

Srinagar
Tuesday
October 07 | 2025
14 Rabi Al-Akhar, 1447 AH
Issue No: 238
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

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ECI announces by-elections for Budgam and Nagrota

Voting on Nov 11, counting scheduled for Nov 14

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: The crucial by-election for the Budgam and Nagrota seats will take place on November 11, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced on Monday.

Addressing a press conference, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), announced that the by-election for the two seats in Jammu & Kashmir will be held on November 11, while counting will take place on November 14.

As per the schedule announced by the poll body, notifications for these two seats will be issued on October 13, and nomination forms can be filed until October 20.

Scrutiny of nominations will be conducted on October 22, the ECI stated, adding that candidates may withdraw their nominations until October 24.

The voting and counting will take place on

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RS Polls: Nomination Process Begins for 4 Seats

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: The nomination process for the Rajya Sabha polls from Jammu & Kashmir began on Monday, with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Returning Officer issuing three separate notifications for the election to four seats that have remained vacant for more than four and a half years.

The poll body issued the notifications on Monday morning, announcing the schedule for the elections to the four seats. These notifications were issued following the President of India, through three

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October Feels Like January as First Snowfall Hits, Temp Dips 16°C

Snow drapes Pir Ki Gali, Gulmarg, Sinthan Top; rains lash plains, chill prevails



■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: The upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir recorded season's first snowfall on

Monday, while rains lashed the plains, causing temperatures to plummet below normal across the region.

Independent weatherman Faizan

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October Snowfall Revives Tourist Hopes in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: After a subdued summer tourist season following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, October snowfall has rekindled hopes about visitors returning to Kashmir in winter season.

Stakeholders while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) exuded hope that the early snowfall would pave the way for a bumper winter tourism season and boost arrivals in the coming weeks.

President of the Shikara Association,

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Sports Build Bridges of Unity and Friendship: CM

CM Omar throws open 69th National School Games in Srinagar



■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 6: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today officially declared open the 69th National School Games at

TRC Football Ground, Srinagar, by ceremonially kicking a football, marking the formal commencement of the national-level sporting event.

The opening ceremony was attended

by Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi),

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Valley To Get Better Power Supply This Winter: MD KPDCL

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: Managing Director Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mehmood Ahmad Shah, on Monday assured that the Kashmir Valley will witness a better and more reliable power supply this winter compared to last year, owing to significant improvements in infrastructure and preparedness.

Speaking to reporters as per news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS), the Man-

aging Director said that the power department is in a much better position this year to meet the rising demand during the winter season.

"We will ensure better power supply this winter compared to the previous one. A lot of work has been done to improve the network — whether in towns or cities — including upgradation of cabling systems and installation of smart meters. We are hopeful of providing better service to our consumers," the MD said.

Talking about the smart meter installation,

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Govt. Attaches I/c CEO Baramulla

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: The Government today attached in-charge Chief Education Officer, Baramulla, Bashir Ahmad Shah to the office of Directorate of School Education Kashmir.

An order issued by School Education department in this regard reads, "Pending inquiry, Mr. Bashir Ahmad Shah, In-charge Chief Education officer, Baramulla is hereby attached in the Directorate of School Education Kashmir

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Young athletes will spread message of peace: Satish

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma Monday said that the young athletes, participating in 69th National School Games, will give a message of peace from Kashmir to the whole country.

Speaking with reporters, the Minister said that the participants from 30 states



and Union Territories are participating in 69th National School Games, which was

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ESTIC To Shape Scientific Roadmap For Viksit Bharat: Jitendra Singh

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, OCT 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the first edition of the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) in November, which is projected



as the flagship event of the sector, bringing together Nobel laureates, innovators and policymakers in the field of science.

The conclave, scheduled to be held at Bharat Mandapam from November 3 to 5, is set to become an annual event showcasing latest innovations and trends in

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CS Reviews Functioning of IT Department and NIC J&K

Also launches E-SAM portal for management of digital assets

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 6: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Information Technology (IT) Department and the National Informatics Centre (NIC), J&K. The meeting was attended by Secretary, IT, Dr. Piyush Singla; CEO, JaKeGA, Mahima Madan; State Informatics Officer, NIC, J.S. Modi; and other senior officers of both IT-related establishments.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of cyber security, calling for its strengthening right from the tehsil and block levels. He directed the IT Department to ensure the seamless expansion of the e-Office network to all tehsil and block offices across Jammu and Kashmir following its successful rollout in district-level offices. He also asked for a detailed status report identifying the offices still outside the e-Office ambit.

The Chief Secretary further instruct-

ed the Department to expedite the upgradation of the State Data Centre (SDC) and the establishment of a Mini Security Operations Centre (SoC) in J&K. Stressing the need for capacity-building initiatives, he emphasized the creation of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Information Technology to nurture skilled manpower aligned with future industry requirements.

He also called for the formulation of a comprehensive proposal for the

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Use rational medication for children: Secretary Health

Avoid cough, cold medicines for children below 2 years of age

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah today advised for using rational medication in children. He said this while chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat, here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K, Smita Sethi, along with the Heads of Departments of Paediatrics from all Government Medical Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir and officers from the Divisional and District levels of the



Drugs Control Organisation, J&K.

The meeting was held in the context of a recent communication issued by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, which advises that cough and cold medications should not be prescribed or dispensed to children below two years of age.

During the meeting, Abid Rasheed emphasized the urgent need to promote rational drug use and ensure patient safety in paediatric care across Jammu and Kashmir.

He directed all medical professionals, pharmaceutical

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FB page administrator booked for 'false info'

■ HT News Desk

BUDGAM, OCT 6: Budgam Police have registered an FIR against the administrator of a Facebook page titled "Kashmir Speaks" for allegedly spreading false and misleading information on social media regarding an incident that occurred in Khanshab area of the district.

According to police, the case dates back to August 26, 2025, when Police Station Khanshab had registered FIR No. 165/2025 under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) after a horse was killed in village Rakhai. During investigation, it was established that the killing had resulted from a personal dispute between the parties involved and was not linked to any commercial activity.

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Javid Dar reviews progress of ongoing projects in Municipal Committee Watergam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCT 6: Minister for Agriculture Production Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, chaired a review meeting on progress of ongoing projects and works in Municipal Committee Watergam at civil secretariat here today.

During the meeting, the Minister stressed on the importance of expediting ongoing projects in various sectors, increasing transparency and accountability to ensure optimal use of resources. He urged

officials to utilize unused funds for development works, as per given guidelines, to benefit the people.

Javid Dar emphasized on the J&K Government's commitment towards making Jammu and Kashmir a prosperous state under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur briefed the Minister on a spectrum of pivotal developments and upcoming initiatives aimed at transforming the urban landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting discussed about ongoing and new works undertaken under the Capex Budget



2025-26 (regular) in MC Watergam, including, Construction of Office Complex Near Town

Hall Watergam, Open Air Gym Park at Gund Mulraj Ward No. 11, Development of

Footpaths, Tiling and cobblestone work at various spots, Parking Place and Transport

Yard at MC Watergam, Inner Link Development, at different wards of MC Watergam and

Macadamization of Inner Links at MC Watergam.

The meeting was informed that Drainage Sector D/S Gund Kareem Khan Watergam (SAS-CI Project) and Construction of Deep Drain at Ward No. 1 & 3 is in progress.

The Minister advised officials to work in coordination with each other to achieve the goal of all-round development in MC Watergam.

The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore, Deputy Director (E&S) Urban Local Bodies Kashmir, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Executive Officer MC Watergam, and others concerned officers.

"Sharifon Ka Mohalla" Book by Muhammad Hussain Zafar Launched at an Impressive Ceremony at Srinagar

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, OCT 5: Grand literary event was held at the iconic Tagore Hall Srinagar to mark the launch of Sharifon Ka Mohalla, a short story collection by renowned broadcaster and writer Muhammad Hussain Zafar. The ceremony was organized by Zed Publications and witnessed a vibrant gathering of writers, poets, broadcasters, intellectuals, and literature enthusiasts from across the Valley.

The event commenced with a warm welcome by the organizers, followed by a formal introduction of the author and his literary contributions. Moham-



mad Hussain Zafar, a celebrated voice in broadcasting and an accomplished writer, has been known for his deep engagement with social themes and his distinct narrative style. Sharifon Ka Mohalla, his latest offering, is a poignant collection of short stories that reflect the nuances of Kashmiri society, moral dilemmas, and the complexities of human relationships.

Several eminent literary figures and media personalities graced the occasion and shared their thoughts about the book and its author. They lauded Zafar's ability to blend realism with empathy, and highlighted how his work resonates with the lived experiences of the common man.

While speaking at the function, Mohammad Hussain Zafar expressed gratitude to Zed Publications for publishing the book and thanked the audience for their overwhelming support. "Sharifon Ka Mohalla is close to my heart. It is not just a collection of stories, but a reflection of the silent struggles, ironies, and cultural fabric of our society," he said.

The ceremony also featured readings from selected stories, which captivated the audience and sparked meaningful discussions about the role of literature in contemporary times. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all participants, guests, and organizers who made the function a success.

The launch of Sharifon Ka Mohalla has added a significant milestone to the literary landscape of Kashmir, and the book is expected to be widely read and appreciated for its literary depth and social relevance.

NCDC Holds Meeting: Urges Action Against Drug Abuse Among Youth

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: In a passionate meeting, the National Child Development Council (NCDC) expressed serious concerns about the rising drug abuse among students and young people in India. They called for national action and interventions at various levels. The council stressed the need for strict legal measures, digital monitoring, institutional responsibility, and, most importantly, awareness among families and communities.

The session began with a powerful statement from the chairperson: "Today, let's resolve to confront the drug mafias. This crisis worsens each day, and our children—especially those in higher education—are the main targets."

It was noted that students

often become victims of drug networks, whether unknowingly or under peer pressure. These drugs are frequently accessed through new mobile apps, social circles, or shops close to schools.

Member Mohammad Rizwan highlighted a concerning trend: "New apps trap students with fake opportunities. Drug mafias exploit these apps to track and lure young people."

He stressed the need for government oversight of digital platforms to shut down these dangerous gateways.

NCDC committee member Bindu pointed out that substance use, like tobacco and alcohol, is rising among kids as young as 12 years old. She drew parallels to notorious cases like the Nirbhaya incident, noting how legal loopholes often protect juvenile

offenders involved in serious crimes linked to addiction.

"Even when children commit serious acts under the influence, the law protects them. We must address this gap," she said.

She recommended that schools incorporate awareness classes and that parents regularly supervise their children, including checking school bags.

NCDC Master Trainer Baba Alexander noted: "These drugs are often mixed in sweets and chocolates; primary school students consume them—often without realizing it."

He highlighted the need for special investigation teams to uncover drug networks and suggested including real-life case studies in school curriculums, such as visits to rehab centers and interactions with former addicts.

NCDC's Radha emphasized the importance of spotting behavioral changes early: "If a child suddenly loses focus or withdraws, that's a warning sign. Teachers and parents must intervene before addiction escalates," she said.

She also raised concerns about "drug-laced chocolates" being sold near schools.

