

Srinagar
Friday
October 10 | 2025
17 Rabi Al-Akhar, 1447 AH
Issue No: 241
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

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Committed To Eradicate Terror Ecosystem in J&K : Reaffirms Amit Shah

Chairs High Level Meet In Delhi To Review J&K Security

HT News Desk

NEW DELHI, OCT 09: Reaffirming the PM Modi led government's resolve to achieve a terrorism-free Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asserted that security forces will continue to have full operational freedom to eliminate any threat to peace and stability in the region.

Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

After the meeting ended the Union Home Minister wrote on X: "Reviewed the security of Jammu and Kashmir along with the Lt. Governor and other senior officials. We are committed to cripple the terror ecosystem in J&K."

"Our security forces will continue to have full freedom to crush any attempt to



threaten peace and security in the region. Instructed to further intensify alertness and synergy to accelerate Modi Ji's vision of a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir," he

wrote further. The security review meeting was attended by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj

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Supreme Court To Hear Petitions On Statehood Today

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: The Supreme Court will hear a batch of petitions tomorrow seeking the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood.

According to the causelist released by the Apex Court's registry, the petitions are listed before the Court of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Friday, October 10.

"The case is listed for hearing before a bench headed by the Chief Justice of India," advocate

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PM Modi, Starmer agree on anti-terror efforts, condemn Pahalgam attack

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: India and the United Kingdom on Thursday strongly condemned the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

In a joint statement following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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Major Reshuffle in police dept

24 IPS, JKPS OFFICERS TRANSFERRED

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: In a major reshuffle, the Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the transfer and posting of 24 IPS and JKPS officers in the interest of administration.

According to an order under number 484-Home of 2025, issued by the Home Department, Abdul Ghani Mir, IPS (AGMUT:1994), awaiting orders of posting, has been appointed as Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence, and SDRF, J&K, relieving Alok Kumar, IPS of the additional charge.

Among other key transfers, Mohd. Yaseen Kichloo, IPS (AGMUT:2013), has been transferred from SSP CICE Jammu and posted as Principal STC Talwara, while Shobhit Saxena, IPS (AGMUT:2015), SSP Kathua, has been

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BJP to Contest Budgam, Nagrota Seats in Upcoming By-Elections: Sunil Sharma

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday announced that it will field candidates for both the Budgam and Nagrota constituencies, where by-elections are scheduled to be held next month.

The Budgam seat fell vacant after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah resigned from it and decided to retain the Ganderbal constitu-



ency, while the Nagrota seat became vacant following the death of senior BJP leader Davendra Raina.

Talking to media in Jammu, according to the news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS), Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the party would contest both seats with full determination.

"Although we are not very strong in Budgam, we will fight on both

seats with full power. The BJP will announce candidates for these constituencies very soon," Sharma said.

Responding to a question about the PDP's proposed "anti-bulldozer" bill, Sharma alleged that the bill was aimed at protecting illegal encroachments.

"The PDP wants to protect land mafia and illegal occupants. We won't allow such a bill that seeks to safeguard those involved in unlawful land grabbing," he said.

J&K, Ladakh likely to see 3470 MWs peak power demand in Oct

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: With the onset of cold weather, the Ministry of Power (MoP) has predicted a peak power requirement of 3470 Megawatts (MWs) for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for the ongoing month.

However, contrary to it the ministry has anticipated that there may be a peak power availability of only 2490 MWs for the month of October.

According to the official figures available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MoP has predicted that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh may have a shortfall of 980 MWs against the total peak requirement.

Stating the anticipated power supply position in the northern region for October 2025, MoP has said that the representatives of Haryana, SLDC, Punjab SLDC and J&K SLDC informed that the shortfall in J&K would be met through Real time exchanges.

Earlier, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has said that the Discom is trying hard to improve and supply uninterrupted power supply this winter.

Managing Director (MD) Kashmir

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J&K By-Polls

BJP to contest both seats: LoP Sharma

HT News Desk

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SFs bust terrorist hideout in Kupwara

HT News Desk

KUPWARA, OCT 9: In a major success against militant infrastructure, security forces on Wednesday busted a hideout and recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition during a joint operation in the Brijthor Forest area of Warsun in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

According to the Army's Chinara Corps, the operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs regarding the presence of a

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Anil Kumar Singh appointed as new Financial Commissioner

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 9: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has re-designated senior IAS officer Anil Kumar Singh of the 1995 AGMUT cadre as the new Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) following his elevation to the Apex Scale.

According to an official order, Singh's promotion and re-designation were made

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IPS Officer Nitya relieved from J&K

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued formal orders relieving P.D. Nitya, IPS (AGMUT:2016), Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama, from her duties in the Union Territory to join the Rajasthan Cadre following her inter-cadre transfer.

As per Government Order No. 483-

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Govt orders transfer, posting of 108 officers in J&K

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday ordered the transfer and posting orders of 108 administrative officers across various departments and positions.

According to an order, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, awaiting adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Vice-Chairman, Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), and will

also hold the charge of Chief Executive Officer, WUCMA. Aijaz Abdullah Saraf, CEO/Secretary of the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, has been transferred and posted as Member, J&K Special Tribunal.

Munir-ul-Islam, Secretary in the Information Department, will additionally hold the charge of CEO/Secretary of the Workers Welfare Board. Mathora Masoom, Managing Director of J&K Financial Corporation, has

been posted as Director, Floriculture, Kashmir. Rajesh Kumar Shavan, awaiting adjustment, has been posted as Special Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department. Musheer Ahmed, Mission Director, ICDS, J&K, has been posted as Special Secretary, Transport Department. Rakesh Kumar Srangal, Managing Director, J&K Road Transport Corporation, has been posted as Special Secretary, Finance Department, while Abdul Rashid War, awaiting adjustment, will take over as

Managing Director, J&K Road Transport Corporation.

Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, Vice-Chairman, LCMA, and holding additional charge of CEO, WUCMA, has been posted as Director, Hospitality and Protocol. Ravi Shankar Sharma, Special Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred to the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction as Special Secretary.

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Land Fraud Case: EOW Raids At Multiple Locations In J&K

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 9: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday conducted raids at multiple locations here in connection with a Rs 53 lakh land fraud case, officials said.

The searches were conducted at several locations in Srinagar district in connection with a case of cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property against four individuals involved in the fraud.

The case was registered on September 2 following a written complaint alleging that land brokers Tariq Ahmad Hajam, Ghulam Hassan Mir, Sonallah Mir, and Razzak Mir — all residents of Barthana Srinagar — deceitfully grabbed Rs 53 lakh from the complainant on the pretext of facilitating a land deal, a spokesman of the Crime Branch said.

He said the investigation has revealed that the accused, in connivance with certain revenue officers and officials, had "manipulated documents and misused official processes to illegally" obtain money and property from the complainant.

Searches were conducted to trace evidence and identify the wider network of individuals involved, including any

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India-UK Partnership a Key Pillar of Global Stability: PM Modi

United News of India

MUMBAI, OCT 9: The India-UK partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress at a time the world is witnessing uncertainties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday after holding wide-ranging talks with his British counterpart Keir Starmer.

The two sides, following the Modi-Starmer talks, announced plans to supply lightweight multirole missile systems to the



Indian military to boost its air defence capabilities besides an in-principle move to finalise an inter-governmental pact to jointly develop maritime electric propulsion systems for India's naval platforms.

In their restricted as well as delegation-level talks, the two leaders held that the sealing of the historic free trade agreement between the two sides in July will inject new energy, boost trade and broaden the overall

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

HM Shah.....

Sinha; the Union Home Secretary; the Director, Intelligence Bureau; the Chief of Army Staff; the J&K Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir; the Directors General of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs); and senior officers from the Government of India, the Army, and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

An official said that the meeting discussed J&K situation threadbare and the participants briefed Home Minister Shah about the ground situation.

“Due to the determined efforts of the security agencies, the terrorist network nurtured by the enemies of the nation in J&K have been almost eliminated,” the Union Home Minister said.

He asked the security forces to remain fully prepared to ensure that terrorists do not exploit snowfall to infiltrate across the border.

Shah reiterated the Centre's unwavering commitment to achieving the goal of a terrorism-free Jammu and Kashmir.

“Any attempt to threaten peace and security in the region will be dealt with sternly. Security forces will continue to have full freedom to crush any design which is aimed at creating chaos,” Shah said.

The Union Home Minister appreciated the steps taken by the local administration and security agencies following the Pahalgam terror attack. “These initiatives have helped strengthen the overall security landscape of Jammu and Kashmir,” he added.

Shah underlined the critical role of all security agencies in working in close coordination and maintaining utmost vigilance to completely eradicate terrorism from the region.

Pertinently, the Union Home Minister during his visit to Jammu last month chaired a comprehensive security review meeting and had reiterated the Central Government's unwavering zero-tolerance policy against terrorism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah had arrived in Kashmir soon after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, and directed the security agencies to deal with the terrorists and their supporters with a “heavy hand.”

He had visited Baisaran Valley in Pahalgam, a terror attack site, also.

Post Pahalgam terror attack continuous operations have been going on to dismantle the terror network in Jammu and Kashmir and efforts are on to ensure that tourism returns to normal—(KNO)

Supreme Court.....

Soayib Qureshi told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He further said that the Union of India has not yet filed any response in the matter.

On August 14, during a hearing of the case, the Supreme Court granted eight weeks' time to the Solicitor General of India to seek instructions from the government regarding the pleas for restoration of J&K's statehood.

At that time, the CJI emphasized that the real situation on the ground must be considered and that incidents such as the Pahalgam attack cannot be overlooked.

“You must also take into account the ground realities; you cannot ignore what happened in Pahalgam,” said the bench led by CJI.

The petitioners have argued that the continued delay in restoring statehood violates the principle of federalism, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

They have also submitted that no steps have been taken to lay out a clear timeline or implement the Supreme Court's December 2023 directive stating that “restoration of statehood shall take place at the earliest and as soon as possible.”—(KNO)

PM Modi, Starmer.....

and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Mumbai, both countries, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), pledged coordinated efforts to counter terrorism and uphold zero tolerance for terrorism and violent extremism.

The two leaders agreed to work together at bilateral and multilateral levels. They outlined plans to counter radicalisation, disrupt terror financing, prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists, and stop the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. Measures will also target recruitment efforts and include enhanced information sharing, judicial cooperation, and capacity building.

PM Modi and Starmer agreed to deepen defence ties, including expanding joint training and military exercises. The UK's Carrier Strike Group and the Royal Navy's participation in Exercise KONKAN with the Indian Navy were noted as part of ongoing maritime cooperation.

Both sides committed to closer collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, including the establishment of a Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

Progress was welcomed on integrating Indian Air Force Qualified Flying Instructors into UK Royal Air Force training programmes. An agreement is also under discussion to support broader defence training and education links between the two countries.

Both governments signalled intent to finalise an Inter-Governmental Agreement on developing maritime electric propulsion systems for Indian naval platforms.

The leaders also agreed to proceed through a government-to-government route for an initial supply of Lightweight Multirole Missile systems to India. This step is aimed at strengthening India's air defence capability and supporting long-term cooperation in complex weapons development between the two countries.

On global issues, the two Prime Ministers affirmed support for peace and a rules-based inter-

national order. The UK reiterated its support for India's bid for permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council. They expressed support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine based on international law and the UN Charter—(KNO)

Major rejig.....

appointed as SSP Security, J&K. Tanushree, IPS (AGMUT:2017), serving as SP SIA HQ, has been transferred as SSP Pulwama, replacing P.D. Nitya, IPS, whereas Sahil Sarangal, IPS (AGMUT:2017), has been posted as SSP Handwara, succeeding Mushtaq Ahmad.

Mohita Sharma, IPS (AGMUT:2017), AIG Provisions, has been appointed as SSP Kathua, replacing Saxena and Anayat Ali Choudhary, IPS (AGMUT:2017), has been transferred as SSP Kulgam, succeeding Sahil Sarangal.

In the JKPS cadre, several officers have also been reassigned. Mohd Arif Rishu has been posted as Director CTC Lethpora, Benam Tosh as Deputy Director SKPA Udhampur and Harmeet Singh Mehra as Commandant 13 IR.

Other notable transfers include Javid Iqbal as AIG CT & Intelligence, Mohd Fiesel Qureshi as SSP EOW Jammu, Ramnish Gupta as SSP CICE Jammu, Aijaz Ahmed Zargar as SSP Bandipora, and Mushtaq Ahmad as SSP Shopian.

Additionally, several awaiting officers, including Ashiq Hussain Tak, Owaise Rashid, Sarfaraz Bashir Ganai, Gh. Mustafa Bhat, Shahzada Kabir Mattoo, and Ashish Gupta, have been assigned to various battalion posts in the IRP and JKAP units.

The order, signed by Chandraker Bharti, IAS Principal Secretary to the Government, stated that the transfers and postings come into effect immediately.

In a separate order, the Jammu and Kashmir government ordered the transfer and posting of three senior JKPS officers, including Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara.

According to an official order issued by the Home Department Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar, in the interest of administration, the following transfers and postings are hereby ordered with immediate effect.

Sanjay Kumar Bhagat (JKPS:2001) Commandant 14 JKAP, is transferred and posted as AIG Buildings vice Amit Bhasin, who shall await further posting at Police Headquarters, J&K.

Gh. Jeelani Wani (JKPS:2001) SSP Kupwara, is transferred and posted as Commandant 14 JKAP, vice Sanjay Kumar Bhagat.

