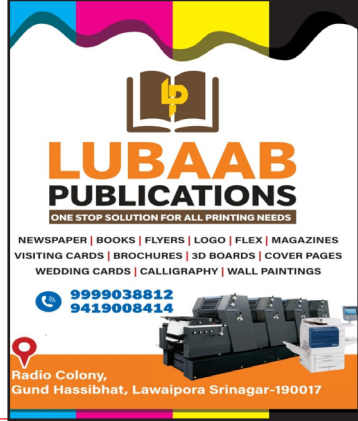


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After Operation Sindoor No One Can Dare To Raise Their Eyes Towards India : LG Sinha

LG Adresses Commemoration of India's Victory in 1965 war, Pays Tributes to Martyrs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCT 14: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, today paid tribute to martyrs and felicitated ex-servicemen to mark commemoration of Diamond Jubilee of India's victory over Pakistan in 1965 war. The event was organised by Western Command and 26 Infantry Division in Jammu.

Addressing a mega rally of Ex-servicemen, the Lieutenant Governor said that 1965 war victory and recent Operation Sindoor was the result of the valour and sacrifice of soldiers of Indian armed forces which is considered among the strongest across the globe.

The Lieutenant Governor recalled the sacrifice of 1965 war heroes and paid homage to all the martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice, defending the sovereignty and integrity of India. He said the abode of soldiers, who



are the first line of defence against terror country Pakistan is a sacred land.

"Unwavering devotion to ex-servicemen is the fundamental foundation of my policies. Personally, for me the land

of veterans is no less than a pilgrimage site. Our veterans have made immense contribution in economic growth, social transformation and the resurgence

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'Vocal for Local' Should be Our Mission to Boost Self-Reliance and National pride : LG Sinha At J&K Police Diwali Mela

"We Must Buy Swadeshi / Local Products To Help Boost local Economy, Empower local Entrepreneurs, Generate Employment"

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCT 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the J&K Police's Diwali Mela -2025 at Gulshan Ground, Jammu today. He paid tributes to the Bravehearts of J&K Police who devoted their lives in the service of the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor has urged the people to buy Swadeshi and products made by Self-help Groups and local artisans.

"Let us boost our local economy, empower local entrepreneurs, increase employment and strengthen the overall economic position of UT of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said this Diwali 'Vocal for Local' should be our mission to boost self-reliance and national pride.

"All the families should buy handicrafts, handloom and other traditional products as a gift for Diwali. This will instil patri-

tism among people and support small businesses," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Mela organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police, in collaboration with the Police Wives Welfare Association (PWVA), features a wide range of attractions for the people. These include food and shopping stalls, public awareness programmes, Career counselling and educational stalls, live magic show, police band

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J&K Has Always Been The Country's Premier Destination, We Are Determined to Sustain This legacy: CM Omar Abdullah

Calls for Enhanced Value-Addition in Agriculture, Highlights J&K's Industrial, Tourism Potential At National Executive Committee Meeting of FICCI



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 14: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that the agriculture sector in Jammu and Kashmir holds immense potential and requires focused attention towards value addition to unlock full gamut of business opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister made these remarks while addressing the National Executive Committee Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) held in Srinagar.

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Public delegations, Legislators call on CM at Srinagar Raabita office

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 14: Various public delegations today called on Chief

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CM Omar reviews progress of development works in Baramulla

■ HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, OCT 14: Continuing with his district review meetings to personally evaluate development initiatives in various districts, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited Baramulla today and chaired a high-level meeting to assess the district's progress in execution of works and implementation of various government schemes

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Ittoo, Javed Rana, Javed Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma, DDC Chairperson Safina Beig, legislators from Baramulla, Sopore,

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Pakistan To Pay Heavy Price If It Doesn't Mend Its Ways, Our Reaction Will be Much Stronger In Future: Lt. Gen Katyar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCT 14: Warning Pakistan that 'Operation Sindoor 2.0' would be stronger than the first one, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command, Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katyar, on Tuesday said that if the neighbouring country refuses to mend its ways it can pay a very heavy price this time around.

Lieutenant General Katyar while talking to reporters here said, "Operation Sin-



door 2.0 would be stronger than the first phase."

Pertinently, Operation Sindoor was launched after the April 22 Pahalgm terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead. The Indian armed forces attacked nine terror camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). The skirmishes that followed continued for 4-days until Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) reached out to his counterpart in India and

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2 terrorists killed in Machhal sector: Army

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, OCT 14: The Indian Army on Tuesday said that acting on specific intelligence inputs about a possible infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC), security forces foiled a major bid in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday, killing two terrorists in the Machhal sector.

The Indian Army said that the operation was jointly launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police following credible intelligence

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GST cut on 'Pashmina' boosts J&K's entrepreneurship: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, OCT 14: Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that the Modi Government's decision to reduce GST on "Pashmina" products to 5% had not only boosted a very important and historic traditional handicraft of Jammu & Kashmir, but also increased the business potential for for artisans and entrepreneurs.