Another member, Anandhi, pointed out that exposure to substance use at home—like alcohol or smoking—sets a bad example. "Children mimic what they see. If parents casually use substances, it normalizes that behavior," she said, adding that prevention should begin at home.

In a heartfelt message, Shaki-la Wahab of NCDC shared real stories of students affected by neglect, lack of parental involvement, and emotional rejection.

"Many children I counsel come from homes lacking proper care. Parents are often absent, overly strict, or emotionally distant," she said.

She mentioned that legal restrictions hinder actions against underage users, reinforcing the need for rehabilitation and emotional support instead of punishment.

The NCDC members agreed that changes in legislation alone won't suffice. They unanimously supported several points: stricter digital monitoring and app regulation, mandatory drug awareness programs in schools, parental workshops and counseling, community vigilance near schools and colleges, early access to rehabilitation for victims, curriculum inclusion of drug impact stories, and targeted actions against mafia networks.

Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat from Doru Shahabad Among World's Top 2% Scientists By Stanford University

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: In a moment of immense pride for the region, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, a native of Doru Shahabad, Anantnag, has been ranked among the top 2% of scientists globally in Stanford University's prestigious annual ranking of scientists based on career-long impact and citation metrics. This globally acknowledged list, published by a team of researchers at Stanford in collaboration with Elsevier, identifies the most influential scientists across all scientific disciplines based on standardized citation indicators.

This remarkable recognition not only highlights Dr. Bhat's scientific contributions but also shines a spotlight on the immense talent emerging from Jammu and Kashmir. His inclusion in this elite list symbolizes years of dedication to biomedical research and academic excellence, and stands as a proud moment not just for the tehsil of Doru Shahabad but for the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Currently, Dr. Bhat serves as a Senior Staff Scientist at Sidra Medi-



cine, Qatar, one of the leading centers for pediatric care, precision medicine, and biomedical research in the Middle East. His work spans cutting-edge research in cancer biology, obesity, and metabolic diseases, often integrating genomics, transcriptomics, and other multi-omics approaches to uncover therapeutic targets and biomarkers.

Dr. Bhat earned his Ph.D. from the

prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, where he focused on vaccine immunology. Following his doctoral studies, he pursued postdoctoral research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee, USA, where he specialized in cancer biology.

Over the years, Dr. Bhat has authored numerous high-impact publications in internationally renowned journals. He has also contributed to several academic books and special issues, and his work has earned him multiple international awards and accolades for research excellence. In addition to his scientific research, he serves on the editorial boards of several respected international journals.

Dr. Bhat's journey from the scenic town of Doru Shahabad to global scientific recognition is a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and intellectual rigor. His achievements continue to inspire the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to pursue careers in science and research, and his contributions are paving the way for future advancements in personalized medicine and global health.

Police Attach Property of Drug Peddler in Qazigund

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCT 6: In a significant crackdown on the drug menace, Kulgam Police on Monday attached the property of a notorious drug peddler in the Checki-Badwani area of South Kashmir's Qazigund.

An official spokesperson informed that the residential house belonging to Bilal Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohammad Abdullah Bhat, a resident of Checki Badwani, was attached following due legal procedures.

"The action was carried out under Section 68-F (1) of the NDPS Act, 1985, after the said property was identified as illegally acquired during the course of investigation and enquiry conducted by the police," the official said.

The police reaffirmed their commitment to curbing drug trafficking and taking strict action against individuals involved in such unlawful activities.

"Persons found indulging in drug peddling will be dealt with as per law. Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making serious efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drugs," a police statement said.

This development is part of the police department's ongoing efforts to crack down on drug networks in the region and send a strong message to those involved in the illegal trade.

KPDCL organises farewell ceremony in honour of outgoing Pr. Secy PDD H. Rajesh Prasad

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCT 06: Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) today organized a farewell ceremony in honour of outgoing Principal Secretary PDD, H. Rajesh Prasad, who has been elevated and posted as Chief Secretary of Union Territory of Chan-

digarh.

MD KPDCL, Mehmood Ahmad Shah; Special Secretary, PDD, Younis Malik; Chief Engineer Distribution/Planning & Procurement/Transmission/Generation/Projects-Kashmir), Director Finance JKPDD and other senior officers of PDD and KPDCL.

Speaking on the occasion, MD

KPDCL and senior officers of PDD lauded Rajesh Prasad's visionary leadership and transformative contributions towards the power sector in Jammu & Kashmir. Under his dynamic stewardship, the department witnessed substantial progress in operational performance and financial discipline, he said.

He added that the initiatives formulated by Rajesh Prasad led to historic gains in billing and collection efficiency, alongside a notable reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.

The officers further said that H. Rajesh Prasad's tenure was marked by significant infrastruc-

ture modernization, including the widespread installation of smart meters, strengthening of grid stations, and enhancement of power reliability across the region.

The officers of JKPDD extended their heartfelt wishes for his continued success in his new role as Chief Secretary, Chandigarh UT.

Dy. CM reviews performance, functioning of H&H Deptt. post merger

Reiterates Government's commitment for welfare of artisans, weavers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary reviewed the performance and functioning of Handloom and Handicrafts (H&H) departments post merger in a high-level meeting here today.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Ali Mohammad Dar, Dr. Mohammad Shafi Wani, Tanveer Sadiq, Riyaz Bedar; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikram-

jit Singh, besides other senior officers of the Handicrafts and Handloom department attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister was briefed about the flagship schemes and policies benefiting the handicrafts and handloom sector in Jammu & Kashmir, pursuant upon notification of New Wool, Handicrafts and Handloom Policy 2020.

The Deputy CM directed the Administrative Department to present consolidated data on pre-



merger and post-merger years in the next follow up meeting, with

reference to departmental schemes in both the sectors, so that a per-

spective roadmap can be framed for both the sectors.

He also advised the department to present a blueprint for promotion of the craft sector in Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated that government is committed for the welfare of artisans and weavers.

Deputy CM laid emphasis upon ensuring that the Handicrafts and Handloom departments serve the larger interests of artisans and weavers. He said that the department of Handicrafts and Handloom shall undertake fresh stakeholder consultations with an aim to

equally promote both the handicrafts and handloom sectors.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister heard representatives from both the handicrafts and handloom sector, to obtain first-hand feedback from the concerned stakeholders. He assured the delegations that their concerns shall be examined for redressal.

During the meeting, MLAs also gave their valuable suggestions and feedback for the promotion of art and craft ensuring ease in livelihood earning by the artisans.

KVK Budgam concludes rural credit workshops under JKCIIP

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 06: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam, SKUAST-Kashmir today concluded a series of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Rural Credit Workshops under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Projects (JKCIIP).

The workshops were organized across eight identified blocks of the district viz. Beerwah, Khag, Khanshab, Budgam, Chadoora, Nagam, Charishareef and BK Pora.

Commencing from 12th August 2025, the campaign comprised of 35 workshops, covering 178 villages, 8 blocks, more than 150 Panchayat Halqas of the district and more than 3600 farmers participated in these workshops from across the district.

Each programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers, entrepreneurs, Self Help Group (SHG) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) representatives, taking the total outreach to diverse groups of stakeholders. The events also witnessed the participation of MLAs and DDCs, ensuring strong community linkage and policy-level support.

During the workshops, scientists of KVK-Budgam, officers from Agriculture and allied departments, and officials from J&K Bank delivered detailed lectures on schemes and programmes under JKCIIP. The participants were sensitized about the 50% subsidy available on every scheme enlisted under JKCIIP, motivating them to avail benefits for strengthening farming systems, establishing enterprises, and boosting rural livelihoods.

These schemes will provide direct livelihood support to rural communities, strengthen the agriculture and allied sectors which are vital to Budgam's rural economy. JKCIIP project will also nurture young talent and support the establishment of agri-entrepreneurs.

DC Kupwara holds NCORD meeting to review measures of curbing drug abuse in district

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review various measures put in place to curb drug abuse in the district.

Threadbare discussion was held in the meeting on issues related to the agenda. The officers presented detailed reports on the work done as per their respective roles and responsibilities.

The Deputy Commissioner

impressed upon all officers to put in extra efforts aimed at eradicating the drug menace in the district, mainly focusing on conducting special awareness camps for vulnerable segments of society such as transport workers, street vendors, and youth.

He directed the Tehsil-level machinery to gear up for the identification of hotspots with immediate destruction of wild bhang and poppy cultivation wherever reported and to initiate legal action against the culprits.

It was informed that all med-



ical shops in the district have installed CCTV cameras, with 95 percent computerized billing

systems already in place.

The Assistant Drug Controller was directed to ensure 100 percent mandatory computerized billing as a means to break the supply chain.

Highlighting the role of parents in safeguarding the future of their children, the DC emphasized organizing monthly Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) in all government and private schools to discuss the menace of drug abuse along with other related issues.

He also directed the concerned authorities to ensure that no sale or consumption of tobacco or re-

lated substances takes place within 100 meters of any school premises.

It was further impressed upon the participants to work towards the declaration of "Nasha Mukta Panchayat" to encourage healthy competition among panchayats in making Kupwara a drug-free district.

SSP Kupwara, Gulam Jeelani; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad; ACR, CMO, CEO, DFO and other concerned officers attended the meeting. SSP Handwara, SDM Lolab and all Tehsildars attended the meeting virtually.

District Bandipora launches Massive Awareness Drive under Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 06: In a groundbreaking initiative, District Bandipora has launched an extensive awareness drive under the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan covering 31 villages across six blocks viz. Tulail, Bandipora, Arin, Bankoote, Gurez, and Bakhtore.

The campaign, rolled out with great enthusiasm, aims to empower the local populace with a special focus on the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community, which constitutes a substantial segment of the district's demographic profile.

With a total ST population of 39,420 out of 50,408 souls spread across 75,07 households, the initiative seeks to bridge the gap between government services and community needs. To ensure effective

outreach and coordination, a dedicated cadre of 53 has been constituted at the district level, while 790 personnel have been deployed at the block and village levels to provide guidance, support, and awareness to the local populace.

The awareness drive has been marked by vibrant engagement activities including skits, folk songs, traditional drum performances, and transect walks conducted from hamlet to hamlet and village to village. These activities have not only added colour and enthusiasm to the campaign but also fostered a deep sense of community participation and ownership.

The initiative has witnessed an overwhelming response from the people, with massive participation in Gram Sabhas across all six blocks. Vil-

lagers have actively contributed to the planning process of 17 ministries and 25 interventions, marking a significant step towards participatory governance and inclusive development.

The campaign has also involved door-to-door awareness drives and dissemination of Gram Sabha notices to ensure that no household remains uninformed or excluded from the process.

The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan in Bandipora marks a new chapter in grassroots empowerment and participatory planning. By fostering active citizen engagement, especially among the tribal population, the initiative is set to bring about far-reaching social, economic, and cultural transformations, paving the way for a brighter and more self-reliant future for the people of Bandipora.

DC Bandipora reviews functioning of RDD

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to assess the progress and performance of various schemes being implemented across the district, including all three subdivisions- Bandipora, Sumbal, and Gurez.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Executive Engineer REW Bandipora, Executive Engineer R&B SSD Gurez, and all Block Development Officers (BDOs) of the district.