Syed Al-Tahir Gilani (JKPS:2001) Staff Officer of DGP, J&K, is transferred and posted as SSP Kupwara vice Gh. Jeelani Wani. By Order of the Lieutenant Governor.

J&K, Ladakh.....

Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mahmood Ahmad Shah had said, “This year so far, KPDCL have provided improved power supply to our consumers. Besides a lot of improvement has been made in the discom in comparison to the previous year.”

Pertinently, KNO reported that the power demand in Kashmir earlier this week had increased by nearly 200 Megawatts amid dip in mercury.

An official had said that KPDCL has witnessed an additional demand of nearly 200 MW of power in the past two days—(KNO)

BJP to contest.....

decided to retain the Ganderbal constituency, while the Nagrota seat became vacant following the death of senior BJP leader Davendra Raina.

Talking to media in Jammu, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the party would contest both seats with full determination.

“Although we are not very strong in Budgam, we will fight on both seats with full power. The BJP will announce candidates for these constituencies very soon,” Sharma said.

Responding to a question about the PDP's proposed “anti-bulldozer” bill, Sharma alleged that the bill was aimed at protecting illegal encroachments.

“The PDP wants to protect land mafia and illegal occupants. We won't allow such a bill that seeks to safeguard those involved in unlawful land grabbing,” he said. (KINS)

SFs bust.....

militant hideout in the dense forest area. The joint team of the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out a detailed search operation, leading to the discovery of a well-concealed hideout.

During the search, forces recovered two AK-series rifles, four rocket launchers, a huge quantity of ammunition, and other war-like stores. Officials said the recovery is a major blow to militant networks operating in the region and underscores the continued vigilance of security agencies.

The Army said the operation reflects the high level of coordination between the Army and Police in maintaining peace and preventing militant regrouping in Kupwara's frontier areas. “The recovery of such a cache indicates the attempts of militants to re-establish their presence, which has been effectively thwarted,” an official said.

The seized arms and ammunition have been taken into custody, and further investigations are underway to trace the source and possible links of the hideout to any militant outfit active in the region. (KNT)

Anil Kumar Singh.....

after the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, approved his elevation to the Apex Scale (Level-17 in the Pay Matrix) through an order dated October 3, 2025.

Following the approval, the J&K Government issued a formal notification assigning him the charge

of Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary). Officials confirmed that Anil Kumar Singh assumed his new responsibilities on the same day.

With his appointment, Singh now joins the top administrative echelon of Jammu and Kashmir, a position that carries key responsibilities in financial management, policy formulation, and coordination with central and state agencies.

IPS Officer.....

Home of 2025, dated 08 October 2025, the decision was taken in pursuance of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) communication referenced in letter No. 14046/50/2024-UTS.I, dated 19 June 2025, and subsequent approval of the Competent Authority.

Accordingly, Nitya has been relieved from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir with effect from the afternoon of October 8, 2025, to enable her to take up her new assignment in the Rajasthan Cadre.

The order was issued under the authority of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and signed by Chandraker Bharti, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department.

Govt orders.....

Manisha Sarin, Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, has been posted as Special Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Purnima Mittal, Special Secretary in the Cooperatives Department, has been posted as Managing Director, J&K Women's Development Corporation.

Haris Ahmad Handoo, Special Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat, will hold additional charge as Director SKICC and Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course. Ashwani Khajuria, Director, Hospitality & Protocol, has been transferred and will await further orders in the General Administration Department. Kapil Sharma, Managing Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation, has been posted as Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu. Tariq Hussain Ganai, Director General, Estates, Kashmir, with additional charge of Estates Jammu, will also hold the charge of Managing Director, Medical Supplies Corporation. Rakesh Kumar, Registrar, J&K Special Tribunal, has been posted as Regional Director, Survey and Land Records (Ex-Officio Settlement Officer), Rajouri. Rajinder Singh, Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, is now Special Secretary to the Agriculture Production Department. Ulfat Jabeen, Managing Director, J&K Women's Development Corporation, is posted as Special Secretary to the Government.

Anju Gupta, Special Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department, has been posted as Additional Transport Commissioner. Naseer Ahmad Wani, Special Secretary, Public Works Department, will become Director, School Education Kashmir, after the retirement of Ghulam Nabi Itoo on October 31, 2025. Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq, Special Secretary, Culture Department, is now Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri.

Ghulam Rasool, awaiting orders in the General Administration Department, is posted as Special Secretary, Revenue Department. Ranjeet Singh, Managing Director, SC, ST and OBC Development Corporation, is posted as Director, Social Welfare, Jammu, while retaining his previous charge. Jugal Kishore, Secretary, Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission, is posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur.

Arun Kishore Kotwal, Additional Transport Commissioner, is posted as Special Secretary, Finance Department. Basharat Hussain, Additional Secretary, Tourism Department, is now CEO/Secretary, J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board. Devinder Singh Katoch, CEO, Surinsar-Mansar Tourism Development Authority, is posted as Administrator, Government Medical College, Udhampur.

Vinod Kumar Behnal, Joint Director, ICDS, Social Welfare Department, is posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar, relieving Pawan Kumar of additional charge. Parvez Sajad Ganai, Joint Director, Handicrafts Kashmir, is now Special Secretary, Culture Department. Ishfaq Ahmad, Executive Director, J&K Rehabilitation Council, has been posted as Managing Director, J&K Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. Jahangir Hashmi, Programme Officer, ICDS Project Ramban, has been posted as Registrar, District Kulgam.

Tazayun Mukhtar, IKAS, Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency, Kashmir. She shall also hold the charge of Mission Director, DJAY, in addition to her own duties, till further orders. Jagdish Chander, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary, J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board, under orders of transfer as Additional Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, is posted as Joint Director, Education, Udhampur/Reasi.

Veveik Puri, JKAS, Joint Director, Information (Hqr) in the Directorate of Information, J&K, is transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Surinsar-Mansar. Tabassum Shafat Kamili, IKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Appeals), Srinagar, is transferred and posted as Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir. Mohammad Syed Khan, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department, is transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kathua, against an available vacancy.

Ghulam Nabi That, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department. Zahoot Ahmad Raina, IKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Anantnag, is transferred and posted as Joint Director, Information (Hqr) in the Directorate of Information, J&K. Navdeep Wazir, IKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Judicial, is transferred and posted as General Manager, DIC, Reasi,

against an available vacancy. Dhirender Sharma, JKAS, Joint Director, Education, Udhampur/Reasi, is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. Jatinder Mishra, IKAS, Deputy Director in the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, is transferred and posted as Sub-Registrar Akhnoor.

Joginder Singh Jasrotia, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Baderwah, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Enforcement), Kathua, against an available vacancy. Supriya Kohli, JKAS, Deputy Director, Information (KBI), New Delhi, is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary in the Resident Commission, J&K Government, New Delhi. Naeem ul Nisa, JKAS, Project Officer, IWMP, Poonch, is transferred and posted as General Manager, DIC, Poonch. Rakesh Kumar-II, IKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Reasi, is transferred and posted as Secretary, J&K Socially & Educationally Backward Classes Commission.

Suhail-ul-Islam, IKAS, Secretary, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, is posted as Joint Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation. One post from the overall cadre strength of Selection Grade of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Department is transferred to Srinagar Municipal Corporation for drawal of salary of the officer. Sartaj Hussain, JKAS, Joint Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Kashmir, holding additional charge of Deputy Director, Estates, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Officer on Special Duty with the Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, and ARI & Tanveer ul Majid Wani, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department.

Mohd. Ashfaq, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ramban, is transferred and posted as Joint Director, Education, Doda, against an available vacancy. Vikas Dhar Bagati, JKAS, Registrar, District Kathua, is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department. Zahida, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Urban Development Agency, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes (Appeals-I), Srinagar. Shavi, JKAS, Deputy Director, Handloom, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Joint Director, ICDS, Social Welfare Department. Deebah Khalid Peer, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat, Srinagar, is transferred and posted as Joint Director, Handicrafts, Kashmir.

Sanna Khan, JKAS, Deputy Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Social Welfare, Jammu, is transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Judicial. Ahsan-ul-Haq Chisti, JKAS, Deputy Director, Information (PR), Srinagar, is transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Wullar-Manasbal. Sheeba Inayat, JKAS, Deputy Director, District Employment & Counselling Centre, Srinagar, is transferred and posted as Development Officer, Handicrafts (Textiles), Kashmir, against an available vacancy. Abid Iqbal Malik, JKAS, Deputy Director, Tourism, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Pulwama.

Peerzada Farhat Ahmed, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Pulwama, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner (General), Srinagar, against an available vacancy. Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Kupwara, is transferred and posted as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Shopian. He shall also hold the charge of Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Shopian, in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Tariq Ahmad Reshi, JKAS, District Mineral Officer, Anantnag, is transferred and posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD), Srinagar, against an available vacancy.

Suheel Ahmad Lone is posted as Deputy Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, while Mohd. Rafiq is posted as Sub-Registrar, Thanamandi. Rafiq Ahmad is transferred as Project Officer, Wage Employment, Samba. Sheraz Ahmad moves to Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ramban with additional charge. Showkat Ahmad Bhat is posted as Sub-Registrar, Pahalgam with additional charge of Anantnag. Mohd. Hanief is posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Poonch. Shubi Tabassum becomes Deputy Director, District Employment Centre, Srinagar. Abdul Jabbar is transferred to Associated Hospitals, Jammu. Mushtaq Ahmad Yaqdoomi moves to Directorate of Social Welfare, Kashmir. Asif Amin Chandel is posted in Science & Technology Department, while Harvinder Singh is shifted to Handicrafts, Jammu. Babu Pardeep Kumar is posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Udhampur.

Arshad Qadir Bhat, Tej Krishan Koul, Ajit Kumar, Allaz Ali Lone, Neeraj Sharma, Sakhi Mohd. Khan, Mohammad Altaf Rather, and Sunil Dutt are posted in various Panchayat, Tax, and Tribal Affairs roles.

Angel Kotwal is transferred to Youth Services and Sports; Pankaj Sasan to Tourism; Shruti Bhardwai to Information, New Delhi. Several private secretaries, including Ghulam Rasool Mir, Ghulam Mohd. Khan, Babeeta Kumari, Mohd. Rafiq Zuilah, Sajid Rashid Bhat,

and Arshada Akhter are moved to Panchayat and developmental roles. Raman Kumar and Braham Rai are posted in Social Welfare and Hospitality & Protocol. Muneer Ahmad Khan becomes Secretary, LCMA. Amit Singh Manhas and Sana Khan are posted with Deputy CM and SSB respectively. Mohsin Mushtaq is posted as Haj Officer.

Amil Khateeb and Sahil Bhagotra's services are placed at the disposal of Employment and Social Welfare Departments.

Other officers including Mohd. Arshad, Alka Misra, Shivani Deonia, Muzammil Hassan Choudhary, Faisal Nazir, Farhat Naz Choudhary, Mohammad Arif Sheikh, Manish Sudan, Mohammad Shafi Lone, Ghulam Rasool Mir, Saroj Khah, and Rajinder Kumar are transferred to various administrative, estates, tribal, aviation, and information roles.

Land Fraud Case.....

public servants linked to the conspiracy, the spokesman said.

He added that further investigation is underway.

India-UK.....

trajectory of ties.

The British prime minister, accompanied by over 100 CEOs, entrepreneurs, university vice-chancellors, landed in India's financial capital on Wednesday to a rousing welcome. It is his first visit to India.

“India and the UK are natural partners. Our relationship is built on the shared values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law,” Modi said in his media statement in presence of Starmer.

“In today's time of global uncertainty, our growing partnership stands as an important pillar of global stability and economic progress,” he said.

Modi said India's dynamism and the UK's expertise together will create a “unique synergy” to further enhance the bilateral relations in diverse areas.

“Our partnership is trustworthy, and driven by talent and technology. And today, as Prime Minister Starmer and I stand together on this stage, it is a clear reaffirmation of our shared commitment to work hand-in-hand towards building a brighter future for the people of both our nations,” he said.

In his remarks, Starmer described the signing of the UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement as a “breakthrough moment” as it will slash tariffs, increase access to each other's markets and create jobs.

“It is significant that we're meeting here in Mumbai, India's economic and financial capital, because India's growth story is remarkable. I want to congratulate the prime minister on his leadership, aiming to be the world's third largest economy by 2028,” he said.

The two leaders also welcomed the resetting of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) which will support the governance and utilisation of the trade pact and drive forward wider trade and investment partnership.

Modi and Starmer also discussed the situation in West Asia and the war in Ukraine.

“The prime minister and I also discussed the need for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, the need for stability and security in the Indo-Pacific, and the need to co-operate in critical areas like climate and energy, including breaking away from dependence on fossil fuels,” Starmer said.

In the defence and security sphere, the two sides expressed strong resolve to a robust maritime security collaboration in the Indo-Pacific, including establishment of the Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSC) under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

“In the context of cooperation on training, the two Leaders welcomed progress on an arrangement that will see Indian Air Force qualified flying instructors integrated into UK Royal Air Force training, alongside an agreement that will facilitate our strong training and education relationship,” a joint statement said.

It said both the prime ministers are pleased with the intent to finalise an India “UK Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on cooperation in developing maritime electric propulsion systems for Indian naval platforms.

“Both leaders also announced the agreement to proceed via government to government route on an initial supply of Lightweight Multirole Missile (LMM) systems,” the statement said. “This will further support India's air defence capabilities and, in the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, meet the current and future requirements of the Indian Ministry of Defence, and support a long-term collaboration on complex weapons between the two countries,” it said. In his remarks, Modi said both sides decided to establish an industry guild and a supply chain observatory for cooperation on critical minerals.