During a visit to the 2-day "The Splendor of Kashmir" Exhibition organised at the national capital with the support of FICCI-FLO, when the Minister asked the Founder and Curator of "The Splendor of Kashmir", Varuna Anand about the difference after the reduced GST rates came into effect from 22nd of September, he was told that within a short span of just about three weeks, the sale

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From Art 370 to Op Sindoor, Modi govt broke all walls of terrorism: Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, OCT 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that from the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir to Operation Sindoor, the Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government broke all walls of terrorism.

Speaking at the 41st Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG) at its head-

quarters in Manesar, Shah, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the government's approach follows a "zero tolerance" policy toward terrorism.

He mentioned amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), new definitions of terrorism in criminal laws, and bans on organisations such as the Popular Front of India (PFI)

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India's response to Pahalgam massacre was, precise: Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, OCT 14: Director General Military Operations (DGMO) and Army's Deputy Chief Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Tuesday said that India's military response to the April 22 Pahalgm terror attack was measured, meticulously planned and carried out with precision.

Speaking at a function here, Lt Gen Ghai, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) described the Pahalgam attack — in which 26 tourists were shot dead by terrorists — as a "sponsored" cross-Line of Control (LoC) strike in which terrorists singled out victims on the basis of community. "They asked for the community that they came from and shot them in cold blood in front of their families and loved ones," he said.

"There were immediate claimers; this was 'glory'. However, when the Kashmir Resistance Front initially claimed the attack, they realised that matters had possibly gone beyond their control, and they immediately withdrew," Lt Gen Ghai added, underscoring that while a response was inevitable, the armed forces intentionally took time to plan and prioritise targets.

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CS Reviews Progress On Connectivity In Shadow Areas

■ HT news Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today emphasized the need for coordinated and time-bound execution of the Union Government's Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) programme aimed at expanding mobile network and 4G connectivity in shadow areas of the Union Territory.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting convened to review the status of mobile tower installation and network coverage across the uncovered areas of J&K.

The meeting was attended by

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CS terms PMGS to serve as a holistic planning tool

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of Administrative Secretaries to review the progress made on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) portal, with a special focus on uploading of thematic data layers to strengthen evidence-based planning across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary

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Sakeena Itoo flags off Red Run 2025 on HIV/AIDS awareness at Srinagar

Highlights role of Youth in fighting drug menace, other societal issues

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today flagged off 5-KM Red Run 2025 from Foreshore Road here to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and promote healthy lifestyles.

The race was organised by Jammu & Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) in collaboration with University of Kashmir to spread awareness regarding HIV/AIDS and breaking the stigma associated with the disease.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the importance of collec-

tive action in combating stigma and promoting awareness around HIV/AIDS. She lauded the efforts of JKACS in engaging the youth and educational institutions in health promotion initiatives.

The Minister further said that the Youth of J&K have pivotal role to play in eradicating drug menace, besides other fighting other societal issues and problems. She highlighted that the energy and excitement among the young participants reflected their strong commitment toward spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS and breaking the stigma associated with the disease.

Vice Chancellor of the Uni-



versity of Kashmir, Dr. Nilofer Khan and Project Director, JKACS, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi also spoke

on the occasion and highlighted the importance of continued youth engagement and commu-

nity-driven awareness campaigns to achieve the vision of an AIDS-free J&K.

Pertinently, the Red Run 2025, a 5-kilometer awareness run commenced from the scenic Foreshore Road and concluded at the University of Kashmir witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 500 students representing various colleges across the Srinagar District.

On the sidelines of the Run, a 2-kilometer Walkathon was also organized by JKACS in collaboration with the Dean Students Welfare, University of Kashmir, which saw the participation of more than 300 students from the University of Kashmir. The Walkathon served as a powerful symbol of unity, compassion, and shared responsibility in

combating HIV/AIDS and promoting inclusivity.

The winners of the Red Run were felicitated and awarded for their outstanding performances, celebrating both their athletic achievements and their commitment to the cause.

The Red Run 2025 and Walkathon stand as a testament to the power of collaboration between public institutions, academia, and the community to address pressing public health challenges. The event not only spotlighted the importance of physical well-being but also reinforced the urgent need for sustained HIV/AIDS awareness and preventive education efforts across Jammu & Kashmir.

Rally under SVEEP Programme Kickstarts at GHSS Soibugh Budgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 14: As part of the ongoing Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign, a rally aimed at enhancing voter awareness and participation was today kick-started from Government Higher Secondary School Soibugh, Budgam.

The event was organized under the overall supervision of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, with enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local residents.

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Budgam, Rifat Irfan Qadri, was the Chief Guest on the occasion and formally flagged off the rally.

Speaking at the event, she emphasized the significance of informed and ethical voting, underscoring the role of youth and first-time voters in strengthening democracy. She urged students to act as ambassadors of voter awareness within their families and communities.