The meeting undertook a block-wise review of major schemes, including District Capex, MGNREGA, PMAY-G (1.0 & 2.0), SBM-G, RGSA, and the Panchayat Advancement Index, besides UT Capex, ABDP, APDP, MPLADS, and CDF. During the review, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the MGNREGA performance indicators, including e-KYC completion, delayed compensation (R14.1) and social audit pendency for FY 2025-26. She impressed upon officers to ensure timely completion of works, clearing of pending payments, and transparency in wage disbursement for public satisfaction.

It was informed that several community-oriented works are under execution, including plantation drives at Madwan, construction of roads with drains in Panchayat Chanpora Nadihal, besides other rural infrastructure projects across blocks. The DC issued directions for prioritizing completion of ongoing works, especially those with direct community benefit, and instructed officers to regularly update progress on the district monitoring dashboard. She further directed concerned engineers and BDOs to ensure proper technical supervision of all the completed assets.

The DC also reviewed progress under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G) and emphasized the maintenance of cleanliness assets in every Panchayat with active involvement of PRIs in their upkeep and monitoring. Under PMAY-G, the department reported ongoing progress in construction of houses for eligible beneficiaries with focus on 100 percent geo-tagging and timely completion. While reviewing progress under District Capex, UT Capex, ABDP and CDF, the DC directed officers to accelerate execution to achieve both physical and financial targets within set deadlines.

SKUAST- organizes 21-Day National Training Program on Geoinformation Science for Natural Resource Management

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) organized a 21-day national training programme on "Geoinformation Science for Natural Resources Management" on Monday.

Director, CITH-ICAR, Professor M. K. Verma graced the inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest. In his address, Prof. Verma emphasized the pivotal role of remote sensing and GIS technologies in the modern management of natural resources. He highlighted that these digital tools are instrumental in data-driven planning, monitoring, and sustainable decision-making.

Stressing the importance of digital literacy, he remarked that "new-age agriculture demands a skilled and innovative workforce capable of harnessing technology for ecological and economic sustainability."

The advanced training aims to enhance participants' knowledge and practical skills in remote sensing (RS) and geographical information systems (GIS) for the sustainable management of natural resources.



Organized by the Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics Laboratory, Division of Soil Science, Faculty of Horticulture, the programme is being conducted in collaboration with IIT Bombay and CITH-ICAR as knowledge partners. It is sponsored under the Jammu & Kashmir Soil and Land Resource Information System for Planning and Soil Health (JKSLRI) project, funded by the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

A total of 40 participants in-

cluding students, scientists, and working professionals from different parts of the country are attending the programme, which promises an intensive blend of theoretical understanding and hands-on learning.

The inaugural session was also attended by Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar, SKUAST-K and Mohamed Kasim Khan, National Coordinator, FOSSEE GIS, IIT Bombay, among other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof.

Azmat Alam Khan, emphasized that GIS is an emerging technology transforming natural resource management. He noted that the integration of GIS and remote sensing enables data-driven planning and sustainable resource use, and appreciated the initiative for promoting technological advancement in agriculture and environment management.

In his welcome address, Prof. M. A. Malik, Head, Division of Soil Science, outlined the objectives of the training and under-

scored its relevance in the context of contemporary agricultural challenges. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Bangroo, Course Director, provided an overview of the 21-day training schedule, highlighting key thematic areas and expert sessions.

The training programme marks yet another milestone in SKUAST-K's commitment to fostering innovation, capacity building, and technology-driven approaches in the field of agriculture and natural resource management.

Public Notice

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Name hadeed hyder rather
S/o shabir ahmad rather
R/o matipora

D.O.B as per school records 25-03-2018

Dy. CM assesses snow clearance preparedness of M&HE Deptt

Focus on Public Safety During Severe Weather

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 06: In order to ensure smooth and uninterrupted delivery of essential services and functioning of vital installations across Kashmir division, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today chaired a high-level meeting to review overall functioning and preparedness of Mechanical and Hospital Engineering department (M&HE).

During the meeting, the Deputy CM held detailed deliberations on challenges posed by harsh winter conditions, particularly in the snow-bound zones of Kashmir Valley and high regions of Jammu division.

While assessing the preparedness for the anticipated heavy snowfall, the Deputy CM directed the department to deploy high-tech machinery, underscoring the



importance of prompt response in snow-affected regions to maintain seamless mobility and public safety.

He asked for prompt efforts like enhanced coordination between departments, and preparing public advisories for citizens

to ensure their safety. "Timely advisories should be issued to the public regarding safety measures, including avoiding unnecessary

travel to higher reaches during heavy snowfall," he added.

Choudhary also directed to safeguard infrastructure and ensure essential services like power, water, and road connectivity remain functional. He emphasised the need for a robust mechanism to minimize public inconvenience during severe weather conditions.

Deputy CM asked the officials to prioritise timely and effective responses to weather-related challenges, stressing on the importance of keeping men and machinery in a state of readiness to ensure the routine functioning of essential installations.

He instructed the concerned authorities to focus on clearing key routes, including inter-district highways and roads leading to hospitals, power grids, water supply systems, fire and emergency services.

Director Horticulture Jammu takes stock of activities in Ramban & Doda districts

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 6: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed along with Assistant Director Horticulture Sunil Gupta conducted an extensive two day tour of Ramban and Doda districts to oversee operations and other developmental activities being carried out in the Horticulture sector in the Chenab region.

He reviewed the implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)/ MIDH & JKICP in the twin districts.



During the visit, he inspected Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Batote, Ramban and Khelani and took stock of the ongoing developmental activities. He stressed on production of quality grafted planting material in the nursery.

In Doda District, Director Horticulture and District Development Council Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal visited MCC Office & Government Fruit Plant Nursery Kotli Bhaderwah to assess the progress and achievements.

At MCC office, Director Horticulture Jammu & DDC Council Chairman distributed certificates among 60 women farmers for successfully completing the One month training course in fruits and vegetables processing to produce value added products such as Jam, Pickle, Candies, Sauces, Squash, Jellys etc.

Meanwhile, the Director inaugurated Agriculture Service Centre (ASC) at Sungli - Bhaderwah set up by a beneficiary Rizwan Malik with the assistance of the department under the flagship JKICP scheme.

He also inspected the Root Stock Bank of Roshan Lal at Seri - Bhaderwah, Ultra High- Density apple orchard of Jaswan Manhas at Basti - Bhaderwah etc.

The Director also convened a meeting of the Horticulture Development Officers, officials & field functionaries of district Doda.

Later, the Director inspected the site for development of Hi-Tech Frosty Fruit Cultivar Centre at Dhar Sarthal, Kathua. The facility is being developed over an area of 450 kanal.

The area being of temperate climate, the nursery is suitable for production of temperate fruit plants. He was accompanied by DHO Kathua Shakeel Ahmed and officers from district Doda.

TLSC Aishmuqam Initiates Removal of Illegal Cannabis Cultivation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 06: The Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Aishmuqam, under the Chairmanship of Judicial Magistrate First Class, Shyam Kumar Sharma, has launched a concerted community initiative aimed at eradicating the illegal cultivation of cannabis in the locality.

Under the directions of the Chairman, the District Excise and Taxation Department was instructed to equip their teams with necessary machinery and manpower to carry out a scheduled cleanup operation for the removal of illegally cultivated cannabis plants.

During the drive, the Chairman TLSC highlighted the grave threat posed by cannabis cultivation, stressing that such activities serve as a source of illegal narcotics and endanger the peace, security, and well-being of society, particularly the youth. He emphasized that this initiative was being undertaken to completely eliminate the menace and prevent any unlawful activities linked with it.

The drive witnessed the presence of Tehsildar Srigufwara, Naib Tehsildar Aishmuqam, SDPO Pahalgam, SHO Srigufwara, and SHO Aishmuqam, who ensured law and order and peaceful execution of the removal process, contributing to the overall success of the campaign.

Chairman Sharma also urged the local residents to remain vigilant, report any instances of illegal cultivation, and actively participate in spreading awareness about the harmful effects of narcotics. He reiterated that the Legal Services Committee remains steadfast in promoting legal awareness, ensuring access to justice, and safeguarding youth from the scourge of drugs.

The event concluded with a pledge to continue efforts to eliminate illegal cannabis cultivation and to raise awareness among people about its detrimental effects on individuals and the community at large.

MSME DFO Srinagar, AIC-CSIR-IIIM Conclude week long Business Management & IPR Workshop in Srinagar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 6: A five-day workshop on Business Management & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), jointly organized by the Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO) Srinagar, Ministry of MSME, and AIC-CSIR-IIIM, concluded today at Srinagar.

During the workshop, expert sessions were conducted by Saheel Alaqband, Assistant Director Ministry of MSME, who elaborated on the issues faced by MSMEs in the field of IP and solutions to overcome them. A special session was also delivered by Zainab Syed, IP Attorney, and M.H. Makhdoomi.

During the workshop, a detailed presentation on Intellectual Property



Rights (IPR) and its benefits for entrepreneurs was followed by an insight-

ful session on Financial Management, focusing on effective resource utilization and planning for MSMEs.

Speakers highlighted the importance of IPR in protecting innovation, building strong brands, and enhancing business competitiveness. A total of 25 participants attended the workshop, gaining insights into entrepreneurship, trademarks, patents, and MSME support schemes.

The entrepreneurs were urged to leverage IPR and Ministry schemes to safeguard their innovations and explore new growth opportunities.

During the valedictory session, participants shared positive feedback and thanked the Ministry of MSME for organizing the awareness program.

Director Agriculture Kashmir reviews Expenditure under HADP, JKICP & CSS in Kulgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, OCTOBER 06: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today chaired a review meeting at Kulgam to assess the expenditure and progress under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKICP and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

During the meeting, the Director took a detailed appraisal of scheme-wise and component-wise expenditure, physical achievements, and targets realized by the department in the district. He stressed upon the officers to ensure optimum utilization of available funds and timely completion of



all approved works to provide maximum benefits to the farming community.

On the occasion Chief Agricul-

ture officer Kulgam gave brief presentation regarding expenditure status under CSS, CAPEX, HADP and other schemes before

the chair.

Director highlighted the significance of timely expenditure under HADP, CSS and other inter-

ventions in time bound manner which will help in transforming the agriculture sector and directed the officers to maintain close coordination with field functionaries for effective implementation.

He further emphasized on the need for transparency, accountability, and result-oriented execution of all centrally and state-sponsored programmes.

The Director urged the officers to maintain a constant interface with farmers, encourage adoption of modern technologies and innovative practices, and ensure that the benefits of schemes reach the grassroots level.

JMC Reviews Sanitation, Waste Management and Cleanliness Measures Across Jammu City

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 6: To further strengthen sanitation services and ensure a clean, healthy, and sustainable urban environment, the Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation), Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Abdul Star, today convened a comprehensive review meeting with Health and Sanitation officials of the Corporation. The meeting aimed to assess the existing cleanliness operations, waste management practices, and public hygiene status across all wards of Jammu city.