Its satellite campus will be located at Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, he said.

“We have a shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. In this direction, we welcome the formation of the India “UK Offshore Wind Taskforce,” he said.

“We have established the Climate Technology Startup Fund. This will provide support to innovators and entrepreneurs from both countries working in the fields of climate, technology, and AI,” he added. (Agencies)

CS for giving strategic push to boost Milk and Mutton production in J&K

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCT9: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting of the Agriculture Production Department (APD) to review the measures being taken to enhance milk and mutton production across the Union Territory. He emphasized that both sectors hold immense potential for growth, value addition, and entrepreneurship if approached with the right policy interventions and sustained departmental support.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar; Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Managing Director, HADP; Managing Director, Dairy Development; Directors of Agriculture and Sheep Husbandry from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions; and other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the

Chief Secretary underscored the need to create replicable success stories in these sectors to inspire public participation and entrepreneurship.

He observed that the region, being primarily a consumer state, offers a significant market for milk, mutton, and their processed products. Even in catering to local demand there exists vast potential in exploring commercial expansion and export of its value-added products.

He maintained that the UT must move beyond basic packaging and branding. The focus should be on scientific processing and value addition that can yield high-demand products and sustainable livelihoods. He urged local entrepreneurs to unlock the potential of the region's dairy and livestock sectors for finding the gainful employment.

While speaking in this meeting the ACS, APD, Shailendra Kumar, gave a comprehensive



overview of the present status and consumption patterns of milk and mutton in J&K. He noted that dairy products form part of the daily diet across the UT, while mutton consumption is among the highest in the country, creating steady market demand.

The department, he said, has



assessed the existing gaps and devised a roadmap to enhance both production and value addition over the next few years.

As per the presentation given by the department, J&K produces 28.75 lakh metric tonnes of milk annually, with a per capita availability of 577 grams per day, which is higher

than the national average of 471 grams. However, only about 4% of milk production is currently organized, accounting for just 4% of the local production. The department aims to bring at least 20% of production under the organized sector within the next 5-7 years, the meeting was apprised.

To achieve this target, the department plans to expand Artificial Insemination (AI) coverage, secure High Genetic Merit (HGM) bulls, establish facilities for sexed semen, and address fodder deficit issues through scientific feeding practices.

Moreover around 1,600 "PashuSakhis" (Maitris) have already been engaged to extend AI services at the grassroots level, while two semen stations are being established in the UT. The department is also in the process of procuring 40 HGM bulls from the USA and setting up milk processing and chilling units in every district.

In terms of mutton production, it was informed that J&K currently has 43.68 lakh sheep and 22.5 lakh goats, producing about 370 lakh kilograms of meat and 80 lakh kilograms of wool annually, against a local demand of around 545 lakh kilograms of meat here.

To bridge this gap, the department is pursuing advanced breeding interventions such as Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) and Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET) to accelerate genetic improvement.

Plans are also underway to establish Embryo Generation Labs with a target of producing 6,000 embryos annually, develop facilities for cryopreservation, and set up ETT laboratories in every district. Capacity-building programmes for veterinarians and para-veterinarians are also being rolled out to ensure effective implementation at the field level.

The Chief Secretary encouraged the Agriculture Production Department for its proactive initiatives and directed it to work in mission mode to transform both dairy and sheep husbandry sectors into engines of rural growth and employment generation.

Poshan Mah 2025 Celebrated at DH Pora, Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCT9: As part of the ongoing nationwide Poshan Mah 2025 celebrations, Mission Director Poshan, J&K, Mr. Musheer Ahmad (JKAS), paid an official visit to the Poshan Project DH Pora in district Kulgam.

The program was attended by key officials including District Programme Officer (DPO) Poshan Kulgam, Mr. Zaheer Ahmad Kaife (JKAS), Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) DH Pora, Mr. Sadam Hussain Shah (JKAS), as well as supervisors and Anganwadi



Workers (AWWs) of the Poshan Project DH Pora. During the event, the chair presented a detailed overview of key government schemes such as the Poshan Abhiyaan and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). In addition, a live online assessment of various Poshan Tracker indicators was also carried out to review the ongoing progress and impact.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by the chair, acknowledging the collective efforts of all stakeholders involved in the implementation of nutrition and welfare schemes at the grassroots level.

BRO Swings Into Action, Throws Open Bhadarwah-Pathankot Highway, Boosting Tourism Prospects

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

BHADARWAH, OCT 09: In a high-stakes push to reconnect the region, the Border Roads Organization (BRO) sprang into action swiftly clearing snow-bound stretches of the Bhadarwah-Pathankot Interstate National Highway and restoring a critical lifeline for residents and tourists across the Chenab Valley.

Teams from the 118 Road Construction Company (RCC), guided by Commander 35 Border Road Task Force (BRTF), S.K. Singh, rolled out before dawn braving bitter winds and daunting gradients to reopen the highway linking Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. "The

swift clearance operation was undertaken to guarantee the unimpeded flow of traffic, reaffirming BRO's commitment to ensure connectivity and public safety in the toughest terrains," said Jivitesh Razora, OC 118 RCC BRO.

Resumption of normal traffic allowed ambulances, emergency services and supply trucks to reach stranded communities just as relief was needed most bringing a sigh of relief across the valley.

"The BRO's timely move has proved its dedication beyond words. Restoring this road allows us to breathe easier again," said Jaswant Singh Manhas, a resident of Basti, Bhadarwah.



Sprinkling salt on the frozen stretches of the Bhadarwah, Bani, Basoli, Pathankot National Highway, BRO officials enhanced safety for motorists negotiating treacherous patches.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh

lauded the swift, round the clock response from 118 RCC based at Bhadarwah.

Adding to local voices, Abdul Hamid Mir, a resident of Sartin-gal and tourism stakeholder, emphasized the far-reaching impact for the region's economy:

"With the Bhadarwah, Bani, Basoli National Highway thrown open, the tourism sector gets a new lease of life. Iconic spots like Nalthi, Thanthera, Guldanda and Sarthal Valley are all perched on the edges of this vital road. Clearing the snow not only makes these locations accessible but also rekindles hope for hundreds of families who depend on tourism to earn their livelihood."

The Herculean efforts of BRO once again underscored its pivotal role in keeping the region's veins open ensuring that the beauty and bounty of Chenab Valley remain within reach for both residents and travelers, come snow or storm.

Kulgam Police Arrest Two Drug Peddlers, Recover Over 4 Kg of Cannabis Leaves

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, OCT 09: As part of its continued crackdown on drug trafficking under the ongoing "Mission Drugs-Free Kulgam", Kulgam Police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered a significant quantity of contraband from their possession.

According to officials, a police team headed by the Incharge Police Post (ICPP) Mirbazar was on routine patrol when they noticed two individuals moving suspiciously while carrying bags. Upon spotting the police, the duo attempted to flee but were swiftly apprehended by the alert personnel.



Upon checking the bags, the officers recovered approximately 4.458 kilograms of cannabis leaves-like substance. The accused were immediately taken into custody.

Preliminary investigation revealed their identities as Mohd Yaseen Sheikh, son of Jalal Din Sheikh, and Shahid Ahmad Sheikh, son of Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, both residents of Amanpora.

In connection with this incident, a case under FIR No. 209/2025 has been registered under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Qazigund. Further investigation is currently underway.

Kulgam Police reaffirmed their commitment to eradicating the drug menace from society and reiterated that such actions will continue with full force to achieve a drug-free district.

IRP 20 Bn Holds Drug Awareness Debate at Singhpora Baramulla School

■ HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, OCT 09: The IRP 20th Battalion of Jammu and Kashmir Police recently organized a drug awareness camp and debate competition at Govt. Boys High School Singhpora, aiming to educate students from different schools about the dangers of drug abuse and encourage meaningful dialogue on the subject. Participants engaged in activities that promoted teamwork, fair competition, and social responsibility, with rewards given to outstanding students to foster enthusiasm and learning. The camp included various outreach activities such as painting competitions, educational support initiatives, and awareness campaigns on the harmful effects of substance abuse.

The debate competition specifically focused on engaging young minds to be part of the solution against drug abuse, encouraging critical thinking and constructive conversation among students. Additional educational support was provided through distribution of stationery and books, emphasizing community welfare and uplifting underprivileged students. These efforts were aligned with IRP 20th Battalion's broader Civic Action Programmes, which also include environmental initiatives and cleanliness drives for holistic community development.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students across multiple schools, amplifying the message against drug abuse and the importance of healthy social practices.

Jammu and Kashmir Police continues to organize such programs as part of ongoing efforts to address substance abuse, spread awareness, and offer support to affected youth and families in the region.

This initiative underscores the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police—especially the IRP 20th Battalion—to not only law enforcement but also community engagement, youth empowerment, and preventive education regarding drug-related issues.

Rahul Sahai, ICC J&K Chairman, Meets Indian Ambassador Ravish Kumar at 66th MSV Engineering Fair

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu & Kashmir, represented Jammu & Kashmir as part of the official Indian Delegation at the 66th MSV International Engineering Trade Fair in Brno, Czech Republic—one of Europe's most prestigious industrial exhibitions showcasing global advancements in engineering, automation, and manufacturing. Sahai was an official guest from

India and part of a distinguished business delegation comprising industry leaders from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Bengaluru, Kerala, Mumbai, and Abu Dhabi. The visit was facilitated by the Czech Embassy in New Delhi and warmly received by the Indian Embassy in Prague.

A key highlight of the visit was Sahai's interaction with His Excellency Sh. Ravish Kumar, Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic, who hosted a special Hi Tea and meeting for the Indian delegation



at the Indian Embassy in Prague. During their exchange, Rahul Sahai apprised the Ambassador of the industrial potential and investment opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir, and invited Czech companies to explore collaborations in manu-

facturing, packaging, automotive components, and green energy and technology transfer.

Rahul Sahai commended the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi for transforming India's indus-

trial landscape and appreciated the remarkable progress in J&K under Hon'ble Lt. Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha, now being further advanced by Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Omar Abdullah and his cabinet.

As Chairman of ICC Jammu & Kashmir and head of the Sahai Group of Companies, Rahul Sahai continues to drive industrial growth, MSME empowerment, and international partnerships, positioning Jammu & Kashmir on the global trade and investment map.

Ministers Javed Rana and Javid Dar review key issues in Baramulla, Sopore, Rafiabad Constituencies

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 09: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development Javid Ahmad Dar today comprehensively reviewed and addressed developmental challenges and public welfare concerns in the constituencies of Baramulla, Sopore and Rafiabad.

The meeting witnessed participation from key stakeholders including MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar and MLA Baramulla Javed Hassan Baig. District Development Commissioner, Baramulla, Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control, Kashmir, along with their respective Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, and Assistant Executive Engineers, Conservator of Forests, North Circle Sopore, and other divisional and district-level officers were also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, Minister Javed Rana laid out a roadmap for accelerated and inclusive development in the

three constituencies, placing special emphasis on ensuring that all ongoing and upcoming projects are implemented in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner.

He underscored the need to operationalize all completed Water Supply Schemes without further delay, so that the intended benefits reach the people immediately.

Highlighting the importance of optimal resource utilization, he instructed the Chief Engineer of Jal Shakti to come up with a plan for rationalising manpower and machinery deployment, enabling improved execution on the ground.

Rana also called for the augmentation of existing water supply schemes to improve their long-term viability and service delivery.

He directed the concerned departments to submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for proposed upgrades on a priority basis to facilitate timely approvals and planning.

Stressing on the importance of quality control in infrastructure development, he instructed field officers to undertake regular site inspections and ensure all works meet established



technical standards without compromise.

To meet the growing demand for drinking water in several areas facing water shortages, Minister Rana approved the deployment of additional water tankers, particularly targeting water-deficit zones in Baramulla and Sopore.

He further emphasized the critical importance of adopting water conservation practices in every constituency, underscoring the need to manage water resources sustainably to ensure long-term availability and resilience in the face of changing climatic patterns.

Reflecting the broader vision of the Omar Abdullah-led government for environmentally responsible and inclusive development, Javed Rana called for expediting the process of forest clearances for pending infrastructure projects.

He stressed that development and ecological preservation must go hand in hand, and bridging infrastructure gaps must be done while adhering to environmental safeguards.

He further directed the Forest Department to ensure the adequate availability of firewood across all of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in view of the approaching winter season, to cater

to the needs of the general population.

In line with the Government's commitment to inclusive development and social justice, the Minister also directed the timely disbursement of sanctioned scholarships to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students.

He emphasised the need to ensure that forest dwellers and tribal communities receive full access to welfare schemes and benefits, reaffirming the Government's focus on improving the socio-economic conditions of marginalised populations.

During the deliberations, Minister Javed Ahmad Dar presented several suggestions aimed at strengthening the water supply infrastructure across the region.

He emphasised the need for technological upgrades and improved management practices to enhance both efficiency and reliability.

He also flagged several operational issues that required urgent administrative attention to ensure seamless public service delivery.

MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar raised several constituency-specific concerns.

He highlighted the urgent need to

revive the Nehri Zangeer, which plays a vital role in supplying water to multiple schemes serving Sopore, Rafiabad, and Bandipora. He sought strengthening of local piping network to ensure consistent and efficient water supply, and also called for comprehensive dredging of the canal system in Sopore to prevent blockages and improve water flow.

Meanwhile, MLA Baramulla Javed Hassan Baig drew attention to delays in the approval of infrastructure projects under PMGSY and R&B, attributing the hold-ups to pending forest clearances.

He sought the Minister's intervention in expediting these approvals. He also called for dredging of canals in Baramulla and nearby areas, and stressed the need for replacing or upgrading outdated machinery to maintain the operational efficiency of critical infrastructure.

