the potential to benefit countless citizens. I humbly request you to spread the word about this campaign in your communities and nearby areas," Sitharaman said.

"With concerted efforts, from all the Finance Ministry, regulators, state



governments, and banks in villages—if the entire chain is activated, everyone will be able to reclaim their money. This is not only our assurance, but also our duty," Sitharaman added.

She said "I am very grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who once advised me to go among the people and call upon them to claim what is rightfully theirs. Acting on his advice, I am glad to share that Gujarat has taken the lead in launching this campaign."

Moreover, Secretary DFS, M Nagaraju said, "As of August 2025, more

than Rs 75,000 crore of unclaimed deposits have been transferred to the RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness Fund. Unclaimed insurance proceeds stand at over Rs 13,800 crore, unclaimed balances in mutual funds to about Rs 3,000 crore and unpaid dividends worth more than Rs 9,000 crore."

Unclaimed financial assets, including insurance policy claims, bank deposits, dividends, shares, and mutual fund proceeds, often remain unclaimed due to a lack of awareness or outdated account details.

During this campaign, citizens will be provided with on-the-spot guidance on how to search for their unclaimed assets, update records, and complete claim procedures.

Secretary, DFS, M. Nagaraju, Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India, whole-time members of IRDAI, SEBI, PFRDA, along with senior officials from the Government of India, State Government, and representatives of leading financial institutions, were also present in the event. UNI

Indian student from Telangana shot dead in Dallas (US)

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: An Indian student who was studying in Dallas, United States, was shot dead by assailants early today.

Harish Rao Thanneeru, former Minister and MLA from Siddipeth, Telangana, tweeted that Chandra Shekhar Pole who had completed his BDS and had gone to the US (Dallas) for higher studies, was shot dead by assailants in the early hours of today.

He demanded that the state government bring Chandra Shekhar's body to his hometown as soon as possible.

"It is tragic that Chandra Shekhar Pole, a student from LB Nagar, who had completed his BDS and had gone to America (Dallas) for higher studies, was shot dead by assailants in the early hours of today. It is heartbreaking to see the grief of the parents who are grieving the loss of their son, who they thought would be at the top. My deepest condolences to their family members. We, on behalf of BRS, demand that the state government take the initiative and work to bring Chandra Shekhar's body to his hometown as soon as possible," Thanneeru said. UNI

UPA GOVT WAS A PUPPET OF FOREIGN POWERS, CHARGES BJP

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, OCT 4: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today criticised former Home Minister P. Chidambaram for his tenure during the UPA regime, alleging that he acted under the influence of foreign powers and failed to effectively protect India's national security.

At a press conference here, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia referred to an interview in which Chidambaram said that following the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, India did not retaliate against Pakistan due to pressure from abroad, particularly the United States. Chidambaram disclosed that he assumed office as Home Minister the day after the attacks and credited Congress President Sonia Gandhi with playing a significant role in the decision.

Bhatia asserted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has grown stronger with the armed forces enjoying complete operational freedom. Citing Operation Sindoor as an example, he said India has delivered a firm message to its



adversaries.

In stark contrast, Bhatia claimed, the UPA government had acted at the behest of the US, disregarding the sacrifices of Indian soldiers.

He added that former minister Manish Tiwari had also supported Chidambaram's statements, acknowledging that American pressure was a factor, though Chidambaram later expressed disappointment over the media's alleged misrepresentation of his comments.

Bhatia further criticised Rahul Gandhi, leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, accusing him of maligning India

abroad. He alleged that Gandhi has been overseas for four days, working only to tarnish India's image.

The controversy followed Rahul Gandhi's remarks at Columbia University, where he recognised India's strengths in engineering and healthcare but highlighted serious challenges, particularly attacks on democratic institutions. He urged corrective action to ensure the flourishing of India's diverse cultures. The BJP strongly opposed these remarks, branding Gandhi "anti-national." Bhatia accused him and the opposition of attempting to impede India's progress and sully its reputation.

"Rahul Gandhi does it again, degrading India on foreign soil. From defaming our democracy in London to mocking our institutions in the US, and now in Colombia, he spares no opportunity to insult Bharat globally," Bhatia said.

"You (Rahul Gandhi) lost power. Don't lose patriotism. Criticising the BJP may be your right, but dare not malign Mother India for your cheap and petty politics," the BJP spokesperson said. UNI

Death toll in Philippine earthquake rises to 70, with 559 injuries

■ **United News of India**

MANILA, OCT 4: The death toll in Tuesday's magnitude 6.9 earthquake in Cebu province in central Philippines has climbed to 70, according to the latest official figure released by the Philippines' highest body for disaster risk reduction and management on Saturday.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that 32 of the fatalities were recorded in Bogo City, the quake's epicenter, 15 in San Remigio town, 14 in Medellin town, six in Tabogon town, and one each in the municipalities of Sogod, Tabuelan, and Borbon.

The NDRRMC further reported that 559 people have been injured in the 5-kilometer-deep, offshore quake that struck at 9:59 p.m. local time while villagers were asleep and preparing to go to bed.