During the meeting, a wide range of critical issues concerning the upkeep and beautification of the city were discussed in detail. The Joint Commissioner reviewed the monitoring of door-to-door garbage collection vehicles through GPS tracking to ensure timely coverage of households and effective waste transportation. He also took stock of the collection and disposal of construction and demolition



(C&D) waste, emphasizing strict action against unauthorized dumping along roadsides, drains, and vacant plots.

The progress on enforcing the ban on Single Use Plastic (SUP) was also reviewed. Abdul Star directed the field staff to intensify enforcement drives and impose penalties on violators as per Solid Waste Management Rules. He also reviewed the status and functionality of public toilets across the city and instructed for their regular cleaning, availability of water, and

maintenance of sanitation facilities round the clock. Reviewing the grievance redressal mechanism on the Swachh City Portal, the Joint Commissioner directed officers to resolve complaints within the stipulated timeframe to uphold

public confidence in the sanitation system. He also emphasized beat-wise deployment of sanitation workers, ensuring real-time attendance monitoring and proper manpower utilization for comprehensive coverage of all wards.

Further, the mapping and deployment of 407 and 709 tipper used for garbage transportation were examined to enhance route coordination and fuel efficiency. The functioning and scheduling of the Nallah Gang responsible for cleaning drains and nallahs were discussed in detail, with instructions to ensure routine de-silting and clearing of blockages to prevent waterlogging during the monsoon season.

While reviewing revenue generation from sanitation services, the Joint Commissioner directed officials to strengthen collection and accounting mechanisms to ensure transparency. The functioning of transfer stations and enforcement of penalties for violations related to littering, open waste burning, and plastic usage were also assessed.

Abdul Star also reviewed the progress of composting activities at Narwal, emphasizing the importance of converting organic waste into compost to reduce the burden on dumping sites. He instructed officers to adopt

sustainable and environment-friendly disposal methods for garden and horticulture waste while encouraging initiatives promoting recycling and reuse. In his concluding remarks, the Joint Commissioner called for enhanced field supervision, inter-departmental coordination, and active public participation to ensure lasting cleanliness outcomes. He stressed that citizen cooperation is crucial in maintaining a cleaner and greener Jammu and urged sanitation teams to engage regularly with local residents, RWAs, and market associations for awareness and behavioural change.

The meeting was attended by Health Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, Sanitation Officers, and Sanitation Inspectors from all wards, who assured full commitment to implementing the directions on the ground. They also reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen Jammu's sanitation ecosystem through efficient waste management and continuous public engagement initiatives.

He instructed officers to adopt

He instructed officers to adopt

HT EDITORIAL

Set up CA stores for better returns of fruits produced in Kashmir

Horticulture is considered to be the mainstay of Kashmir economy and the sector contributes a lot towards the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of this place. Given the importance of horticulture it is imperative that all the necessary things are in place and all the facilities are provided to the people involved with this sector. As on date there are many things that are missing on ground even though these are pivotal for the proper development of this sector.

Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage is very important to preserve the fruits and such facilities should be made available to the horticulturists across the valley. In the present day context just a few CA stores are available to the people and the same does not suffice to the needs of horticulturists of Kashmir. It was due to this lack of facility that the horticulturists were forced to sell their produce in the recent past and that too at throw away prices.

Since the shelf life of fruits like apples, pears, cherry and strawberry is very less, it is important that these are preserved for posterity. In this regard the CA store would be an ideal place for storage and it would serve a lot of purposes. For the reasons best known to the people at helm the development of CA stores has not taken place on expected lines due to which the horticulturists are suffering. Private entrepreneurs have also not devoted their attention to this aspect and this seems to be a least priority for them.

As lots of money is required to set up a CA store only big businessmen can perform this task. The other option of setting up a CA store can be in the form of a group of small businessmen joining and pooling their resources in this regard. It is important that immediate measures are taken in this regard so that in future the fruit sellers of Kashmir are not forced to sell their product at cheaper rates. In other words we can say that distress sales need to be avoided in the horticulture sector.

The government should also lay focus on this important topic and they too should chip in with efforts in this regard. Providing soft loans to the self help groups in this respect would go a long way in settling the nerves of the people involved with the horticulture sector. Once CA stores in adequate numbers come up across the valley then only we can say that the government is serious in developing the horticulture sector.

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British Primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall Brilliant Bonding With Wildlife



■ Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

Dr. Jane Goodall is no more. But her legacy is vast. The Jane Goodall Institute continues its work in over 75 countries — supporting chimpsanctuaries, helping local communities, protecting habitats, fostering youth leadership in environmental stewardship. Her Roots & Shoots programme has reached millions of young people worldwide, encouraging them to understand that small actions can make a difference. Through her books, speeches, interviews, she altered global consciousness. She altered how we think about the animal kingdom and our place in it. From her early days crouching by termite mounds in Gombe to late nights editing documents virtually until the end, she lived with a sense of mission — to make the world more just, more aware, more kind.

It is rare to meet a person whose life so fully embodies their ideals: in Goodall there was no separation between study and love, between discovery and care, between science and soul. She showed that knowledge gained with respect can lead to understanding; that standing with the vulnerable — whether chimpanzees or forests or neglected humans — is not only an ethical obligation but a path to a richer understanding of what it means to be human. What made Dr Goodall unique was not merely the discoveries she made, but the intimate relationships she formed with her subjects in Gombe — the individual chimpanzees, each with name, personality, story. Chimps like Flo, the matriarch she watched with affection; David Greybeard, brave and curious; Fifi, and many others whose lives she chronicled. She observed their tenderness, their grief, their kinship, their war, their joy. In doing so she blurred the boundary between human and animal, invited us to see ourselves in them. She called them individuals, not specimens. And she learned from them: about love, loyalty, mourning, about how complex social bonds can be. Chimps in her study used tools, made war, showed jealousy, joy, fear. They had culture. Her work helped the world appreciate sentience, to ask deeper ethical questions about our treatment of all living beings.

Dr Goodall's path was not without obstacles. Early fieldwork was physically exhausting, lonely, sometimes dangerous. Supplies were limited. Funding often uncertain. In later years, mounting threats to chimpanzee habitat, poaching, disease, human encroachment placed her beloved chimps in increasing peril. She spoke often of the moral urgency: that all species depend on healthy ecosystems, that we cannot separate animal welfare from human welfare. Some scientists questioned her naming of animals, or anthropomorphizing emotions. Some criticisms were valid — balancing objectivity with empathy is difficult. But many came to see that her empathetic approach was itself revolutionary, not a liability. Her presence, waiting, listening, bonding, opened a new way of doing field science. She inspired generations, especially women, to pursue science and conservation in ways that embrace compassion. The world lost one of its most luminous champions of nature on 1 October 2025, when Dr Jane Goodall, pioneer primatologist, conservationist, and voice for the voiceless, passed away at the age of 91. Her death by natural causes was confirmed by the Jane Goodall Institute. She was in Los Angeles at the time, engaged in a speaking tour — still active, still urging humanity toward greater compassion for the natural world. Born in London in 1934, Goodall grew up with a deep curiosity for animals and a yearning for Africa. Her childhood was marked by a family that encouraged her to imagine and to explore; she was drawn to the natural world long before academic titles or formal training would define her path. Lacking a university degree initially, she held jobs — secretary, waitress — to fund a trip to Africa, where she planned simply to see wild animals. Her life took a defining turn when she met the anthropologist Louis Leakey in Kenya in the late 1950s. Leakey, impressed by her passion and keen observation skills, gave her an opportunity that would change both science and her life.

In 1960, at about age 26, Goodall began her field research at Gombe Stream Game Reserve in what is now Tanzania. She set up a camp and observed chimpanzees in their natural habitat. Her methods were unorthodox: she named individuals, noted personalities and relationships, and waited — sometimes for very long periods — to see behaviours that others might have missed. Her patience led to discoveries



Dr Jane Goodall's passing leaves an immense emptiness — among chimps who no longer wander the shrinking forests, among conservationists who have lost a mentor, among ordinary people who found in her life a truthful beacon. Yet she also left something more enduring than grief: a template for how to live in compassion, curiosity, and courage; a world slightly more kind, slightly more aware, than the one she was born into. May we honour her by carrying forward her curiosity, her care, her insistence that to know another being is to love them; that to protect the vulnerable is to safeguard our own humanity

that would ripple through science. One of the earliest and most famous was the observation of a chimpanzee she called David Greybeard using a blade of grass to fish termites from a mound — a tool-use behavior. At that time, it was widely believed that tool-making and tool-use were exclusive to humans. This finding forced scientists to rethink what separated human beings from other primates. She also recorded chimpanzees hunting, eating meat, engaging in complex social interactions, expressing emotions, showing compassion and cruelty. She noted the formation of political alliances, hierarchies, conflicts, and love. Her work revealed the sensitivity, intelligence, and emotional depth of these creatures — something many had long denied or ignored. Despite her groundbreaking findings, she faced skepticism from parts of the scientific establishment: her methods labeled sentimental; naming animals considered anthropomorphism; lacking formal credentials at first. But over time, the depth of her observations and the consistency of her findings won respect and legitimacy.

In 1965, Goodall earned her PhD from Cambridge University — a remarkable achievement given that she did not have an undergraduate degree. Her doctoral work formalized her empirical findings and helped pave the way for ethology and primatol-

ogy to accept long-term field observation and more human-animal relational approaches. She was not only a scientist but also a communicator. Goodall wrote numerous books, many for general audiences and for children, bringing the lives of Gombe's chimpanzees into homes around the world. Her works — for example In the Shadow of Man — moved readers not just intellectually, but emotionally, urging them to care. In 1977 she founded the Jane Goodall Institute, dedicated to wildlife research, conservation, and education. In 1991 she launched Roots & Shoots, a youth program to empower young people around the world to make a positive difference for people, animals, and the environment.

Dr Jane Goodall's passing leaves an immense emptiness — among chimps who no longer wander the shrinking forests, among conservationists who have lost a mentor, among ordinary people who found in her life a truthful beacon. Yet she also left something more enduring than grief: a template for how to live in compassion, curiosity, and courage; a world slightly more kind, slightly more aware, than the one she was born into. May we honour her by carrying forward her curiosity, her care, her insistence that to know another being is to love them; that to protect the vulnerable is to safeguard our own humanity. Rest in peace, Dr Jane Goodall. The forest will remember you, and so will we.

Her voice, once soft in the forest and then ringing loud in halls of power, never lost its humility. She believed in hope: not blind optimism, but hopeful action. She believed in individuals making a difference. She believed, as she often said, that every single one of us has a role to play.

As her readers and followers multiplied, Goodall's work moved beyond observation to urgent advocacy. She spoke out on issues such as habitat loss, species extinction, climate change, animal welfare, and the ethical treatment of wildlife. She insisted that humans are not separate from nature — that we are deeply entwined, and our future depends on how we treat other beings and the earth itself. Even into her 80s and 90s, Goodall maintained an astonishing energy. She travelled widely, spoke to young people, engaged in public discourse, and continued to write. Her last book, The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times (2021), was a reflection of her optimism: hope not as naive belief, but as resolve to act and care. Recognition followed. She was made a Dame of the British Empire, appointed a United Nations Messenger of Peace. Among her many honours were the Templeton Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom (awarded in 2025), and numerous others around the globe.