He also voiced concerns about the status of tribal development in his constituency and called for tailored welfare initiatives aimed at uplifting the socio-economic condition of tribal communities.

Financial Literacy Quiz organized at GCW Parade

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 9: The Department of English, Government College for Women Parade Ground, in collaboration with Zerodha Varsity organized a Financial Literacy Quiz aimed at promoting awareness about personal finance, investment and responsible money management among the students.

The quiz covered topics related to finance, wealth, entrepreneurship etc, mainly based on Zerodha Varsity platform and YouTube Channels.

Held in the college auditorium, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various departments with over 43 teams in the preliminary round.

Six teams qualified for the final round conducted by Quizmaster Ahil supported by Ashish. The quiz tested participants' understanding of key financial concepts. The winning team, consisting of Ojaswi Rajput, Samiyaa Sharma and Vanshika Devi, was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 12,000.

The first runner up team comprising Sonakshi Sharma, Ufra Tanveer and Vartika Sharma won Rs. 9,000 and the second runner up team consisting of Khushi Puri, Simran Chib and Rumaisha Ahmed won Rs 3,000 cash prize.

The competition was conducted in multiple rounds, featuring both written and interactive segments. The preliminary round was evaluated by the teaching faculty of the college, while the final round was evaluated by representatives from Zerodha Varsity. A dedicated team of student volunteers and faculty members managed registration, technical assistance and logistics ensuring smooth coordination throughout the event.

Minalika Rajput and Riya Jamwal from GCW Parade anchored the event, while Vishnu Priya, Shreya and Nilakshi from MCMP were responsible for the photo and video coverage.

The student organizers from the Department of English were Janvi, Monika, Palak, Raghvi, Muskan, Archita, Purvi, Stanzen, Mehak, Muskan, Tania, Pallavi and Kajal. The quiz served as an engaging platform for students to gain hands-on insights into financial decision-making and economic self-reliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ritu Magotra, Head of the Department of English, commended the efforts of the organizing team and highlighted the importance of financial education as an essential life skill for young learners.

Dr. Ravender Tickoo, Principal GCW Parade, reiterated that the quiz reflected the institution's ongoing commitment to holistic learning by integrating practical financial awareness with academic growth.

DEO Budgam Inspects Institutions for Finalization of Dispatch and Collection Centres for Upcoming Bye-Elections

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 09: In view of the Upcoming bye-elections to 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency, the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today conducted an extensive inspection of the proposed dispatch and collection centres established for the smooth and efficient conduct of the electoral process.

The DEO visited Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam and Sheikh-ul-Alam Degree College Budgam, the two institutions shortlisted for setting up distribution and collection centres for polling material and related arrangements.



During the inspection, the DEO took a detailed review of logistics, infrastructure, security setup,

space management, and other essential facilities required to ensure a seamless dispatch and collection

process on the polling and counting days.

He also assessed the availability of basic amenities, vehicle parking, entry and exit routes, and communication arrangements at both the venues.

The DEO emphasized that all necessary guidelines and instructions of the Election Commission of India (ECI) shall be implemented in letter and spirit to guarantee free, fair, and transparent elections.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all arrangements are finalized well before the polling date and that proper coordination is maintained among all line departments.

The DEO underscored the importance of meticulous planning,

timely preparedness, and close monitoring of every election-related activity, including training of polling staff, material management, and security deployment.

The DEO also reviewed the functioning of the Returning Officer (RO) Headquarters established for 27-Budgam Assembly Constituency and instructed the officials to maintain readiness for the upcoming electoral exercise.

Among others, the DEO was accompanied by the Returning Officer 27-AC Budgam, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Dy. election officer Budgam, Assistant Returning Officer, and other concerned officers and officials of the election machinery.

Awareness Camp on Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 held at GDC Doda

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, OCTOBER 9: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Zubair Ahmed, the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women organized an Awareness Camp on Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 (TFYC 3.0) at Government Degree College Doda.

The Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0, launched nationwide today aims to raise awareness among young people about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to promote a tobacco-free learning environment in educational institutions across India. The primary objective of the event was to educate students on safeguarding their health and contributing to the well-being of society.

The Sankalp Hub team hosted an informative and interactive session



highlighting the severe health risks associated with tobacco consumption, including cancer, heart and lung diseases and addiction. The resource persons emphasized that tobacco not only deteriorates physical health but also has emotional, social and financial consequences for families, thereby threatening the nation's future by fostering unhealthy habits among the youth.

Speakers at the event urged students to understand how tobacco use reduces life expectancy, hampers productivity and deprives individuals of their potential, dreams and happiness. Participants were motivated to take a pledge to stay away from tobacco and to act as youth ambassadors in spreading the message of a healthy, tobacco-free society.

DLSA Budgam Organizes Awareness Programme on NALSA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 09: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, organized an Awareness Programme on the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 in collaboration with Boys Higher Secondary School, Budgam (LLC).

The primary objective of the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 is to ensure accessible, effective, timely, and child-sensitive legal aid to children in need, safeguarding their best interests in all legal, civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings. The scheme also aims to educate communities about the legal protections available to children and to promote a supportive and child-friendly environment throughout legal processes.

The DLSA, Budgam, deputized Chief LADC, Lateef Ahmad Khan and Assistant LADCs as resource persons for the event. They delivered insightful presentations on the scheme and raised awareness among participants regarding its objectives and implementation.

In his address, Chief LADC emphasized that the NALSA provides accessible, effective, and child-sensitive legal aid to all children in need, including those with disabilities. He highlighted that this comprehensive scheme consolidates earlier NALSA initiatives on child rights and protection, ensuring that children have access to competent legal practitioners and are empowered to understand their rights, entitlements, and court procedures. He also stressed the importance of community outreach to identify vulnerable children and the need for timely legal support for those requiring protection or assistance.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel also addressed the gathering and elaborated that the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024 provides children with free, age-appropriate legal services, representation, and a sensitive environment during legal proceedings, ensuring their protection from abuse and exploitation. She further explained that Legal Services Units for Children (LSUCs) play a pivotal role in implementing the scheme by establishing legal aid clinics, training lawyers and para-legal volunteers, conducting awareness programmes, and working closely with child care institutions and police authorities to ensure the adoption of child-friendly procedures and the creation of a safe, child-centric justice system.

Orientation Programme for Business Help Desks, YUVA DOOTs held at Ramban

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 9: The District Employment and Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Ramban today organized a comprehensive Orientation Programme for Business Help Desk (BHD) members and YUVA DOOTs at the District Headquarter. The programme aimed at strengthening outreach and service delivery under the Mission YUVA initiative aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship among youth.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aiyas Khan inaugurated the event in presence of Joint Director Employment Jammu Paramjeet Singh.

As many as 62 YUVA DOOTs, drawn from the Rural Develop-

ment Department, Agriculture Department and NRLM attended the session. They were assigned specific panchayats and municipal wards across Ramban, Banihal, Batote, Gool, Khari, Ukhral and Rajgarh blocks to ensure wider coverage of employment awareness campaigns under Mission YUVA.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak (District Nodal Officer- Mission YUVA); SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Ramsoo Sayed Muzaahir Hussain Shah; Assistant Director Employment Amit Kumar; bankers and functionaries from other stakeholder departments

also attended the event.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the crucial role of YUVA DOOTs and BHDs in connecting unemployed youth with self-employment and livelihood schemes. He emphasized that these grassroots-level functionaries are instrumental in creating awareness, identifying potential beneficiaries and facilitating linkages with departments implementing schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner also lauded the efforts of the Employment Department in organizing such orientation programmes and urged all stakeholders to continue consistent engagement with youth to ensure that every eligible beneficiary avails the benefits of

self-employment and livelihood schemes under Mission YUVA.

The Joint Director Employment, in his address, highlighted the role of the stakeholders in implementing Mission YUVA aimed at empowering the youth of Ramban district and elsewhere in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of skill development, financial literacy and entrepreneurship in reducing unemployment and promoting sustainable income generation. The Joint Director further urged the participants to organise awareness sessions in panchayats. He emphasized mainly on quality application submission by the Youth. "YUVA Doots can guide

each applicant effectively to ensure quality applications" he added.

During the technical session, Assistant Director Employment Amit Kumar, along with other resource persons, provided detailed orientation on the role and responsibilities of (BHDs) and YUVA DOOTs. The participants were trained in maintaining data of unemployed youth, mobilization strategies and digital reporting mechanisms.

An interactive question-and-answer session was also held, wherein participants raised queries regarding eligibility criteria, documentation process and benefits of various employment schemes.



SKIMS to Harness its Data Repository for AI-Driven Advances in Research, Academics & Patient Care: Director SKIMS

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 9: Director SKIMS and EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, while addressing a Workshop on "AI in Healthcare" organised by the Skill Development Centre SKIMS in collaboration with DataLeads, announced that SKIMS will utilise its rich, thirty-year-old data repository to drive new advances in research, academics, and patient care through Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Calling data the "biggest treasure and strength of SKIMS," Prof. Ashraf said the institute will leverage this valuable resource to achieve innovation and excellence in healthcare delivery.

"Data is gold, and SKIMS will utilise this gold for transformative growth in medical education, research, and clinical services," he emphasized.

Highlighting the importance of AI integration, Prof. Ashraf said the collaboration between human intelligence and machines will



enhance precision, accuracy, and contextual understanding in clinical practice. He further stressed that AI can help overcome challenges at SKIMS such as limited human resources while strengthening medical teaching, training, research, and skill development.

Prof. Ashraf expressed gratitude

to Syed Nazakat, CEO & Founder of Data Leads New Delhi, for facilitating the workshop and for highlighting the emerging role of AI in the health sector.

He assured full institutional support from SKIMS for major collaborations in the development of health information systems and

AI-driven healthcare models. "SKIMS will take the lead in aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of reshaping healthcare in India through Artificial Intelligence," he added.

The AI Skill Development Training Programme for Healthcare Professionals, was designed to introduce medical professionals to the transformative potential of AI in modern healthcare delivery, clinical decision-making, and research.

The programme aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and practical insights into AI-driven tools, digital healthcare applications, and data-informed practices that improve efficiency, accuracy, and patient outcomes.

The workshop covered a broad spectrum of topics including Introduction to AI in Healthcare: Concepts, principles, and global perspectives. Clinical Applications of AI: Diagnostics, imaging, predictive analytics, and personalised treatment planning. AI in Public

Health and Research: Population health management, outbreak prediction, and clinical trial support. Ethical and Regulatory Aspects: Patient privacy, data security, accountability, and AI governance in healthcare.

The initiative marks a significant step toward building digital readiness among healthcare professionals, preparing them to harness AI innovations for enhanced clinical practice, research, and system efficiency.

The AI Skill Development Programme at SKIMS reflects the growing need to integrate technology with medicine, aimed at building a digitally empowered healthcare workforce capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

The day long workshop, coordinated by Prof. Aijaz A Lone & Dr. Qazi Mudassir witnessed an overwhelming participation from all cadres of SKIMS including faculty, residents, paramedics, students, administrators & technicians.

Mega Exhibition-cum-Kisan Mela organised at District Agriculture Complex Rajouri

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 9: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare today organised a mega Exhibition-cum-Kisan Mela at the District Agriculture Complex, Kheora, under the aegis of Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA). The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from across the district.

The programme was presided over by District Development Council Chairperson, Advocate Choudhary Naseem Liaqat, who highlighted the objectives of the event and urged the farming community to take full advantage of the various government schemes aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and improving the socio-economic condition of farmers. He underlined the immense agricultural potential of Rajouri district, noting its diverse agro-climatic conditions that are highly conducive for crop diversification.

"The region's diverse topography and climate support cultivation of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables as well as allied activities like bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation, and floriculture, offering farmers vast opportunities to enhance income and ensure sustainable livelihoods" he noted.

The stakeholder departments including Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Industries and others had set up informative stalls showcasing respective schemes and services. The Chief Guest inspected each stall and appreciated the efforts put in to educate and motivate farmers.

Resource persons interacted with farmers, providing detailed insights into the initiatives being implemented in the district to promote sustainable and integrated farming practices.

A magnificent cultural programme was also presented on the occasion, spreading awareness among farmers about different welfare and agricultural schemes in an engaging manner.

Scientist from KVK Arvind Ishar delivered an informative session on the Integrated Farming System, emphasising its benefits for income diversification and long-term sustainability.

The farmers were provided Mustard Seed Kits and Soil Health Cards to promote scientific soil management and enhance productivity. The event served as an effective platform for knowledge exchange and reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering the farming community through innovation, awareness and convergence of agricultural services.

Chief Agriculture Officer Madan Gopal Singh; AD Fisheries Bodh Raj, the officers from allied departments and a large number of farmers from across the district attended the event.

GDC R S Pura organises National Workshop -cum- Skill Enhancement Fest "Artful Bond"

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU OCTOBER 09: Government Degree College R.S. Pura today organized a National Workshop cum Skill Enhancement Fest themed "Artful Bond" under the patronage of the College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and supervision of IQAC.

Member Legislative Assembly, R.S. Pura, Dr. Narinder Singh Raina was the Chief Guest, while renowned flutist Pt. Santosh Sant was the resource person.

Pt. Santosh Sant, a senior disciple of living legend Padmavibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, was accompanied by Harshiti Giri and Neeraj Verma on Tabla.