More than 120,000 families, or approximately 457,000 people, were affected by the tremor, which dam-



aged over 18,000 houses and more than 500 infrastructures, including roads, bridges, and the city's hospital.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology continues to record aftershocks, with more than 5,000 as of the time of writing, prompting people to stay in open spaces in makeshift tents due to their reluctance to return home because of the aftershocks.

All residents have now been accounted for.

The Philippine government has announced the termination of search, rescue, and retrieval operations, focusing on relief efforts, early recovery, and rehabilitation activities.

Nearly four days since the quake struck, survivors continue to depend on the dole out for food and water as they face daily struggles to live. The victims appeal for food packs, first aid kits, hygiene supplies, tents, sleeping bags, and generator sets amid power outages. (UNI)





Tehsildar Beerwah Inaugurates U-17 Girls Inter-Division Volleyball Tournament

■ **Ubaid Mehdi**

BEERWAH, OCT 4: Tehsildar Beerwah, Ms. Aliya Tabasum (JKAS), today inaugurated the Union Territory (UT) Inter-Division Level Volleyball Tournament for U-17 girls at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Beerwah. The tournament has been organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Budgam, bringing together budding talent from across the

region.

The inaugural ceremony saw enthusiastic participation from teams representing different divisions, with the school ground echoing with cheers and excitement.

While interacting with the young athletes, Tehsildar Beerwah praised their dedication and urged them to pursue excellence in the sport. "Sports not only build character but also open avenues of growth and opportunity. I encourage you all to

nurture your passion and aim for the national level," she said.

Ms. Aliya Tabasum extended her best wishes to all participants, emphasizing the importance of discipline, focus, and teamwork in shaping both sporting and personal success.

The event is being seen as a significant step towards encouraging greater participation of girls in sports and nurturing potential champions from the grassroots.

Block Level Sports Meet held at HSS Budgam



■ **Gulfam Barji**

BUDGAM, OCT 04: CEO India, in collaboration with Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), successfully organized a Block Level Sports Meet at Higher Secondary School Budgam. The event was held under the guidance of the District Administration Budgam and the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS).

The program witnessed the active participation of students from multiple Higher Secondary Schools and High Schools of Beerwah Zone. A wide range of sports competitions were organized, including Volleyball, Badminton, Shot Put, Push-Ups, Skipping Rope, and 200m Race.

The event was graced by the Chief Education Officer, Budgam, and the Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO), along with princi-

pals, teachers, and staff members from different schools.

Teachers, parents, and the local community appreciated the initiative, highlighting its role in channelizing youth energy towards sports and positive activities. The event served as a powerful tool in promoting a drug-free society and encouraging discipline, teamwork, and healthy lifestyles among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, officials emphasized the importance of organizing such sports activities regularly to nurture young talent and keep students away from negative influences.

This initiative by CEO India and MY Bharat reflects a strong commitment to youth development and community well-being, while also strengthening the collaboration between NGOs, schools, and government departments.



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Srinagar's Ahmed Taha Masoodi Wins Double Gold at National Championship

■ **HT Sports Desk**

SRINAGAR, OCT 04: In a moment of pride for Jammu and Kashmir, 13-year-old Ahmed Taha Masoodi from Srinagar has once again showcased his brilliance on the national stage.

The young athlete bagged two gold medals at the 13th National Pencak Silat Championship 2025, held in Koppal, Karnataka, from September 26 to 28. Were 1500 athletes from all over India took part. He excelled in both the Tunggal and Solo events, outshining opponents from across the country.

This remarkable feat has made Taha a 14-time national champion, marking his consecutive gold-medal victories for the past six years. His name now stands tall in the history of Indian Pencak Silat.

What makes Taha's success even more special is his consistency. At just 13 years old, he has managed to dominate national-level championships year after year, proving that age is no barrier when it comes to talent and determination.

Behind his success lies a strong



foundation of dedication, discipline, and hard work. Taha has been training tirelessly, often balancing his studies with intense practice sessions, showing maturity well beyond his years.

A big share of credit goes to his mentor, Mr. Mohd. Iqbal, the Chief Coach of India. Mr. Iqbal has been guiding young athletes for more than 14 years, becoming the backbone of the Silat community in the country.

National, and International levels, of which 33 are Gold, 1 Silver, and 2 Bronze.

For a boy his age, such an outstanding record is nothing short of extraordinary. Each medal represents not just victory, but the hours of sweat, discipline, and sacrifice that Taha puts into his training routine.

Taha has made his ambitions clear — his ultimate dream is to win gold for India at the Olympic level. For this, he continues to maintain a strict schedule that includes not only advanced martial arts training but also a carefully monitored diet and fitness program.

His story is not just about medals; it is about inspiration. He has become a role model for countless young athletes in Jammu and Kashmir and across India, proving that with focus and determination, even the loftiest goals can be achieved.

As India prepares to make its mark in global sports, names like Ahmed Taha Masoodi remind the nation that the future of Indian athletics is in safe hands — strong, disciplined, and hungry for glory.

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