APJ Abdul Kalam Award Winner writer Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of English of Virginia Commonwealth University USA. Email. prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com



"Shareefon Ka Mohalla"

A Mirror to the Soul of Kashmir

Author of the Book: Muhammad Hussain Zafar

Book Review By: Jehangir Bukhari

To begin-with, the book in question can be described as an endeavor to add a new chapter into Urdu literature by adopting the mode of short story format to reflect the past and contemporary social fabric of Kashmir

It is well said that Literature has always been a witness to its time, and in his latest Urdu novel "Shareefon Ka Mohalla," the eminent broadcaster and sensitive writer Muhammad Hussain Zafar offers such a testimony, one that transcends storytelling and becomes a reflection of the social, emotional, and spiritual conflict of Kashmir.

From the very first page, Zafar's pen flows with ease and clarity. His prose carries simplicity wrapped in subtle elegance, and his sentences glide gently, yet deeply, through the reader's heart. The author has not only portrayed the realities of Kashmiri life but has also captured the hopes, disappointments, and dreams of its people with remarkable finesse.

A Symbolic Neighborhood A Complete World:

The very title "Shareefon Ka Mohalla" (The Neighborhood of the Virtuous) draws attention. On the surface, it appears to describe a common residential area, yet symbolically, it represents the entire social fabric of Kashmir. The characters inhabiting this mohalla come from varied walks of life, each representing a distinct emotion and ideology. Some embody hope, others despair; some reflect love, others endurance.

Through its streets, walls, and homes, Zafar paints a living portrait of Kashmir one that alternates between pain and tenderness, between tears and faint smiles.

Language, Style, and Depth:

Zafar's command over lucid and graceful Urdu sets him apart. He has tried to avoid unnecessary complexity, preferring simplicity that speaks directly to the heart. This clarity makes his novel accessible to young readers while keeping it intellectually engaging for literary minds.

The philosophical depth of "Shareefon Ka Mohalla" lies in Zafar's ability to view Kashmir not merely as a political issue but as a human condition. His writing does not accuse or provoke; it evokes empathy and reflection. It is this human tone tender yet truthful that makes his narrative both powerful



and enduring.

Meaning, Emotion, and Impact:

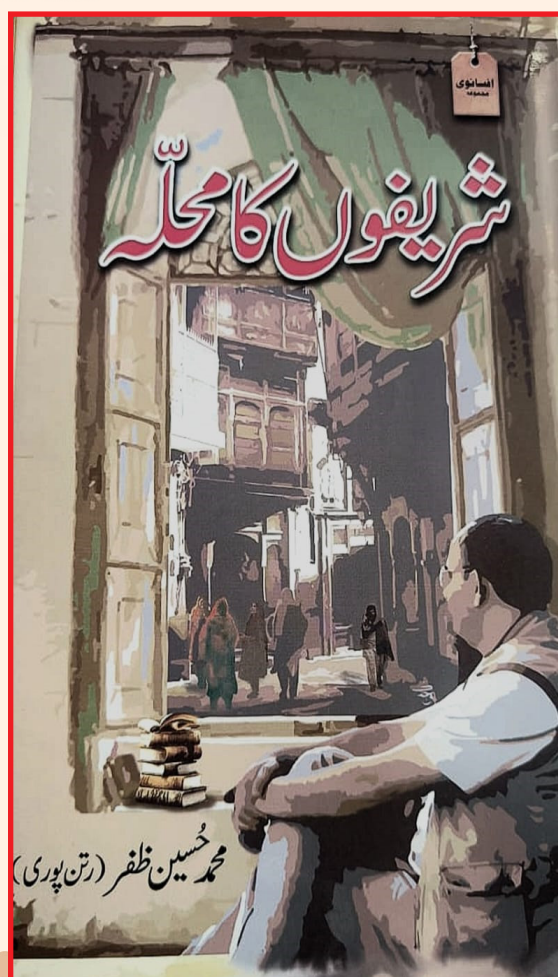
"Shareefon Ka Mohalla" is much more than a story. It is a social observation captured through art. It weaves together satire, sorrow, affection, and hope.

Every element, from the title, cover design, dialogues, and characters holds symbolic value. The prose breathes with life; it feels as though Kashmir itself is speaking through these pages.

For the younger generation, the novel serves as a source of intellectual awakening. It reminds readers that literature is not just for entertainment but for self-reflection and awareness.

Conclusion Drawn about the Book:

As a reader, I would like to acknowledge that "Shareefon Ka Mohalla" is a remarkable creation by Muhammad Hussain Zafar, a blend of art, emotion, and truth. It stands as a significant contribution to contemporary Urdu fiction and as a mirror reflecting the cultural and emotional essence of Kashmir. Moreover Zafar proves that when the pen remains honest, it not only tells stories it enlightens heart to its core.





Importance of a Home Gym

Healthy People, Healthy Nation



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

In today's era, people face severe health issues like obesity, gastrointestinal tract issues, fatty liver, heart-related issues, orthopedic issues, and several other risks.

Our body plays immense functions; every function is under the control of nature, like the process of digestion, blood circulation, and excretion of waste material.

When we keenly observe our body's functions, it clearly seems someone is in control, and there are human creatures that can do such miracles. Alhamdulillah! Every creature believes there is divine power behind all the phenomena and that it makes the functioning of even invisible particles like cells and atoms.

Cell—It is the fundamental, structural, and functional unit of life. Almost every living organism is made up of cells, whether it is multicellular or unicellular. There are about 25 trillion living cells in an adult human. There are different organelles present in the cell, like Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) A network of membranes is involved

in the synthesis of proteins and lipids. Golgi Apparatus (or Golgi Complex)

Modifies, sorts, and packages proteins and lipids for secretion or delivery to other organelles. Ribosomes are sites of protein synthesis.

Lysosomes Sac-like containers containing enzymes to digest waste materials and cellular debris.

Vacuoles Membrane-bound sacs that can store water, nutrients, and waste products.

Peroxisomes Break down fatty acids and detoxify harmful substances.

Cytoskeleton A network of protein filaments that provides structural support and aids in cell movement.

Centrioles Involved in cell division in animal cells. Chloroplasts (in plant cells)

Sites of photosynthesis convert light energy into chemical energy.

Atoms: Every non-living thing is made up of atoms.

Even so, they are so minute that we cannot see them with our naked eyes. The structure of an atom consists of shells and a central nucleus. I have mentioned having a mind that Almighty is a superpower; we humans only study and initiate research work on things that already exist in the universe. So say Alhamdulillah! And hope for the best; we have a great

mind that can bring revolution, and that mind also bestowed us our creature.

It is very unfortunate that today, in the age of cutting-edge technology, we still lack proper treatment for certain dreadful diseases like cancer, AIDS (acquired human immunodeficiency syndrome), and several chromosomally effective syndromes.

So I tried a little bit to understand the mercies of the almighty upon us and why we are getting astray. Why do we claim we are something? We chant, "This country is powerful; that country is helpless." So always keep in mind that every creature is important and every bit is important.

Today, in this article, I am going to share my opinion on how regular exercise is important and every bit is important.

First of all, we have to understand what is more important in our lives, like health, money, buildings, fame, etc.

Everyone prioritizes health first and then goes for other needs. But in today's era, we motivate people to achieve this milestone but never motivate them to first prioritize their health and then go ahead with full fitness and always keep a smile on their face.

Some people are lucky that their profession is exercise, like workers and laborers, but unfortunately, they earn little, an earning that cannot support their livelihood needs. Laborers deserve immense applause and beneficial schemes like a

monthly remuneration of 10000 (ten thousand) minimum so they don't feel insecure.

Sportsmen are also lucky that they get more of it because they are more fit and healthy, and by playing regularly, they get fame, charm, money, and all that.

Some people complain that they don't have time to undergo routine exercises. I suggest the home gym.

What is a home gym? A home gym means you can keep a separate room, if available, or keep some basic equipment so that all your parts can get pumped daily.

If you have a separate room, then keep adding equipment when you are financially sound, and request your kind and kith bring equipment instead of extravagant gifts on different occasions.

Benefits of bodybuilding.

I was in the 8th class when I started doing gym exercises; within Kashmir, it is commonly known as the iron game. Then I met their great and kind people, like teachers, business personalities, sports personalities, and government employees, who helped me and built my interest. After bearing odds and evens, I got some joyful feelings, and several unhealthy things disappeared from me, like fatigue. I got a glow on my face and felt hydrated and fresh the whole day. So I have some experience, and I am suggesting my beloved friend join a gym to enhance their personality, keep away

from drugs, build their interest in other games, and be gentle and kind to everyone.

Before setting up a home gym, consult a good trainer who will help you learn how you can cover your whole body regularly and what the mandatory equipment you need is, and engage your siblings and your parents. And I hope you will enjoy your life.

We can set up mini gym centers at the school level, which may raise awareness among our pupils, and they may know the importance and get involved in this great and beneficial activity. I think at the college level we have gym centers, but students are not getting a chance because the college administration keeps them closed under lock so that the equipment will keep fresh and not rust. It is better to keep open and allow students who have an interest to enhance their interest in beneficial activities so that they feel relaxed and get rid of anxiety.

In villages, youngsters are getting involved in drugs, like starting to smoke, and engaging in other unnecessary activities. It is our duty to eradicate evils and introduce healthy activities in our society as a gift.

Gym centers may keep our youth away from anxiety and depression and keep their health in good condition.

Exercises truly keep us happy and healthy and rejuvenate us promptly.

sahilmanzor411990@gmail.com

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Satish Sharma visits Kulgam, chairs district review meeting

Also takes stock of availability of essential supplies

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCT 06: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, who is also the Minister in-charge for Kulgam district, today visited the district and chaired a comprehensive district review meeting at Mini Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Education, Health & Social Welfare and MLA D.H Pora, Sakeena Itoo; MLA Kulgam M.Y. Tarigami, MLA Devsar Peerzada Feroz Ahmad Shah; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan; Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Owais Ahmed besides Directors from various departments, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, and other district officers.

Emphasizing on better coordination, effective implementation, and close monitoring of developmental works, the Minister directed officers to ensure timely completion of projects nearing final stages and dedicate them to the public at the earliest.

He instructed departments

to expedite solar rooftop installations on shrines and government buildings, stressing that the government's focus is on promoting green energy, sustainability, and organic development across sectors.

The Minister also reviewed the status of sports infrastructure and called for enhanced facilities to engage youth in sports and recreational activities.

Reviewing winter preparedness, Minister Satish Sharma took stock of the availability of essential supplies and directed KPDCI to ensure uninterrupted and scheduled power supply during the winter season. He instructed the department to maintain an adequate buffer stock of transformers and transformer oil to meet seasonal demands.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena Itoo directed concerned departments to intensify enforcement drives to curb the sale of spurious fertilizers and pesticides, and to commence work on all approved roads before the onset of winter.

During the deliberations, the MLAs urged for regular and quality water supply to the people and called for the early completion of the Brazloo Bridge to improve connectivity in the district.