Pt. Santosh Sant has performed at numerous prestigious music festivals in India and abroad. He has been rewarded with the Gold medal by the Department of Culture, Govt. of India and the Directorate General of All India Radio for his best performance. He is also honored with the titles, "Abhinav Kala Samman", "Soordas-Samman", "Surmani", "Venu-Shree" and "Pt. Bhimsen Joshi National Award".

At the event, the audience was treated to an unforgettable musical experience that highlighted the elegance and expressive power of the flute.

The presence of distinguished guests Principal of GDC Ghagwal Dr. Sujata Slathia and Dr. Meeru Abrol from GDC Ramgarh elevated the event's significance.

The welcome address was delivered by HOD Economics Dr. Shivani Manchanda.

The workshop cum skill fest presented an eclectic mix of food and ceramic stalls, offering visitors a unique cultural and sensory experience. A diverse range of food stalls showcasing traditional, regional and fusion dishes, each representing the rich culinary heritage of the area was another major attraction.

Ceramic art stalls featured beautifully crafted pottery, mandala art and decorative pieces created by students. College achievements in various domains like literary, cultural and sports were also presented in the event. Prominent faculty members of the college also graced the event with their presence.

The event was coordinated by Dr Rajinder Kumar Sharma; Dr Anupama Pandotra ; Dr. Jameet Kour, HOD Music; Prof. Lukesha Dubgotra, NSS PO and Dr. Roopali Slathia. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Shivani Manchanda, HOD Economics.

DC Ramban reviews functioning of Revenue Department

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 9: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of Revenue Officers to review the progress of the Digitization of Land Records and implementation of the SVAMITVA Scheme in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan, Tehsildars and other officials of the Revenue Department.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the ongoing digitization work, including data entry of digitized Jamabandis, completion of Khasras and Khataas, village-wise updates on ground truthing of maps and



update of sub-parcels in the mother map. He also reviewed the progress of the SVAMITVA Scheme, which aims to provide property cards to rural households through drone-based surveys and mapping.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all Tehsildars to expedite the digitization process and clear pending

records within a stipulated time frame. He emphasized the importance of accuracy, transparency and timely completion of all activities to ensure reliable and accessible land records.

Highlighting the significance of efficiency and accountability, the DC said that timely completion of the digitization process; accurate record management and effective implementation of land-related schemes are crucial for good governance and improved public service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the need to sensitize the public about the benefits of land record digitization and property mapping under the SVAMITVA Scheme. He directed officers to address public grievances promptly and ensure immediate redressal of issues of public interests.

JKTPO organises 3rd Export Awareness cum E- Commerce Onboarding Drive in Kathua

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, OCTOBER 9: Continuing the series of Export Awareness Workshops for 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department organized the 3rd Export Awareness cum E-Commerce Onboarding Drive in District Kathua today.

The workshop aimed to build export awareness and facilitate e-commerce integration for local entrepreneurs, MSMEs, artisans and farmers. Detailed sessions were held on the benefits of exports, IEC registration process, India Business and India Trade Portals, credit linkages, credit risk insurance, e-commerce onboarding, logistics and the export potential of regional products.

The event was attended by representatives from the Direc-

torate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), District Administration Kathua, Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), HDFC Bank and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

Representatives from DGFT, APEDA and FIEO shared key insights on export facilitation and support schemes. DGFT briefed participants on government initiatives such as EPCG, MEIS, SEIS and Advance Authorization, along with the IEC registration process and related documentation. APEDA explained export regulations, product-specific guidelines and the benefits of branding, packaging and marketing assistance to enhance product quality and reach. FIEO highlighted the advantages of registering on the India Business Portal, includ-



ing free business listings, credit rating support and trade updates for exporters.

Officials from HDFC Bank discussed export credit and financial support mechanisms, detailing its export finance solutions, working capital assistance and digital

banking services to facilitate smooth international transactions.

The GeM representatives explained the advantages of onboarding on the Government e-Marketplace, emphasizing that the sellers from Jammu and Kashmir can reach a nationwide gov-

ernment buyer base through the platform. They also demonstrated the vendor registration process, benefits of transparent procurement and digital payment systems available on GeM.

This workshop forms part of the ongoing series being conducted under the District as Export Hub (DEH) and One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives to promote exports from every district of Jammu and Kashmir and strengthen the overall export ecosystem of the Union Territory.

Previously, the JKTPO organized 02 drives in Samba and Jammu, which witnessed participation from over 110 and 100 MSMEs, farmers and entrepreneurs, respectively. Further, the 4th Export Awareness cum E-Commerce Onboarding drive is scheduled in Udhampur on Oct 10-, 2025 at DC Office Complex.

Government College of Education hosts seminar on Women Mental health

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 09: The Psychological Counselling Cell of Government College of Education (GCOE) Jammu organized an enlightening seminar to mark World Mental Health Week.

The event aimed to sensitize students, faculty members and teacher trainees about the importance of emotional well-being, stress management and early intervention in mental health concerns.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Jyoti Parihar appreciated the initiative of the counselling cell and expressed that mental health awareness is essential for nurturing emotionally resilient future teachers who can contribute to building a compassionate society.

The program commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr. Am-

bica Kumari, HOD Psychology and Convener, Psychological Counselling Cell. She elaborated on the objectives of the seminar and the significance of observing World Mental Health Day in educational settings.

The session was graced by Dr. Abhishek Chouhan, a renowned psychiatrist who served as the resource person for the seminar.

Dr. Chouhan delivered an insightful and interactive lecture on various dimensions of mental health, focusing particularly on the mental health of women and youth in today's competitive and rapidly changing world. He emphasized that maintaining good mental health is not just an individual responsibility but a collective societal need. He discussed the role of positive thinking, emotional regulation, mindfulness and supportive relationships in promoting psychological well-being

Dr. Abhishek Chouhan highlighted how stress, anxiety and depression often go unnoticed in educational institutions due to stigma and lack of awareness. He encouraged participants to seek timely help and to foster a culture of openness and empathy toward mental health challenges.

The talk also included engaging anecdotes, case examples and practical exercises that helped the audience connect deeply with the message.

Faculty members, non teaching staff and students from B Ed, M.ed and ITEP attended the seminar with great enthusiasm.

The participants actively interacted with the resource person during the question-answer session, which added to the depth and impact of the discussion.

The seminar concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Sonam Gandotra.

ADC launches "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0" at Doda

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, OCTOBER 9: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anil Kumar Thakur, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh on Thursday launched the Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0 in Doda district.

The main programme in this regard was held here at Government ANMT School, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and officials.

Among those present included Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Dy CMO Dr. S. L. Manhas; District Health Officer Dr. Raj Kumar; Medical Superintendent GMC Dr. Tanveer Ahmed; BMOs and the Govt ANMT School Principal.

At the campaign launch, a series of strategies were outlined to strengthen the district's anti-tobacco efforts. These include escalating public awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco, promoting tobacco-free educational institutions, tobacco-free vil-



lages, strengthening enforcement of COTPA 2003 and PECA 2019, amplifying social media engagement and capacity building among key stakeholders.

At the outset, CMO Dr. Om Kumar briefed the participants about the objectives and action plan of the campaign. He emphasized the need for community participation and youth engagement to curb tobacco use effectively.

The ADC highlighted the signifi-

cance of collective action and directed all stakeholders to intensify awareness activities across their respective blocks, involving educational institutions, PRLs and civil society members to ensure wider participation and impact.

A pledge was also taken at the end of the programme, wherein participants vowed to contribute towards creating a tobacco-free environment and spreading awareness against tobacco use.



HT EDITORIAL

Social media regulation
need of the day

For a long time now the people especially those connected with the news world have been demanding regulation of social media so that the unverified news reports are not beamed on the different media platforms. At the same time these people have also been vouching for a stoppage of news and reels that are sensitive in nature and tend to hurt the sentiments as well as emotions of common masses.

In the past one week or so a couple of irresponsible news items on social media have been taken note of by the administration of the respective districts. These items have come from the Budgam and Kupwara districts and have yet again cast a negative image on the overall media scenario. Given the irresponsible role of the pseudo-journalists, most of the genuine journalists are cursing the day when they joined the profession of journalism considered to be one of the noble professions of the world.

In the present day context the trained journalists are not considered to be journalists by most of the people while as the pseudo-journalists are having merry. This is disturbing and the effects of the recognition of exploiters as well as black mailers as media persons are already visible on ground. People as a whole should understand that sensationalism is not journalism and the news can be published, broadcast or beamed only when the same is verified without any bias, prejudice or favour.

Over the years there has been a mushroom growth of pseudo-journalists in the Kashmir valley and the role of real journalists has been minimized to a great extent. It is due to this reason that the trained and professional journalists are seldom seen in official as well as high profile functions. It is quite astonishing that the people at helm as well as those connected with the political parties want the pseudo-journalists to be present and they are not bothered about the presence of real journalists.

Given the fact that the professional journalists at times pose uncomfortable questions to the ministers as well as officials and also politicians they are not welcomed to the pressers and the official functions. It is quite strange that at times the accredited journalists are dropped and they are not invited to high profile functions while the pseudo-journalists are at the top of the invited list. In such a way the people at helm are doing a disservice to journalism and journalists.

New GST rates in the agriculture
sector a blessing for farmers

“The revised GST rates will help increase farmers’ incomes”

Welfare of farmers remains the top priority of the central government, as relentless efforts are being made to make farming easier, reduce production costs, and increase farmers' profits. Transforming the lives of farmers and making agriculture a pillar of national prosperity is not just Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's goal - it is his unwavering resolve. Every decision, every reform under his leadership, places the farmer at the heart of India's growth story. The recent revisions in GST rates are a shining reflection of this vision. The 'Next Generation Reform in GST', announced by the Prime Minister from the Red Fort on Independence Day, is now taking shape as the foundation of a new, self-reliant and prosperous India.

Keeping the interests of farmers and the common people foremost, the government has made sweeping reductions in GST rates - reforms that will energise India's agricultural system and power the progress of farmers. These are not abstract changes in policy; they touch the very soil farmers till every day. Over 10 crore small and marginal farmers will benefit directly. Earlier, agricultural equipment attracted GST rates as high as 18%; now it has been slashed to just 5%, ensuring direct savings of thousands of rupees for every farmer.

Take the case of a farmer buying a 35-horsepower (HP) tractor. What once cost around Rs. 6.5 lakh will now be available for approximately Rs. 6.09 lakh - a saving of Rs. 41,000. For a 45 HP tractor, the saving is Rs. 45,000; for a 50 HP tractor, Rs. 53,000; and for a 75 HP tractor, Rs. 63,000. Even smaller machines are now within easier reach - a power tiller will cost around Rs. 12,000 less, a paddy transplanter Rs. 15,000 less, and a thresher Rs. 14,000 less. Equipment like power weeders and seed drills are cheaper by Rs. 5,000-Rs. 10,000. Larger machinery for harvesting and sowing - such as a 14-feet cutter bar, a square baler, or a straw reaper - will now save farmers Rs. 1.87 lakh, Rs. 94,000, and Rs. 22,000, respectively. Tools like mulchers, super seeders, happy seeders, and sprayers are also more affordable, bringing modernisation to every acre.

Mechanisation is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity for profitable farming. The tax cuts on sprinklers, drip irrigation systems, harvesters, hydraulic pumps, and spare parts will empower even small and marginal farmers to adopt modern tools. Labor costs will fall, time will be saved, and productivity will rise. While prices may vary slightly across states and companies, the overall result remains clear: farmers will spend less and earn more.

Every step we take is guided by the singular aim of farmer prosperity. I have personally met representatives of agricultural machinery manufacturers to ensure that these tax reductions translate into immediate benefits for farmers. But this reform extends beyond agriculture; it is a powerful push for the entire economy. Lower input costs will enable farmers to generate higher returns from their produce, in turn strengthening small and cottage industries. Cheaper raw materials will bring down production costs, boosting MSMEs and creating new employment opportunities.

Agriculture and animal husbandry are twin engines of the rural economy. The GST exemptions granted to

beekeeping, dairy, animal husbandry, and cooperative societies will inject new energy into the countryside. When farmers' expenses go down and their incomes rise, they will naturally invest more in education, healthcare, and better living standards. That is how rural India's holistic development begins - not through handouts, but empowerment.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always emphasised organic and natural farming as the future of Indian agriculture. At a time when the world is moving toward sustainable cultivation and ecological balance, the government's decision to reduce GST on bio-pesticides and micronutrients from 12% to 5% is both timely and visionary. It will encourage farmers to transition away from chemical fertilisers toward organic inputs. The results will be transformative - richer soil fertility, a healthier planet, and reduced costs of cultivation. Given that most Indian farms are small holdings, the government continues to promote integrated farming and allied activities to ensure sustained income growth.

Value addition is equally crucial. The GST reforms have provided a strong boost to the food processing industry. With more investment in cold storage and processing units, farmers will be able to preserve their produce longer and sell it at better prices. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has repeatedly assured that no policy or agreement will ever compromise the interests of farmers, fishermen, or livestock owners. These reforms stand as living proof of that commitment. They will also reduce India's dependence on imports and give momentum to 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

At the heart of rural prosperity are the women of self-help groups. GST reforms have reduced their operating costs, helping small-scale rural industries flourish. As new processing units, storage facilities, and transport networks emerge in villages, fresh avenues for entrepreneurship and employment will open up. Lower taxes will mean higher sales, new jobs, and a generation of youth empowered to become self-reliant in their own villages.

I am confident these reforms will realise our collective resolve of 'Swadeshi se Samridhhi' (prosperity through self-reliance), turning India's economy into a truly "long-living economy". These changes are not just about lowering tax rates; they represent a moral and economic commitment to reinvigorate the lives of farmers, small traders, animal rearers, fishermen, and women driving the rural enterprise. Guided by the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and 'Antyodaya', our government continues to prove that the prosperity of farms and farmers is the true measure of the nation's progress.