They also raised the demand for an increase in AAY and BPL ration cards to benefit more de-



serving families and pressed for the establishment of a Controlled Atmosphere (CA) store for crop preservation.

MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, urged SKUAST-K and the Horticulture Department to take immediate measures to control leaf miner infestation, ensuring that farmers do not suffer losses in next season.

Addressing concerns regarding the leaf miner disease affecting crops, Minister Satish Sharma instructed the concerned departments to provide timely assistance, technical guidance, and preventive support to farmers.

ers.

Reiterating the government's commitment to sustainable and inclusive development, Minister Satish Sharma said the government is committed to ensure that all people-centric schemes are implemented effectively, with a strong focus on green energy, organic growth, and transparency at the grassroots level.

During the meeting Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan gave a detailed Power Point presentation on the developmental profile of the district and briefed meeting about the implementation status of key schemes and programmes including District Capex, PMAY-U, PMAY-G, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), ISSS, RDSS, PM Surya Ghar, and other flagship initiatives.

The DC informed that the Veshow River, being a ferocious river, has caused erosion and inundation in several areas during recent floods, resulting in extensive damage to agricultural and horticultural crops.

He also apprised the Ministers about measures taken for restoration of damaged roads and bridges.

Tourism Authorities Step Up Infrastructure Push in Aharbal & Shopian-Dubjan Regions

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM/SHOPIAN, OCT 6: In a significant move to uplift the tourism infrastructure and stimulate economic activity in South Kashmir, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tourism Development Authorities Aharbal and Shopian-Dubjan Peer Ki Galli Rouf Rehman (JKAS) conducted an extensive whirlwind tour of Shopian and Kulgam districts on Monday. As part of his continued commitment to boosting tourism in the twin regions of Aharbal and Dubjan-Peer Ki Galli, the CEO chaired an intense four-hour long review meeting with officers, field subordinates, and key stakeholders from the tourism sector. The meeting, which concluded at 4 PM, focused on the immediate revitalization of the sector through infrastructure upgrades and promotional strategies. During the meeting, 12 landmark

tourist locations across the jurisdiction were identified for the immediate installation of signboards to facilitate local and tourist navigation. It was also unanimously decided to install 08 modern digital glow signboards, which will serve as interactive information panels providing visitors with updated details on tourism facilities, attractions, and services being offered by Aharbal and SDPKG Tourism Development Authorities. In addition to the digital boards, 20 traditional glow sign and handwritten boards are being installed at strategically important locations including: Larkipora, Khudwani, Laroo Kulgam, DC Office Kulgam, Chawalgam, Nehama, Aharbal, Gurwatan, CEO Office Aharbal, DC Office Shopian, Mughal Road, Borihallan, Dubjan, Peer Ki Galli, and other prominent tourist access points within the ADA/SDPKG jurisdiction.

Speaking to the officers and stakeholders, the CEO stressed the need for active, vibrant, and coordinated efforts to position Aharbal and Dubjan as prime tourism destinations in South Kashmir. He underscored that enhancing the visibility, accessibility, and information availability for tourists would be key to unlocking the region's vast tourism potential.

This initiative is expected to significantly improve visitor experience, help local communities benefit from tourism, and bring renewed focus to offbeat destinations like Aharbal waterfalls, Peer Ki Galli, and Dubjan meadows.

The Tourism Development Authorities of Aharbal and Shopian-Dubjan reaffirmed their dedication to sustainable tourism development, aiming to attract more tourists while preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the region.

Molvi Imran Ansari Launches Digital Membership Portal for All J&K Shia Association

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 6: President of the All Jammu & Kashmir Association, Molvi Imran Raza Ansari, along with Vice President Irfan Raza Ansari, today soft-launched the much-awaited digital membership portal for the Association.

The launch marks the beginning of a new era of transparency, participation, and digital inclusion within the Association. This initiative comes in response to a long-pending demand from youth across various districts, including Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam, Bandipora, and Baramulla, who had been urging for a structured membership and electoral process within the organization.

Speaking on the occasion, Molvi Imran Ansari said,

"For the first time, our members will have access to a digital platform that not only registers them but also empowers them with voting rights. This portal will help us create a transparent, democratic structure from the ground up, from Mohalla presidents to district and provincial representatives. The youth wanted ownership and participation, and we are delivering that today."

The new system enables volunteers to visit designated Imam Baras and community points, where teams equipped with laptops will register members. The registration process will collect essential details including name, date of birth, qualification, profession, and blood group etc. Once



registered, members will receive a digital membership card that also grants them voting rights within the Association's democratic structure.

Molvi Imran added that the database will serve multiple community needs.

"This portal will become a social resource as well, if a person requires blood, or if a skilled member is looking for a job opportunity, the system will help us connect them directly. It's not just about membership; it's about building a connected, responsive community."

The membership drive is set to officially begin on October 20, starting with Budgam district,

where volunteers and registration points have already been finalized. A detailed schedule and district-wise roster will be made public on October 15.

The initiative aims to institutionalize grassroots democracy within the Association, ensuring that every member has a voice in electing their area's representatives - from local elders to state-level leadership.

Irfan Raza Ansari added, "This is a visionary step that will strengthen organizational unity and youth participation across Jammu and Kashmir. Our goal is to create a transparent, accountable, and people-driven structure for the future."

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir.
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | | website: www.medkashmir.org |

Corrigendum 04 for Retender

Name of work: - 1) Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of Bore Well No. 103 of department of Agriculture in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron (under Culuster-1).
2) Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of Bore Well No. 42 of department of Agriculture in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron (under Culuster-1)

Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/20 Date:16-07-2025.
(Tender Id: - 2025_PWDJK_281548_1)
(Tender Id: - 2025_PWDJK_281548_2)

Due to no response, the above referred e-NIT is retendered through this corrigendum and the critical dates are extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	04-09-2025 upto 06:55 PM	15-10-2025 upto 18:55 PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	05-09-2025 at 02:00 PM	16-10-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.
No: MDSK/TS/3002-05 Date: 04 -10-2025.
DIPK: 6864/25
Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE DIVISION BIJBEHARA
e-NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
NIT No: 32/PHE/BIJ OF 2025-26 ISSUED UNDER ENDORSEMENT No.PHE/BIJ/6351-63dated:-03.10.2025

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-NIT rate contract of Hire charges of tanker, tractor, load carrier for providing drinking water supply facilities to the required sites, the tenders are invited from Registered Transport company with Union Territory of J&K Govt.

SNo.	Name of work	Adv. Cost in lacs	Cost of Tender doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Class
1	Hire Charges of Tractor/Load carrier for providing drinking water facilities to the flood affected areas of Pahalgam section of JSD (PHE) Subdivision Pahalgam (under SDRF during floods Aug-Sep 2025.)	0.75	200	1500	Registered Transport Company

The e-NIT consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website:-www.jktenders.gov.in

01	Date of publishing	04-10-2025 / 9:00 AM
02	Download start date	04-10-2025 / 9:00 AM
03	Bid Submission Start Date	04-10-2025 / 9:00 AM
04	Bid Submission End Date	09-10-2025 / 1:00 PM
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	09-10-2025 / 02:15 PM

The Bidder shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: www.jktenders.gov.in Bids must be accompanied/uploaded with Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR (mentioned above), Treasury Receipt as cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara (as specified in the table, besides below mentioned documents. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara on date given above. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
Besides above the bidders should also upload the following documents required under "Other Important Documents" (OID)

01	Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara	Scanned Copy
02	Treasury Receipt (T.R) deposited to MH:0215 as cost of tender document pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara	Scanned Copy
03	Registered Transport Company-----Registration Certificate	Scanned Copy
04	Latest GST Clearance/ITR/Pancard/Bidders Address of the agency/driver	Scanned Copy
06	HMV/LMV License of the driver	Scanned Copy
07.	Other documents Like RC/Insurance/Pollution (Capacity of Tanker/Tractor) /ownership.	Scanned Copy

All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD form 25 (Double agreement form) /Master NIT.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara**

DIPK: 6854/25 | Dated: 06-10-2025

DC Ganderbal chairs DLRC/ DCC meeting for quarter ending June-2025

Takes strict note of pendencies on account of disbursal of cases; issues slew of directions for timely clearing pendencies

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 06:

To review the quarterly performance of the banks and other line departments in the district for the first quarter ending June-2025 for the year 2025-2026, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Monday chaired District level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/ DCC) meeting, here.

At the outset, DDC took a thorough review of the performance of banks achieved under various key schemes of the government including, PMJJBY, PMSBY, KCC, Mission Yuva, and other social security schemes to assess the progress under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP).

Lead District Manager, Ganderbal, presented a comprehensive report detailing the bank-wise performance in various key areas, including deposits, ad-

vances, and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR). Credit Deposit Ratio of the banks stood at 94%.

DDC expressed concern regarding the low credit dispensation in the agriculture sector. He emphasized the need for banks to increase credit flow to the agriculture sector to meet the requirements of farmers. He directed banks to improve their credit dispensation strategies and ensure that the agricultural sector receives adequate financial support.

Additionally, district officers of Agriculture and allied departments were advised to sponsor more credit-linked cases under prominent schemes like the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme to the banks. Further, Agriculture & allied departments along with banks were directed to ensure 100% saturation of PM Kisan beneficiaries under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme.



DDC took a compressive review of the Mission YUVA cases and directed all the concerned branches to dispose-off all the pending cases within a period of one week and report compli-

ance. The concerned department, (Employment Department) was also directed to take up the matter with the banks for early resolution of issued faced by beneficiaries.

In the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, banks reported significant progress, having exceeded the targets set for the sector under the Annual Credit Plan.

The performance under various Social Security Schemes (SSS), including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jhan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), was also reviewed. In this regard, banks and line departments were directed to work together to ensure 100% enrollment of eligible beneficiaries under these welfare schemes.

Furthermore, DDC emphasized the importance of collaboration between banks and sponsoring agencies in guiding unemployed youth towards livelihood opportunities. Banks were urged to process cases swiftly and support youth in gaining financial independence.

Taking strong note of poor performance by many bank branches in significant schemes of government, DDC directed

Lead District Manager, J&K Bank to report pendencies related to social security schemes to his office as per a proper format. He also directed Cluster Head to take weekly review of pendencies and submit consolidated progress to his office.

He stressed that the concerned should not take much time in disbursement of cases after sanctioning, and sought their timely disbursal for the good of the beneficiaries.

DDC directed the participants that the serious issues highlighted during the meeting and are hampering the economic growth of the district should be properly followed upon.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; ADC, CPO, GMDIC, LDM, AGM NABARD, Cluster Head, A.DDE&CC, officers from line departments, branch heads of various banks.

SKUAST-K's NSS Volunteer Receives National Recognition for Social Service

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 6: Mohd Firdoos, a dedicated NSS (National Service Scheme) volunteer from the Faculty of Horticulture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has been conferred the 'My Bharat National Service Scheme Award' for the year 2022-23.

This prestigious national honour was conferred upon the NSS volunteer by President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu during the Bharat National Service Scheme Awards 2022-23, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi today.



This prestigious national award recognizes Firdoos's outstanding commitment to community service, social upliftment, and public welfare. His efforts span a wide range of grassroots-level initiatives including health, environmental initiatives, and significantly contributed to educational empowerment by offering free coaching and distributing stationery to rural children, thereby improving access to education in remote communities.

The recognition not only brings honour to the university but also reinforces SKUAST-K's mission of nurturing future leaders who are driven by compassion and social responsibility under the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who continues to foster a strong culture of social responsibility and youth engagement at the university.

Mohd Firdoos's journey serves as a powerful example of how the youth, when properly mentored and supported, can make meaningful contributions to society.

DDMA Kupwara monitors ongoing weather situation closely Control room set up, ensures continuity of essential services

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 06:

District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kupwara has issued a weather advisory in light of ongoing moderate to heavy rain and snowfall in the district due to an active western disturbance.

Residents, especially those in vulnerable and hilly areas such as Keran, Karnah, Machil, and other

locations near rivers, nallahs, and landslide-prone zones, have been advised to avoid avalanche-prone and slippery areas and refrain from unnecessary travel until weather conditions improve.

All district and sectoral officers from departments including Irrigation & Flood Control, Jal Shakti (PHE), Power Development (PDD), Roads & Buildings, Mechanical Engineering, Revenue, BEACON, and Municipal Committees have



been directed to remain at their respective headquarters with men and machinery ready to respond to any emergencies.

The Deputy Commissioner assured that sufficient food and essential commodities are stocked throughout the district, including remote and snowbound areas, and urged the public not to panic. The Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department has also confirmed adequate

stocks have been placed in border and remote regions to prevent shortages during the current weather situation.

The district administration is coordinating with BEACON authorities to ensure timely snow clearance on crucial roads to maintain connectivity. All health institutions are working normally and adequate supply of medicines is ensured in all health institutions including remote areas.

Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh held at Govt ITI Doda

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, OCTOBER 06: The Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Doda organised a Skill Convocation Ceremony 2025 for its ITI pass out trainees last weekend.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ashraf Parvaiz awarded mementoes & certificates to the trade wise toppers.

The programme started with the live streaming of National Level function on Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi addressed by the Prime Minister.

The Chief Guest, in his address, congratulated the pass-out trainees for their hard work and perseverance and asked them to make the best use of their knowledge to attain professional success. He also appreciated the performance of the institution in imparting quality training in different trades.

Earlier, Superintendent Er. Naresh Singh in his welcome address, gave a brief account of Skill Training being imparted to the youth in the Institute, including one and two Year duration and short-term skill training courses under PMKVY, PM Vishwakarma Surya Ghar, SANKALP etc.



He informed that 69 trainees, who appeared in the All-India Trade Computer Based Test (CBT), successfully completed their training in 05 different trades.

Faculty Members Raiees Ahmad (COPA Instructor) and Mukhtar Ahmad, Drawing Instructor (Nodal Officer ITI Doda YUVA Scheme) also congratulated all the candidates who passed out with flying colors from ITI Doda. He

The Convocation Ceremony culminated with handing over of NTC & PNTC Certificates to the passed-out trainees.

Udhampur: CAO Flags Off 40 Progressive Farmers on Exposure Visit to KVK Pathankot under ATMA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, OCTOBER 06: Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Udhampur, Harbans Singh, today flagged off a group of 40 progressive farmers on an exposure visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Pathankot under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE) implemented through ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency).

The objective of the visit is to acquaint farmers with modern agricultural innovations, improved technologies, and best farming practices being demonstrated and adopted in progressive farming institutions. The exposure visit serves as a vital component of the farmer capacity-building initiative aimed at bridging the gap between research and field-level implementation.

During the visit, the farmers will gain first-hand experience through live demonstrations, field experiments, and technology trials being conducted at KVK Pathankot. They will also have the opportunity to interact directly with scientists, subject matter specialists, and extension experts, enabling them to learn about organic farming methods, integrated pest and nutrient management, precision farming, soil health management, and climate-resilient crop-

ping systems.

Speaking on the occasion, CAO Harbans Singh encouraged the farmers to make optimum use of this opportunity by adopting innovative and sustainable techniques to enhance productivity, profitability, and resilience in their agricultural practices. He underscored the importance of continuous learning and knowledge sharing to ensure holistic agricultural growth in the district.

The CAO was accompanied by Vinod Gupta (Mushroom Development Officer), Pawan Talwar (Apiculture Development Officer), and other departmental officials. They highlighted the department's ongoing efforts to promote diversification in agriculture through mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, floriculture, and value addition in farm produce.

The exposure visit is expected to inspire farmers to replicate successful models observed during the tour and contribute to the overall agricultural transformation of Udhampur district. Such initiatives under ATMA aim to empower the farming community through knowledge exchange, innovation adoption, and sustainable development, aligning with the broader goals of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

District Road Safety Committee Meeting Held at Kathua

DC Pushes for Effective Implementation of Corrective Measures

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, OCTOBER 6: The 22nd meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) was today convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, to review and strengthen ongoing initiatives aimed at ensuring safer roads and reducing accidents across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police Rahul Charak, Superintending Engineer PWD (Kathua-Samba Circle), Prin-

cipal GMC Kathua, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Kathua, Basohli, Billawar and Hiranagar, and representatives from Degree Colleges, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Police Department, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on identifying vulnerable road stretches, rectification of black spots, and enforcement of road safety measures at critical locations. The Committee also reviewed the status of road connectivity affected by recent rains,

damage to culverts and bridges, and related issues impacting traffic movement and commuter safety.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Rajesh Sharma emphasized the need for a coordinated inter-departmental approach to effectively minimize road accidents and enhance commuter safety. He reiterated that the District Administration has adopted a comprehensive and data-driven plan to strengthen road infrastructure, improve signage, and ensure the scientific design of junctions and pedestrian crossings.



The DC directed the Executive Engineers of BRO, PWD (R&B) and PMGSY to ensure regular upkeep and maintenance of accident-prone roads, especially in hilly and rural areas. He

also called for the installation of crash barriers, reflective signage, and rumble strips at critical points to alert drivers and prevent mishaps.

Highlighting the importance of public awareness, the DC urged the Education Department and Transport Authorities to jointly organize road safety awareness camps, helmet and seatbelt drives, and traffic rule sensitization sessions in schools, colleges, and market areas. He also directed for intensified enforcement to curb over-speeding, rash driving, overloading, and drunken driving.

The DC further instructed

the concerned authorities to decongest city roads, especially around GMC Kathua, Bus Stand, Shaheedi Chowk, and other busy intersections, to ensure smooth vehicular movement. He called upon the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Police to ensure strict compliance with road safety norms and to take stern action against habitual violators.

The Superintending Engineer PWD was directed to identify two critical roads in each division for immediate repair and maintenance to enhance commuter safety and prevent accidents. The DC also asked NHAI and BRO

to expedite repair of damaged road portions and improve drainage systems along highways to avoid waterlogging during heavy rains.

Concluding the meeting, the DC stressed that road safety is a shared responsibility requiring continuous coordination between departments and active cooperation from the public. He directed all line departments to submit a status report on action taken against identified black spots and progress achieved in implementing safety measures before the next review meeting.

AAP submits public petitions to Goa CM demanding road repairs

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 6: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today said that it has delivered over one lakh signed letters to the Goa Secretariat, demanding the state government address the deteriorating condition of the public roads. The AAP said that the letters were collected as part of the party's 'BJP Che Burak' campaign.

AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, who flagged off a truck carrying the petitions in Panjim, said that the signatures represent approximately one-third of all families in Goa.

He cited his own recent trav-

el experiences in the state, claiming that road conditions were so poor that detours were necessary to avoid the worst sections. Kejriwal also alleged that citizens face intimidation when demanding road repairs and accused the government of corruption in road construction projects.

"The people want proper roads. Every day, accidents are taking place because of these potholes," Kejriwal said during the event in Panjim.

He also expressed concern that the poor infrastructure damages India's reputation among the international tourists who frequently visit Goa. AAP leaders,



including Goa President Amit Palekar and MLAs Venzy Viegas and Cruz Silva, later submitted the letters to the Secretariat. Palekar said that the party would follow up with the government to ensure actual repairs are conducted, noting that past government assurances on this issue have not yielded results.

MLA Venzy Viegas claimed that several fatalities and injuries have occurred due to the poor road conditions, citing a recent incident where an ambulance reportedly overturned in Porvorim. MLA Cruz Silva added that public trust in the government's promises has diminished. UNI

SC issues notice to Centre on plea challenging Constitutional validity of STT

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 6: The Supreme Court today issued notice to the Central government on a writ petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Securities Transaction Tax (STT), which is levied on the buying and selling of stocks and other securities on Indian stock exchanges under the Finance Act, 2004.

A Bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice K.V. Viswanathan issued the notice, returnable in four weeks.

"The principal argument canvassed before us is that the Securities Transaction Tax is the only tax levied in the country on the mere act of carrying out a profession and is sought to be levied irrespective of whether a



profit is derived or not.

This, according to the petitioner, renders the levy almost punitive or deterrent in nature.

Otherwise, all other taxes in India are levied on profits at the year-end, but the STT is imposed even if the stock market trader operates at a loss.

Issue notice, returnable in four weeks," the Court recorded.

The writ petition, filed by stock market trader Aseem Juneja, seeks a declaration that STT is unconstitutional as it violates Articles 14, 19(1)(g), and 21 of the Constitution.

In the alternative, Juneja has sought a direction to allow adjustment of STT paid during a financial year against short-term or long-term capital gains tax liability, similar to how Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) is adjusted for salaried individuals.

The petitioner has argued that STT amounts to double taxation, since traders pay capital gains tax on profits while also being charged STT on every transaction.

He pointed out that while short-term or long-term capital gains taxes are levied on profits, STT currently 0.1 percent on both buy and sell sides for delivery trades, is imposed regardless of whether profit or loss is made.

Juneja further contended that STT is unique because it applies even when a trader incurs losses, making it punitive in nature.

"STT is applicable to the rupee value of shares bought or sold, not on actual profits. There is no other tax in India where a professional is taxed despite making a loss. Such a levy on transactions rather than profits is arbitrary and violates Articles 14, 21, and 19(1)(g)," the plea states.

Drawing an analogy, the petitioner compared STT to taxing a doctor on every consultation fee received even if the practice ultimately incurs a loss.

The petition notes that while STT was introduced in 2004 to curb tax evasion and function like TDS, it lacks any mechanism for adjustment or refund against final tax liability, effectively forcing traders to pay both STT and capital gains tax.

The plea also highlights that major global financial markets such as the United States, Germany, Singapore, and Japan do not impose such a tax.

The petitioner has urged the Supreme Court to either strike down the STT as unconstitutional or direct that it be adjusted against capital gains tax liability. UNI

NIA chargesheets Rahul Sarkar in Lawrence Bishnoi-BKI terror conspiracy case

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI OCT 6: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today chargesheeted another accused in the 2022 case involving the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and its nexus with the banned Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist organization.

The case pertains to a terror conspiracy hatched by the dreaded Lawrence Bishnoi gang in association with BKI to spread terrorism in India.