This Diwali, India will celebrate the festival with the theme of 'Swadeshi se Samridhhi' - lighting lamps of self-reliance in every home, echoing the chants of 'Jai Swadeshi', and moving confidently towards the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The author is the Union Minister for
Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, and Rural
Development, Government of India.



World Mental Health Day and J&K:
A Social and Human Perspective

Every year on October 10, the world observes World Mental Health Day to raise awareness about mental illnesses, their impact, and the urgent need for effective treatment. Mental health is an essential component of an individual's overall well-being, as a person's physical, emotional, and social functioning depend greatly upon it.

In a region like Jammu and Kashmir, where decades of instability, tension, uncertainty, and economic pressure have deeply affected everyday life, mental health has emerged not only as a medical issue but also as a social, cultural, and humanitarian crisis.

According to mental health experts, the prevalence of stress, insomnia, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in Kashmiri society is significantly higher than in many other regions. The prolonged political situation, worrying social transitions, lack of employment opportunities for the youth, educational pressure, and the strain on the traditional family system have further aggravated this crisis.

Reports from the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Srinagar, indicate that people of all age

groups—particularly women and the youth—are the most affected by mental stress. Some studies suggest that at least three out of every ten individuals suffer from some form of mental health issue. However, due to social stigma and lack of awareness, most people do not seek medical help.

In our society, mental illness is often seen as a sign of weakness or shame, which isolates those suffering from it and discourages them from seeking support. This attitude traps them in silent suffering.

It is crucial that mental health be regarded as equally important as physical health, and that widespread awareness campaigns be launched to educate the public. The lack of qualified psychiatrists, counseling centers, and mental health services—especially in rural areas—makes the situation even more alarming in Jammu and Kashmir.

Although the government has initiated programs such as 'Manodharpan' and the National Mental Health Programme, their reach largely remains confined to urban areas. There is an urgent need to establish counseling cells in schools, colleges, and community centers, so that early signs of men-

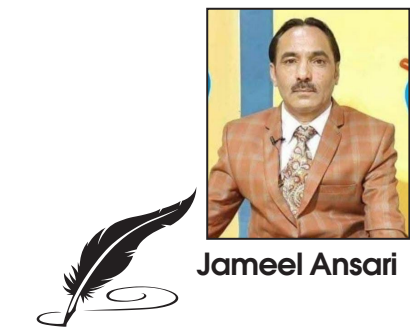
tal distress in the youth can be identified and addressed.

Religious and community leaders can also play an important role in this effort, as they enjoy deep trust within society. Promoting peace, educational advancement, employment opportunities, and social harmony can naturally improve the region's mental well-being.

The media must also deal with mental health issues responsibly, avoiding sensationalism and focusing instead on empathy and awareness. Mental health is not an individual matter—it is a measure of a society's overall well-being.

If we truly wish to build a peaceful, balanced, and positive society, mental health must be treated as a priority concern. World Mental Health Day serves as a reminder that no society can be truly healthy without mental well-being.

In a sensitive region like Jammu and Kashmir, where hope and resilience have repeatedly been tested, it is time to recognize mental health as a fundamental human right and take concrete steps at every level to build a peaceful, strong, and mentally resilient community.



The Spiritual Dream of Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad--- Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora



Mohammad Aaqib Khan

The Islamic curriculum offered at Al Gazi Darul Huda under the leadership of Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad is developed not only towards Quranic recitation, Hadith, Fiqh and Arabic but also Tarbiyat (character-building). Dars-e-Quran, Mahafil-e-Naat and spiritual gatherings also take place in the madrasa fostering a Deen loving heart in students and the local community. The inclusion of a Welfare Wing such as services to the needy marks the practical application of Islamic teachings in practical service. The inclusion of formal education (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Computer Literacy) indicates the recognition of the significance of worldly knowledge in providing services to the community.

A silent revolution in the education and spiritual awakening is in progress in the heart of Wagoora B K Pora-the scholar who has already awakened the hearts of many with his earnestness, devotion and foresight. Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad a reputable Sufi Islamic Scholar is the chairman of Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora, a special school of education that combines the principles of the traditional Islamic education with the demands of modern formal education. The construction of Al Gazi Darul Huda took place not at once. It is the outcome of a profound thought about the educational requirements of the current generation. Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad had a dream of an institution where children could have Deeni Taleem (Islamic education) and Dunyavi Taleem (modern formal education) not in opposition to one another rather in unity. He thought that the real success is to develop the soul and the intellect and train people who are not only morally sound but also intellectually prepared.

The Islamic curriculum offered at Al Gazi Darul Huda under the leadership of Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad is developed not only towards Quranic recitation, Hadith, Fiqh and Arabic but also Tarbiyat (character-building). Dars-e-Quran, Mahafil-e-Naat and spiritual gatherings also take place in the madrasa fostering a Deen loving heart in students and the local community. The inclusion of a Welfare Wing such as services to the needy marks the practical application of Islamic teachings in practical service. The inclusion of formal education (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Computer Literacy) indicates the recognition of the significance of worldly knowledge in providing services to the community. This combined model will see that students do not get left behind in the competitive academic world. Instead, they have the strength to compete and play their part positively without sacrificing their values. The reason behind Maulana Hilal Ahmad advocacy of quality formal education is because he believes that knowledge is a religious trust, be it religious or worldly in origin-so long as it is used to the service of truth and justice.

The location of Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora is one of the most spiritually important things about it. It is located at Wagoora B K Pora Budgam, the Qiyamgah (spiritual resting place) of the holy saint Hazrat Baba Naseeb-ud-Din Ghazi (RA). The air of spirituality, the air of barakah is a quality that pervades this land which is sanctified by the presence of a great saint of Allah. Building an educational centre at this blessed site would be indicative of the vision of Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad who not only aimed at providing nourishment to the soul but also knowledge to the mind. The place links the students to a heritage of saints, spirituality and service to humanity and a strong environment of both ilm (knowledge) and adab (etiquette) to thrive. On 20th February 2022 the foundation of Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora was set and a lot of faith and vision were placed on the foundation. That was followed by an ode to honesty in leadership and civic contribution. In a short period of one year a two-storey structure came out of the ground completely ready to occupy--not only bricks and mortar but the dreams and aspirations of a whole community. In January 2023 the dream came into a realistic form with the process of admission being started on 20th January 2023, accepting the first group of students to an institution based on two main pillars of Islamic



and formal education. This rapid development was not just a construction success but the will, effort and sincere prayers of Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad whose relentless efforts included making sure that no matter how minor the detail (including infrastructure) the detail was, it was carefully planned and implemented. Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora already established its own academic tradition: all students studying there will InshaAllah graduate both with their Hifz-ul-Quran (memorizing of the Holy Quran) and with their 8th-grade education. This combination strategy is such that students not only become protectors of the Quran but also become literate and intellectually-equipped people prepared to move on to academic or vocational careers. Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad has a bigger vision in education in the future. The institution intends to bring the Dars-e-Nizami curriculum in the near future which is a traditional Islamic course that is based on profound scholarship. The long-term objective is to institute this curriculum with reputed Indian universities, and offer students with nationally recognized qualifications; and to maintain the spiritual richness of classical Islamic education. This visionary path is a model that is integrated along religious excellence and academic credibility and enables students to benefit Deen and society through knowledge, wisdom, and character.

What sets Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora apart from many other institutions is the fact that it is not yet affiliated with any organization or external body. From the very first brick to the first admitted student, the entire vision, effort, and execution of this institution have been led by none other than Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad himself. Having no support by any established Sunni body or trust during the establishment of this institution, Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad

himself, through pure faith, will and concern towards the community, took it upon himself to establish this institution. All developments such as planning, raising funds, supervising construction, curriculum development, and day-to-day running were directly managed by him. This is what makes Al Gazi Darul Huda not only an institution, but a living heritage of one man who was eager to give service to Deen and society without compromising until someone takes notice. Although the present members of the Idara have given notice of their intention to join the institution to a well-established Sunni organization in future in order to grow the institution and be known, the foundation is still a representation of the personal sacrifice and spiritual honesty of Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad.

Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad himself still carries the noble cause of Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora with a personal commitment, it would be only fair to acknowledge that there are those who have been silent followers in his cause- the well-wishers, mureeds, muhibs and whose love and loyalty have been part of this cause. These have helped Maulana Sahib not only by being present but also by their time, their funds and above all by their tears. They have no voices in their sacrifices, no voices in their work, but they make a difference. Whether it's through a kind word, a quiet donation, or a sincere du'a, their contributions have helped this institution grow and stay strong. Their connection is not based on duty or formality—it comes from the heart. It's a bond of love, respect, and spiritual attachment (nisbat). They do not regard this work as a mere job, they regard it as something sacred, as something that connects them to a long tradition of learning, etiquette and service. They are those who work behind the scenes with no name or fame- but they make the mission go. They are the silent strength behind Maulana Sahib walking with him on this path of faith and purpose. In the end it's this quiet companionship, this heartfelt support that keeps the soul of this mission alive. And for that they deserve more than just our thanks—they deserve our du'as, our love, and our deep appreciation.

Conclusion Al Gazi Darul Huda Wagoora with the noble leadership of Maulana Sheikh Hilal Ahmad is not only training students but it is developing new leaders who are not only intellectually sound but also socially conscious and spiritually vibrant. This is not just a learning institution but a place whereby hearts are fed and minds are opened. In this case, schooling is not only about passing tests, but also about character and faith development, and training of souls, to make them fit in this world and the next. It also reminds us that we have to be educated not just through the brain, but also through the heart. And that is what is being produced, day by day, in the blessed lanes of B K Pora. This is an institution where "Rabbanaatina fid-dunya hasanah wa fil-akhirati hasanah" is not recited but lived, practised and handed on. Al Gazi Darul Huda is making the both deen (faith) and dunya (world) beautiful creating a generation to aim not only at worldly success but at eternal purpose. This institution is sowing hope of a better tomorrow, so quietly in a world of noise, it silently goes on planting seeds of knowledge, love and light.

The author is a PHD Scholar. maaqibk11@gmail.com

Tribute to a Noble Soul Mr. Zahid Mukhtar Sahab

With profound grief and sorrow, I share that Zahid Mukhtar Sahab, a veteran and noble personality, has left for his heavenly abode.

I was once blessed to meet this humble soul at Dargah Hazratbal, Srinagar, during our service at the Scouting Camp in the sacred days of Rabi-ul-Awal. He came to us, shook hands warmly, and expressed deep appreciation for our humble efforts in serving the people. That moment still shines in my memory — a reflection of his grace and humility.

A few years ago, I used to regularly watch the Good Morning Kashmir program on DD Kashmir, where Zahid Sahab's presence added immense value and inspiration. His eloquence and wisdom touched countless hearts — not only in the valley but across the globe. Kashmiris residing abroad for work or business would often tune in to DD Kashmir, drawn by his dignified voice and refined intellect.

The Kashmir Valley, fondly known as Peer Vaer — the Valley of Saints, Valley of Mystics, and Valley of Scholars — has always been a land blessed with



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti



spirituality, beauty, and wisdom. Its majestic mountains, rivers, and meadows have nurtured countless luminaries in every field — literature, education, health, sports, and culture. Among these shining figures stood Mr. Zahid Mukhtar, who dedicated his life to service, enlightenment, and inspiration.

His demise is an irreparable loss. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Truly, one who lives for society and contributes selflessly to the nation never dies — they live on in the hearts of people forever.

It is my humble request that Zahid Mukhtar Sahab's literary works and contributions be preserved in our local libraries and archives so that future generations may learn from his vision, wisdom, and devotion to his motherland.

May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and give strength and patience to his family to bear this great loss.

Ameen.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

KU observes World Pharmacists Day, highlights importance of trained pharmacy professionals in public health

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 09: The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI), J&K Branch, commemorated World Pharmacists Day 2025 under the theme "Think Health, Think Pharmacist."

The event brought together academicians, healthcare professionals, and students to reaffirm the indispensable role of pharmacists in public health, medicine safety, and healthcare innovation. The event was held at a time when counterfeit and sub-standard drugs pose a growing threat to global health, thereby underscoring the timely importance of educating healthcare stakeholders and strengthening professional ethics in pharmaceutical practice.

In her inaugural address, Vice-Chancellor KU Prof. Nilofer Khan emphasized that "pharmacists form

an essential link between medical research and patient well-being." She noted that their deep scientific knowledge, ethical responsibility, and patient-centered approach are key to ensuring safe and effective healthcare delivery.

Prof. Khan also urged young pharmacy professionals to channel their innovation and research towards improving community health outcomes.

In his remarks Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS), Secretary to the Government, Health and Medical Education Department, J&K, highlighted the evolving responsibilities of pharmacists—from dispensing medicines to advancing clinical research and patient care. "Counterfeit drugs remain a serious challenge," he cautioned, calling on pharmacists to embrace technology, enhance vigilance, and collaborate across disciplines to develop research-driven solutions for emerging health threats.

Dean Research KU, Prof. Moham-



mad Sultan Bhat, and Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, both reflected on the growing relevance of pharmaceutical sciences in addressing modern health challenges and shaping effective healthcare policies.

Meanwhile, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan, Principal and Dean, GMC Srinagar, emphasized that pharmacists are "crucial partners in public health and integral to clinical decision-making within hospitals."

In his virtual address, Prof. Milind

Umekar, President of APTI, acknowledged the pivotal role of pharmacists in advancing healthcare education, innovation, and patient-centered research. Echoing this sentiment, Prof. Zulfiqar Bhat, Dean, School of Applied Sciences and Technology, KU, highlighted the pharmacist's expertise in medicines and their indispensable role in the modern healthcare ecosystem.

Earlier, Prof. Sabeeha Shafi, Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Sci-

ences, KU, welcomed the participants, describing the event as a platform to celebrate and recognize the professional contributions of pharmacists to community and clinical health.

Prof. M.I. Geer, Organising Secretary of the event, underscored the growing responsibilities of pharmacists in a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, urging them to remain committed to patient safety and continuous professional learning.

The inaugural session witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, healthcare experts, scholars, pharmacists, and students, both online and offline, celebrating the vital contributions of pharmacists to global and community health.

Dr. Abid visits KU's Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI)

Later, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS), visited KU's Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI). He was apprised of the Centre's state-of-the-art research facilities, advanced scientific instrumentation, and ongoing interdisciplinary projects. Dr. Shah commended the Centre's international collaborations and recent research achievements, and called for meaningful collaboration between KU's CIRI and Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar to advance joint research for the benefit of public health and society at large.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI)

A Revolution in Modern Medical Diagnostics

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is one of the most remarkable achievements of modern medical science. It has combined the principles of nuclear magnetic resonance with cutting-edge computer technology. MRI has enabled the clinicians to visualize the detailed internal structures of the human body without any invasive procedures.

The evolution of diagnostic imaging has transformed the way diseases are being detected and treated. Among the various imaging techniques such as X-rays, CT scans and ultrasound, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) stands apart due to its exceptional ability to provide detailed soft tissue contrast and multi-planar imaging. Since its introduction in the late 20th century, MRI has become indispensable in neurology, orthopedics, cardiology, and oncology.

SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE BEHIND MRI
MRI works on the principle of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). The human body is primarily composed of water molecules and each water molecule contains hydrogen nuclei (protons). When placed in a strong magnetic field these protons align with the field. A radiofrequency (RF) pulse is then applied, which temporarily disturbs this alignment. When the pulse is turned off, the protons return to their original alignment, releasing energy in the process. This released energy is detected by the MRI sensors and converted into detailed images by sophisticated computer algorithms.

The key components of an MRI system include:

Magnet:
It produces a powerful magnetic field (typically 1.5 to 3 Tesla).
Gradient Coils:
This helps in spatial localization of the signal.

RF Coils:
It transmit and receive radio signals.
Computer System:
It processes the data to construct high-resolution images.

ROLE OF MRI IN MEDICAL SCIENCE
MRI has become an essential diagnostic tool in nearly every medical specialty:

Neurology:
It is used in neurology to detect the brain tumors, strokes, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord lesions.

Orthopedics:
The main role of MRI is to visualize ligament tears, bone marrow disorders and joint abnormalities.

Cardiology:
It is used to evaluate cardiac structure, myocardial infarction and vascular anomalies.

Oncology:
MRI helps in tumor detection, staging and treatment monitoring.

Abdominal Imaging:
It provides non-invasive assessment of liver, kidneys and pancreas.

Unlike X-rays or CT scans, MRI does not

use ionizing radiation making it safer for repeated imaging.

WHY MRI IS COSTLY
The high cost of MRI procedures can be attributed to several factors:

1. **Expensive Equipment:**
MRI machines cost are high and it depends on the strength and technology.

2. **Maintenance:**
Regular calibration, helium cooling for superconducting magnets and software upgrades are costly.

3. **Operational Costs:**
Skilled radiologists, technologists and power consumption add to the running expenses.

4. **Time Consumption:**
MRI scans often take longer (30-90 minutes) than CT or X-ray procedures limiting daily throughput.

These factors collectively make MRI one of the most expensive diagnostic tools available.

RELATED TECHNOLOGIES BASED ON SIMILAR PRINCIPLES

Several imaging and diagnostic modalities share principles with MRI or are complementary in nature:

Functional MRI (fMRI):
Measures brain activity by detecting changes in blood flow, useful in neuroscience and psychology.

Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS):
Analyzes chemical composition of tissues,

aiding in tumor characterization.

Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI):
Maps neural pathways in the brain, useful for neurosurgical planning.

Positron Emission Tomography-MRI (PET-MRI):

Combines metabolic and anatomical imaging for advanced cancer diagnostics.

These advanced modalities further enhance the clinical value of MRI in both research and patient care.

ADVANTAGES (PROS) OF MRI
Non-invasive and radiation-free imaging technique.

High contrast resolution for soft tissues. Multi-planar capability (axial, sagittal, coronal, and 3D views).

Superior detection of neurological and musculoskeletal disorders.

Useful for long-term monitoring without radiation hazards.

LIMITATIONS (CONS) OF MRI
High cost of scanning and maintenance.

Time-consuming compared to other imaging methods.

Incompatibility with metal implants (pacemakers, prosthetics, etc.).

Claustrophobia and noise discomfort during scanning.

Limited availability in developing regions due to infrastructure requirements.

The author is a Faculty in Science Department of Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab



Surinderpal Singh

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Srinagar Police Engages With Youth By Organizing Educational Visit Of School and College Students to Police Stations

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 9: As part of its ongoing public outreach and awareness campaign, Srinagar Police organized a guided visit of school and college students to various Police Stations across the district.

The initiative aimed to familiarize the students with the functioning of Police stations and to build better understanding between the police and the public, especially the youth.

These visits were conducted in Police Stations Shaheedganj, Batmaloo, Karannagar, Zadibal, Kot-hibagh, Harwan, Nowgam and Panthachowk, where the concerned SHOs facilitated a guided tour of the students within the Police Stations highlighting the significance of grassroot policing.

During the visit, the students were briefed about the registration of FIRs, maintenance of records, investigation procedures, and the role of CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) in modern policing.

Officers also highlighted the Police department's community policing initiatives and emphasized the importance of cyber awareness and Police-Public cooperation in maintaining peace and order in society.

The students took keen interest in the sessions and actively interacted with the officers to understand different aspects of Policing.

The initiative was well-received and is part of Srinagar Police's continued efforts to promote transparency, awareness, and trust among the citizens.



Public Notice

My daughters name has been wrongly written as TAMANAH MAJEED in her Aadar card bearing Aadar no 3744 7997 0131 while her correct name is HADIYA MEHJOOR D/O MEHJOOR AHMAD RATHER as per domicile certificate which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name....HADIYA MEHJOOR
D/O ...MEHJOOR AHMAD RATHER
SHIRPOPPA GAVEGARIN**

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as WASEEM AHMAD LONE in my aadhar record bearing Aadhar no 6693 62774790 while my correct name is MOHAMMAD WASEEM LONE S/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF LONE as per domicile certificate which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name... MOHAMMAD WASEEM LONE
S/OMOHAMMAD ASHRAF LONE
R/OPETHPORA NOWPORA JAGIR**

Public Notice

My daughter's name and her mothers' name has been wrongly written as AREEBA IMTIYAZ WANI & mother's name MEHNAAZ IMTIYAZ in her Date of Birth certificate while her correct name is AREEBA IMTIYAZ & her correct mother's name is MEHNAAZ MAJID which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO WAGOORA /TEHSIL OFFICE WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....IMTIYAZ AHMAD WANI
F/O ...AREEBA IMTIYAZ
R/O ...WAGOORA**

Public Notice

My son's mother's name has been wrongly written as MEHNAAZ MAJEED in his Date of Birth certificate while his correct mother's name is MEHNAAZ MAJID which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BDO WAGOORA /TEHSIL OFFICE WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name....IMTIYAZ AHMAD WANI
F/O ...AHSAN
R/O ...WAGOORA**

Public Notice

I have lost RC of my Tractor bearing registration no JK05G 1934 and RC of my Bike bearing registration number JK05H 6252 Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Sopore within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**SHABIR AHMAD LONE S/O GH MOHI UD DIN
LONE R/O KAREWA KREERI**

Public Notice

I have lost my 10Th class School leaving and Character certificate.Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Principal Govt Hr Sec School Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**SHABIR AHMAD LONE S/O GH MOHI UD DIN
LONE R/O KAREWA KREERI**

Public Notice

I have lost my Passport.Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Regional Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**SAJA BEGUM R/O KAREWA KREERI Contact
9906160611**

Public Notice

I have lost my Driving licence under licence number JK0520110032470 Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Sopore within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**SHABIR AHMAD LONE S/O GH MOHI UD DIN
LONE R/O KAREWA KREERI**

Public Notice

I have lost my Passport.Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Regional Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**GH MOHI UD DIN LONE R/O KAREWA KREERI
Contact 9906160611**

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

GIST | NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT S. No. 16/PHEP/Fresh of 2025-26

For & on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) Shorte-tenders in single cover system are invited on overall percentage basis from Registered PWD Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules & are active for the following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (₹in lacs)	EMD/ Performance Security @3% (in ₹)	Cost of TD (in ₹)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Programme	Ref to AA	Tender Call
1	Providing of water supply facilities to buildings of Milk Chilling Unit/ Feed Block Making Unit at Sangerwani.	0.72	2160	200	15 days	DEE	SCA to TSS	25-DDCP of 2025 Dated 25-02-2025, endorsed vide No. DDCP/MilkVillage/2024-25/5868-80 Dated, 25-02-2025.	3 rd

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	09	10	2025	1600 Hrs
2	Download start date	09	10	2025	1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	09	10	2025	1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	15	10	2025	1400 Hrs
5	Bid opening date	16	10	2025	1100 Hrs

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "download bid submission".
- To participate in bidding process bidders, must get digital signature certificate (DSC) as per information technology-2000 bidders can get digital certificate from approved option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website (jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security deposit & cost of tender document as specified in column (4&5) of the above table. Bid security will be in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama and the cost of tender document shall be deposited in the Treasury under MH 0215 PHE in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama. (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)
- Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in SINGLE COVER containing documents as under:
 - Scanned copies of Treasury Challan/Receipt and Earnest Money Deposit CDR/FDR
 - Scanned copy of Valid Registration Card.
 - Scanned copy of self-attested bidder details as per the format annexed.
 - Scanned copy of the latest Income Tax Return.
 - Scanned copy GST return in FORMGST-3B of the last quarter.
 - Scanned copy of a duly notarized Legal Affidavit, executed by the authorized signatory of the tenderer, mentioning the Name of Work and Reference to NIT/Work, certifying the following:
 - The Tenderer is not blacklisted / debarred by any of the Central/ State/ UT Government /Board/Corporation / PSU, as procuring entity in India on the date of the submission of the tender.
 - The Tenderer has not been declared bankrupt by any institution or Government.
 - The tender has not been adjudged by any court of law of the land as insolvent.
 - Rates submitted by the bidders in the BOQ.Note: Bidders must upload only the required documents as specified above. Submitting irrelevant or unnecessary documents will lead to the rejection of your tender. Please ensure that you follow the instructions carefully to avoid any issues.

No: PHEP/2515-25 | Dated: 09-10-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

DIPK: 7019/25 | Dated: 09-10-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Najmun Sahar Bhat to Najmun Sahar. In future, I will be known as Najmun Sahar. If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

**Najmun Sahar W/o Jamsheed Bhat
R/o Noorani Colony, Lane 4, Peerbagh**

Public Notice

I want to correct my name in my Aadhar Card bearing No 4992-7114-0479 from Bilal Ajaz To Hamza Ajaz.

Now I am applying for the correction if any body have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned Aadhar Authority within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name :-Hamza Ajaz, S/O;- Ajaz Ahmad
R/O Hamza Coloney Bemina Srinagar**

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS KUPWARA

In the Case of

**Tahir Ahmad Mir
S/o Gh Hassan Mir
R/o Puthshai Loalb Tehsil Lalpora Dist Kupwara
(Complainant)**

**V/S
Abdul Razak Tantray
S/o Ghulam Mohd Tantray
R/o Tantary Mohalla Sherwaniabad Bener Kathdura
Dist Baramulla
(Accused)**

In the matter of Complaint U/S 138 NI Act. Furnishing of Property details of Accused. **Proclamation against accused.**

ORDER

The above titled Complaint is listed and taken up today. Ld. Counsel along with complainant present. Perusal of the file reveals that this court has time and again issued non-bailable warrants against the accused person through concerned police and the warrants against the accused person through concerned police and the warrants have been received back unexecuted due to non-availability of the accused at his residence and as per report of warrant issued on previous date the accused has knowledge about the case and is avoiding the processes issued by the Court. in this regard Chief Education officer Baramulla has apprised the police in compliance to warrant issue to accused that accused is absent from duty w.ef 11-03-2024 and his whereabouts are unknown.

Hence having regard to interim orders on file, warrants issued against the accused, the conduct of the accused gives a reasonable belief to this court that he has deliberately concealed himself at some unknown place and has gone absconding, due to which warrants issued are not being executed by police.

Therefore, it is ordered that a written proclamation shall be published in accordance with Form-4 of second schedule of CrPc requiring the appearance of accused before this court within a period of 30 days. The accused shall appear before this court by or before 26-10-2025 i.e. not less than 30 days from the date of publication during court hours. The proclamation shall be published in following manner:

(a).It shall be publicly read in some conspicuous place of the town or village in which such person ordinarily resides;

(b).It shall be fixed to some conspicuous part of the house of homestead in which such person ordinarily resides or to some conspicuous place of such town or village;

(c) a copy thereof shall be affixed to some conspicuous part of the Court house.

Clause (a), (b), (c) shall be complied by Nazir Tamilat (PDJ Court Baramulla):

Further this court also directs that a copy of proclamation aforesaid shall also be published in a daily Newspaper having circulation in the place at which accused person ordinarily resides at the expense of complainant. List the case for ascertaining steps taken above by the Nazir Tamilat PDJ Baramulla and concerned for publication and circulation of proclamation as directed.