In its fifth chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court at Patiala House, Delhi, the NIA has charged Rahul Sarkar for facilitating gang members commit terror activities. Besides assisting them in fleeing



the country, he was involved in preparing and arranging forged identity documents like Aadhaar Cards, Voter IDs and Bank Passbooks.

Investigations revealed that Sarkar used these fake documents to aid gang members, including co-accused Sachin Bishnoi, in fraudulently procuring passports to escape India and continue their terror activities. Rahul Sarkar is the 22nd accused to be chargesheeted so far. Of these, 18, including Sarkar, have been arrested, while four are absconding.

The case was originally registered by the Delhi Police Special Cell on August 4, 2022. The NIA, which took over the investigation on August 26 the same year, is continuing to probe the terror-gangster nexus. UNI

Trump has not abandoned spirit of Anchorage summit, says former US National Intelligence official

■ United News of India

WASHINGTON, OCT 6: US President Donald Trump has not abandoned the spirit of the Aug 15, Anchorage summit where he met his Russian counterpart President Vladimir Putin, amid Washington's continued delivery of weapon systems to Ukraine, said former National Intelligence Council official Graham Fuller.

The Anchorage summit – though failing in its ability to reach an agreement on reaching a settlement – was marked success nonetheless, reopening communications between Moscow and Washington after years of deadlock, and significantly improving bilateral relations.

Speaking to TASS, Fuller remarked that sending weapons to Kyiv is not a betrayal or rejection of that spirit.

Further commenting on the weapons deliveries to Ukraine under Trump and the openness to deliver Tomahawk cruise missiles to Kyiv, and reports about Washington providing Kyiv with information for strikes on Russia's energy infrastructure, Fuller said, "I would not say that he has abandoned the Anchorage, the spirit of Anchorage, if you will.

"I think that, probably is, something that is fairly deep in his mind, even in his heart, as the kind of legacy he would like to leave behind as a great statesman who was able to, you know, accomplish rapprochement and settlement with Russia."

"I'm not ready to say, Oh, my God, it's all finished, Anchorage has been lost. I think Trump is quite capable of suddenly changing his mind, acting impulsively, and I could even imagine him picking up the phone to talk to Vladimir Putin at some point," he noted. "I'm far from being in the position of saying that it's all finished and it's heading irrevocably towards (world) war."



He opined that the situation, and its contextual complexities must be taken into account when considering Trump's policy on Ukraine, saying that it is important to consider the current developments around Kyiv "in broader context of the character and nature of Donald Trump."

"We all know that he's very volatile, changes his mind all the time, is not well informed on details, has no strategic vision," the former intelligence official said.

"But I think he has some sort of <...> fingertip feel for situations and people, which helps him manoeuvre through some of these issues."

"At the same time, I'm sure you've heard the expression that people say that Donald Trump's views reflect the last person who spoke to him, last person he talked to. I think there's probably some truth to that," Fuller continued. The former US official also said with surety that Trump "doesn't want to be the president who is accused of 'losing Ukraine'." In his opinion, "there are a lot of other forces at work within his own party."

Commenting on the political difficulties of the matter, he added "They hate anything he wants to do, and that makes difficulties in creating policy." UNI

CPI(M), lawyers' bodies condemn shoe-throwing incident targeting CJI B.R. Gavai inside Supreme Court

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, OCT 6: After a lawyer allegedly hurled a shoe at Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai inside the Supreme Court, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the All India Lawyers union (AILU) today issued strong statements condemning the act, describing it as a "blatant attack" on judicial independence and secular values.

According to reports, the incident occurred inside the Chief Justice's courtroom just as proceedings had begun.

Eyewitnesses said an elderly advocate raised slogans invoking "Sanatan Dharma" before throwing a shoe towards the Bench.

The object, however, did not reach the Chief Justice.

The accused, identified as Kishore Rakesh, reportedly possessed a proximity card

issued to lawyers and clerks in the Supreme Court.

Maintaining composure, CJI Gavai reportedly told those present, "I am the last person to be affected by such things. Please continue," and resumed proceedings without interruption.

In its official statement, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau termed the act "shocking and deplorable," attributing it to "Manuvadi and communal venom" allegedly spread by Hindutva forces.

The party accused certain political leaders of fostering an atmosphere of intolerance and called upon the union government to ensure adequate protection for the Chief Justice and the judiciary.

The AILU, led by President Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya and General Secretary P.V. Surendranath, described the incident as "a blatant attack



on the Supreme Court and the Constitution itself."

The lawyers' body said it should not be viewed as an isolated act but as part of a "vicious vilification campaign" against judicial independence.

It urged the legal fraternity to register a democratic protest and demanded a thorough investigation into the matter.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) also issued

a strongly worded statement, condemning the act as "reprehensible," "unbecoming of an officer of the Court," and "a direct assault on judicial independence."

The SCBA linked the out-

rage to online backlash over Justice Gavai's remarks in the Khajuraho Vishnu Idol Restoration case, where he had emphasised respect for all religions, a statement later distorted on social media.

Similarly, the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCOARA) denounced the incident as "cowardly" and "unbecoming of a member of the Bar."

It said such conduct "strikes at the core of mutual respect between the Bench and the Bar" and erodes public faith in the justice system.

SCOARA reaffirmed its solidarity with the Chief Justice of India and the Supreme Court, urging all members of the legal fraternity to uphold professional decorum and the dignity of the institution.

SCOARA further suggested that the Supreme Court may take suo motu cognisance of

the act and initiate contempt proceedings, emphasising that freedom of speech carries an inherent duty of restraint, especially for officers of the Court.

Earlier in the day, the courtroom briefly descended into chaos when the advocate, dressed in formal attire and carrying a bag and papers, attempted to confront the CJI.

He was swiftly restrained and escorted out by security personnel. As he was taken out, he reportedly shouted, "Sanatan ka apmaan nahi sahega Hindustan."

Later, the lawyer apologised before Justice K. Vinod Chandran, stating that his actions were directed only toward Justice Gavai.

The CJI had said, "I respect all religions," while responding to misinterpretations of his remarks made during the Khajuraho Vishnu Idol matter. UNI



Kohli and Rohit Selected in India's ODI Squad for Australia

JASPRIT BUMRAH HAS BEEN RESTED FROM THE ODI SERIES BUT IS IN THE T20I SQUAD



ESPNcricinfo

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have been picked in India's ODI squad for the series in Australia starting on October 19, marking their international comebacks after last playing in the 2025 Champions Trophy final in March. The squad will be led by Shubman Gill, who has replaced Rohit as the ODI captain, with Shreyas Iyer the vice-captain.

The selection panel, headed by former India fast bowler Ajit Agarkar, met on Saturday in Ahmedabad, where India won the first Test of the series against West Indies by an innings and 140 runs.

There are five changes to the ODI squad from the 15 that won the Champions Trophy in the UAE in March: Ravindra Jadeja and Varun Chakravathy are missing, Hardik Pandya is recovering from a quadriceps injury, Rishabh Pant has not yet fully recovered from the broken foot he suffered in England, and Jasprit Bumrah has been rested. They have been replaced by allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy, who was injured for the Champions Trophy, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Dhruv Jurel and Yashasvi Jaiswal. Agarkar indicated that Gill and Rohit were likely to open in the ODIs, which means Jaiswal could miss out on a place in the starting XI. He also said Jurel was picked ahead of Sanju Samson in the ODI squad due to batting position, while KL Rahul is likely to remain the first-choice wicket-keeper.

"With regards to Jaddu [Jadeja], I mean look, at the moment to take two left-arm spinners to Australia is not possible. He is clearly in the scheme of things with how good he is, but there will be some competition for places,"

Agarkar said. "Of course he was there in the Champions Trophy squad, because we took those extra spinners with the conditions there [in UAE]. At the moment we could only carry one and get some balance in the team with Washi [Washington Sundar] and Kuldeep there as well. I don't think we are going to need more than that in Australia. It's a short series, you can't accommodate everyone and unfortunately at the moment he is missing out, but it's nothing more than that."

Bumrah is part of the T20I squad for the five matches in Australia after the ODI series. The only change to the T20I squad that won the Asia Cup last month is Hardik being replaced by Reddy, while Washington has been added, making it a squad of 16.

"We have already rested him for the one-day games. When we can manage his workload, we will do that," Agarkar said about Bumrah. "Wherever you can give him a break, you will, because we all know how important he is, but we have also got to see what is in the interest of the team. And when we need him to play, he is always available, but we will look after [him]. Not just him, Siraj bowls a lot of overs as well. There are other guys who do play Test cricket, who will end up having a lot of bowling to do, so we will try and manage all the seamers, so that we minimise the risk of injuries."

Agarkar indicated that Gill and Rohit were likely to open in the ODIs, which means Jaiswal could miss out on a place in the starting XI. He also said Jurel was picked ahead of Sanju Samson in the ODI squad due to batting position, while KL Rahul is likely to remain the first-choice wicket-keeper.

Dubey and Thakur seal Irani Cup title for Vidarbha

Yash Dhull's 92 and Manav Suthar's unbeaten 56 made life briefly uncomfortable for Vidarbha

Sreshth Shah

NAGPUR: Rest of India's Yash Dhull produced a valiant 92 in the fourth innings to briefly threaten a come-from-behind win, but Vidarbha tore down his resistance to win the 2025-26 Irani Cup for the third time since 2017-18.

Starting the final day at 30 for 2 in pursuit of a 361-run target, Rest of India lost overnight batter and captain Rajat Patidar early when he drove uppishly for a caught-and-bowled to Aditya Thakare. Rituraj Gaikwad then lasted only 19 balls before edging Darshan Nalkande to the wicketkeeper.

Ishan Kishan, the other overnight batter, lost his patience after 64 balls and came down the wicket to hole out on 35 to deep midwicket off left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey. When Saransh Jain was lbw off left-arm spinner Harsh Rakhade, Rest of India were reeling at 133 for 6.

However, 22-year-old Dhull, batting at No. 6, gave Rest of India hope by scoring at a brisk rate alongside a more



subdued Manav Suthar in a 104-run seventh-wicket stand. Dhull struck eight fours and a six for a 117-ball 92

before playing an uppercut off Yash Thakur to deep third that couldn't clear the boundary. The frustration - and

relief - was clearly visible on the faces of the namesakes as they exchanged words after the dismissal. Next ball, Thakur cleaned up Anshul Kamboj's stumps with a length ball jaggling in, and with Rest of India at 237 for 8, victory was in sight for Vidarbha.

When Dubey tossed one up to Akash Deep next, his expansive cover drive found air and when he looked back, his poles were flattened. Suthar battled on with the No. 11 Gurnoor Brar to earn his sixth first-class fifty. Dubey picked off the final wicket to finish with 4 for 73.

Earlier in the game, Vidarbha rode on Atharva Taide's 143 and Yash Rathod's 91 in the first innings to post 342. Thakur then took a four-for to skittle Rest of India for 214 despite half-centuries from Patidar and Abhimanyu Easwaran. A four-wicket haul from Kamboj in the third innings then restricted Vidarbha to 232. But a target of 361 in the fourth innings turned out to be too steep for Rest of India.

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