The copy of this order shall be forwarded by office to the Complainant as well for Nazir Tamilat PDJ Baramulla for compliance.

Announced: 26-09-2025

**Judicial Magistrate 1st Class,
Kupwara**

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Dy. CM conducts extensive tour of Srinagar city, assesses development works

Emphasis on preserving heritage character of city

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 09: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar city to assess ongoing development works and projects.

During the visit, the Deputy CM visited Govt. College of Education, Govt. College for Women, sites of the proposed Barbar Shah Bridge, Old Habba Kadal Bridge and Padshahi Bagh Road.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied with MLA Habba Kadal Shamim Firdous, and MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, along with other senior officials of concerned departments.

At the outset of the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Govt. College of Education and Govt. College for Women and inspected the ongoing works there.

The Deputy CM directed the concerned officials to complete the pending works without further delay with adherence to the quality parameters. He also interacted with the students, teachers and other staff members during the visit.

Later, the Deputy CM inspected the site of the Proposed Barbar Shah Bridge taking up from Rata Rani Nai Sarak to Bund Exchange Road with clear span of 100 meters.

The new bridge has been proposed at a civil cost of 15.25 Crores apart from the acquisition



cost.

The Deputy CM was apprised that the project involves the construction of a 2-Lane Plate Girder Bridge featuring a 7.50-meter carriageway and 1.50-meter footpaths on either side.

On completion, the bridge connecting Nai Sarak Barbar Shah to MA Road via exchange road will serve as a vital link over the Chount Khul, significantly decongesting traffic in a crucial part of the city and providing relief to a population of over 500,000 souls.

The Deputy CM reviewed the project proposal and was briefed by officials on the technical specifications and execution plan. Subsequently, he directed the R&B Division Sri-

nagar to proceed with Detailed Project Report (DPR) with considering all the components viz shifting of utilities, land acquisition and the technical feasibility.

The Deputy CM also visited the Habba Kadal area to assess Old Habba Kadal Bridge's motorability while directing the R&B Division Karan Nagar for repair of damaged decking along with direction of assessing its structural safety following the recent floods.

Later, discussions were held at Padshahi Bagh regarding the works to be executed and prioritized in the coming days.

He also interacted with local residents, community elders, and members of the traders'

federation, listening to their concerns and suggestions. He assured them of developmental works aim to preserve the heritage character of the area while providing modern amenities.

The Deputy CM reiterated the government's commitment towards time-bound completion of all vital infrastructure projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

He directed the concerned executing agencies to resolve any existing bottlenecks, closely monitor the finishing works, and ensure that these projects are dedicated to the public within the announced timeline to enhance the ease of living for the citizens of Srinagar and preserve its heritage character.

Sheep Husbandry Department Baramulla organises Sheep Mandi at VAS Shrakwara

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 09: In a remarkable initiative, the Sheep Husbandry Department, Baramulla, organized a Mega Sheep Mandi (Buyer-Seller Meet) at the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS) Headquarters, Shrakwara.

The event marked the first-ever organized livestock trading platform in the area, enabling direct interaction between breeders and buyers without the involvement of middlemen.

Livestock farmers from various villages of Block Wagoora participated enthusiastically, bringing their animals for sale. The Department provided all necessary facilities, including animal holding pens, health check-ups, and body weight assessments to ensure smooth and transparent transactions.



The event was formally inaugurated by District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) Baramulla, Dr. Showkat Ahangar, in the presence of AMO Baramulla, VAS Kohlina, VAS Shrakwara, among other officers and a large gathering of breeders and farmers.

A total of 423 animals were registered in the Mandi, of which 222 animals were successfully sold, generating an impressive revenue of Rs 23.21 lakh.

The event received overwhelming appreciation from both buyers and sellers. Participants expressed gratitude to the Department for organizing such an initiative and suggested that the Mandi be held regularly every month at a dedicated and well-equipped venue with proper shelter and infrastructure for livestock.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ahangar commended the participants for their active involvement and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to empowering farmers under the Government's vision of doubling farmers' income. He emphasized that such initiatives not only promote employment among youth but also facilitate better market access for their produce.

Satish Sharma calls on Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports

Seeks enhanced support for strengthening sports infrastructure, youth engagement in J&K

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 09: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today called on the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi and held an extensive discussion on measures to strengthen sports infrastructure, enhance youth engagement, and promote athletic excellence in Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, Satish Sharma presented a comprehensive memorandum to the Union Minister, reiterating the J&K Government's commitment to transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant hub of sports and youth empowerment.

The memorandum detailed key proposals focusing on infrastructure development, athlete welfare, and grassroots participationaligned

with the National Sports Policy 2025 and the J&K Sports Policy 2022.

Highlighting the significance of sports as a medium for peace, unity, and integration, Satish Sharma said, "Jammu & Kashmir stands at a defining moment in its sporting journey. With the Centre's continued support, we can channelize the energy of our youth, nurture their talent, and position J&K as a model of sporting excellence and national unity."

The Minister sought the Union Government's assistance in accelerating the development of world-class sports infrastructure, including the establishment of a National Winter Sports Centre of Excellence at Gulmarg, modernization of district stadiums with all-weather facilities, and creation of sports amenities at the panchayat level to ensure equitable access for rural youth.

He also called for expanding



Khelo India grassroots programs, enhancing scholarship and financial aid schemes for athletes, integrating sports science and physiotherapy into training systems, and promoting public-private partnerships for the management and maintenance of sports facilities.

ties.

To encourage sports-linked tourism and international exposure, Satish Sharma proposed the hosting of international winter sports events at Gulmarg, which would position Jammu & Kashmir as a leading global destination for win-

ter and adventure sports.

The Minister further requested the early release of 103.82 crore as proposed earlier for construction of critical sports infrastructure projects under Khelo India, enabling rapid execution of ongoing and planned initiatives. He also stressed the need for providing funds for promotion of sports in rural areas and funds be placed at each rural Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir

Reaffirming the Jammu and Kashmir Government's commitment, Satish Sharma said, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah we are determined to build a robust, inclusive, and self-sustaining sports ecosystem that empowers our youth and strengthens the spirit of national integration."

The Union Minister assured that soon policy for promoting sports in rural areas will be framed, besides funds for sports equipments will be provided.

Central Prabhari Officer visits Kupwara, reviews progress of KPIs under Aspirational District Programme

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 9: Union Joint Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), and Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) for District Kupwara, Sarita Chauhan today visited district Kupwara to review the performance of the district under the Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

On her arrival, Sarita Chauhan inspected various stalls installed by different departments at DC Office Complex showcasing interventions undertaken to improve Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under ADP.

Sanction letters under different schemes of Agriculture and allied sectors were distributed to the concerned beneficiaries during the inspection of the stalls.

The Central Prabhari Officer also chaired

a high level meeting of district and sectoral officers to review the progress on key performance indicators (KPIs) under the ADP framework.

The DC Kupwara briefed about progress achieved so far under ADP regarding the five core thematic areas of the Aspirational District Programme viz. Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure.

Sarita Chauhan took detailed feedback from the concerned officers on the implementation status of various centrally sponsored schemes and initiatives undertaken in the district which are contributing to KPIs improvement.

She emphasized the need for data-driven governance and urged departments to intensify focused efforts to bridge the gaps under these thematic areas.

Sakeena Itoo addresses Annual Day function at GHSS Nehama

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, OCTOBER 09: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today addressed the Annual Day function at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Nehama here.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized the government's unwavering commitment towards providing quality education and improving infrastructure and facilities across educational institutions.

She highlighted the importance of holistic development, encouraging students to excel in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. "The Education Department and teachers have a role is pivotal in shaping the future of society," the Minister remarked.

She further said that the government is taking all necessary steps to strengthen the education system and ensure that every



child has access to better learning opportunities and a conducive academic environment.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and parents, featuring a range of cultural performances and presentations showcasing the school's achievements.

Director General, Education Department, Dr. G.N. Itoo, and other officers of district administration were also present on the occasion.

Bandipora needs to stop using polythene: DC Bandipora Attends workshop on waste management

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Thursday attended a workshop on waste management organised by the Municipal Council Bandipora to promote sustainable waste management practices and encourage public participation in maintaining cleanliness across the district.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that waste management has emerged as one of the major chal-

lenges of modern times and stressed the need for collective action and community participation to tackle it effectively.

She urged citizens to adopt the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and to extend full cooperation to the district administration in keeping Bandipora clean, green, and litter-free.

Expressing concern over the Zalwan dumping site, the DC said that the site is swelling due to continuous dumping of waste from various parts of Bandipora town and adjoining areas.

"The citizens of Bandipora need to wake up as Zalwan is now swelling due to excessive waste. Reducing waste generation at home and in establishments is the need of the hour if we truly wish to save our district," she remarked.

On the occasion, residents of Zalwan also shared their concerns and agony over the accumulation of tonnes of waste around their village. They appealed to the people of Bandipora to minimise waste generation at home and act as responsible citizens by supporting the district's waste reduction initiatives.

The DC urged people to avoid the use of polythene and single-use plastic (SUP) and instead switch to biodegradable alternatives.

Emphasising that cleanliness is a shared civic responsibility, she encouraged students to act as "Brand Ambassadors of Clean Bandipora" and spread the message of hygiene and sustainability in their surroundings.

During the programme, students who completed internship programmes under Swachhta Pakhwada and Seva Pakhwada shared their experiences, which included door-to-door aware-

ness drives, household sensitisation, visits to local water bodies and the MRF plant at Sumbal, and public campaigns on waste segregation and plastic reduction.

Prominent personalities including Padma Shri awardee Faisal Ali Dar, Chairperson Civil Society Bandipora G. M. Lone, President Traders Federation Bandipora Ali Mohammad Hajam, senior citizens, and students from various educational institutions also participated in the event and shared their views on sustainable waste management and environmental conser-

vation. A felicitation ceremony was also held during which Swachhta interns and contributors under Seva Pakhwada were honoured for their outstanding work and dedication towards promoting cleanliness and community awareness.

Among others, the event was attended by CEO MC Bandipora Ajaz Ahmad, Principals of Degree Colleges, Chief Education Officer, Zonal Education Officers, Heads of Schools, Swachh Ambassadors, and officials of the Municipal Council Bandipora.

Williamson Seeks More Resources to Boost Global Test Cricket

■ **Abhimanyu Bose**

LONDON: "There's been a lot of discussion about the Test game and how to keep breathing life into it, especially in countries where it's facing greater challenges," Williamson said on the sidelines of the CEAT Cricket Rating Awards in Mumbai on Tuesday. "The concern with a potential two-tier system is how teams in the second tier can continue to improve and work their way up to the top division."

"There are already many conversations around this, but the reality is that the impact has been felt for some time, so finding a solution sooner would be better. The Test format needs greater importance placed on it by all playing nations, along with additional resources to

support its growth. As a passionate supporter of Test cricket, I would love to see it thrive."

Williamson, who has called for tweaks, like designated windows for Test cricket in the past, supported the argument against two-match Test series, but also recognised the challenges faced by certain boards to host longer series.

"These circumstances aren't ideal, but the Test game faces more challenges in some countries than others. Organising three- or four-match Test series is difficult commercially, making it hard for boards to support," he said. "However, the Test Championship has helped provide context, leading to more results and making the competition meaningful for teams."

"While some adjustments are

needed, the international schedule is very busy with both international and franchise cricket, creating clashes and challenges for players. Managing priorities on the calendar is a big task."

"Two-match Test series aren't ideal - I've played many for New Zealand and we always want more [games in a series] - but often this is the reality. I would love to see the Test game grow with more opportunities for teams and countries to develop, but those are complex discussions."

Williamson is now 35 and has opted out of a central contract with New Zealand Cricket and is on a casual agreement, meaning his international appearances have been and will continue to be sporadic.

ESPNCricinfo



Doubts over Cummins' fitness for first Ashes Test grow, return remains unknown

■ **Alex Malcolm**

LORD: The chances of Pat Cummins being fit for the first Ashes Test are growing slimmer by the day as he is yet to be cleared to bowl with just over six weeks to go before the first ball of the series in Perth. News Limited and Nine newspapers reported on Wednesday that Cummins' latest scan on the lumbar bone stress issue in his lower back had shown signs of improvement but not enough to be cleared to bowl again.

Cricket Australia have not provided a comment but ESPNCricinfo understands that Cummins' rehabilitation is continuing to progress and no decisions have been made on when the skipper will return to bowl, his participation in the first Test or the Ashes series as a whole.

Cummins has not bowled a ball since Australia's last Test match in Jamaica in July. Shortly after the lumbar issue was revealed in early September Cummins said he was "willing to take a few risks and be a little bit aggressive" to play in the Ashes which included not playing any white or red-ball lead-up games. But the timeline to build his bowling loads adequately to play in Perth, even with some associated risk, have become tighter than would normally be acceptable for CA's medical and high performance staff. Cummins has been doing leg strength work during his time off but has not been able to do any rotational work. Even beyond the back issue itself, the risk of a soft tissue injury becomes greater off a compromised preparation and Cummins has had to manage some soft tissue and ankle issues over the last few years with carefully tailored build-ups into key series.



Last year he was rested from Australia's limited-overs tour of the UK to do a 10-week block of training in the lead-in to the Border-Gavaskar series. Even then he only managed to play one 50-over game for New South Wales and two ODIs for Australia before the first Test against India after initial plans to play a Sheffield Shield game were aborted.

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