The rally, which witnessed the participation of a large number of students and teachers, passed through various routes of Soibugh area, raising slogans and carrying placards promoting 100% voter participation, ethical voting, and inclusive elections.

District Information Officer Budgam, Principal of GHSS Soibugh, teaching staff, students, and members of the local community also took part in the event, expressing their commitment to ensuring an informed, participative, and transparent electoral process in the district.

The rally concluded at the school premises with a brief interaction session where speakers reiterated that every vote counts and that active citizen participation is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy.

GREEN VALLEY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE HOSTS MEDIA FEST 2025, CHAMPIONING MEDIA LITERACY AND DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, OCT 14: Green Valley Educational Institute (GVEI) successfully hosted Media Fest 2025 themed "Think. Create. Express." — a dynamic platform for student creativity and critical engagement with media. Eminent guests included Dr. Suhail Ahmad, Head of the Department of Mass Media, Government Women's College MA Road; Mr. Huzaifa Pandit, Assistant Professor; Mr. Tariq, CEO, Associate Media; and representatives from the Cyber Police Station, Kashmir. Dr. Suhail Ahmad remarked, "Media literacy is crucial today more than ever. Our youth must be empow-



ered not only to create content but to critically evaluate the media around them." Mr. Huzaifa Pandit added, "This fest provides a unique opportunity for students to learn through expression and dialogue, understanding the ethical responsibilities that come with media creation." Mr. Tariq highlighted, "Creative competitions like these nurture future storytellers and responsible media practitioners who can shape positive narratives." A Cyber Police representative emphasized, "Cyber awareness is vital in today's interconnected world. Educating students on responsible online behavior helps safeguard them

against growing cyber threats." The event was organized by Mohd Asif, Media Educator at GVEI, who introduced the fest by stating, "Media literacy is a critical life skill. Understanding algorithms and questioning content enables young people to move from passive consumers to active creators." In the filmmaking competition, Delhi Public School Srinagar won first prize, while Green Valley Educational Institute secured the second position for their creative filmmaking. The fest concluded with appreciation from guests and participants alike, commending GVEI's efforts to foster media literacy and creative expression among students.

MD JKWDC calls on Sakeena Itoo, briefs her on schemes, initiatives for women empowerment

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 14: After assuming charge recently as Managing Director (MD), Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC), Purnima Mittal today called on Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo and briefed her about the Corporation's ongoing schemes, programmes, and new initiatives aimed at empowering women and promoting their self-reliance across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Managing Director presented an overview of the Corporation's activities, including various credit-based schemes, skill development initiatives, and entrepreneurship support programmes being implemented in collaboration with national financial institutions. She apprised the Minister of the efforts being made to extend financial assistance and training opportunities to women from economically weaker and underprivileged sections of society, particularly in rural and far-flung

areas.

During the interaction, the Minister appreciated the Corporation's efforts towards women's socio-economic upliftment and emphasized the need for greater outreach, transparency, and convergence with other government departments to ensure maximum benefits reach the targeted beneficiaries. She also highlighted the importance of promoting awareness and digital literacy among women entrepreneurs to help them access emerging opportunities.

Awareness Programme under Poshan Maah Organised at Kokernag

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 14: As part of the ongoing Poshan Maah-2025, an awareness programme was organised by the Poshan (ICDS) Project Breng at Town Hall, Kokernag, today.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Kokernag, Prince Kumar attended the event as the Chief Guest, while CDPO Breng, Rameez Raja, Supervisors, officials from the Health and AYUSH Departments, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), and other stakeholders also participated.

In his address, the SDM commended the ICDS team for their dedicated efforts in achieving the objectives of the Poshan Abhiyaan. He emphasized the need for a proactive approach to combat malnutrition and to promote healthy eating practices within the community.

The CDPO advised for incorporating local and nutritious foods into daily diets besides minimizing the consumption of processed foods particularly by children aged 0-6 years.

At the conclusion, officials and field functionaries who have performed excellently during the Poshan Maah were felicitated with Mementos.

On the sidelines, zone-wise nutritional stalls were displayed to showcase the diversity of local and healthy food options and were jointly inspected by SDM and CDPO.

Forest Department Launches Major Green Drive, Plastic Free Forest Campaign

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 14: The Langate Forest Division Handwara of North Forest Circle today organized an environmental awareness programme and plantation drive at Poshnar Forest Magam to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Martyr Shaheed Ghulam Nabi Sheikh, Forester.

The event served as a potent convergence of environmental

advocacy and a solemn tribute to the dedication of the forest frontline personnel and was attended by Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore, Irfan Ali Shah, and Environmentalist, Rakshanda Vishwanath.

The event commenced with a profound two-minute silence observed in honor of the late Shaheed Ghulam Nabi Sheikh.

On the occasion Rakshanda Vishwanath delivered a powerful



message on community involve-

ment in environmental safeguarding.

Following the session, she flagged off a Plastic Free Forest Campaign and swachhta drive rally.

Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore, in his address stressed upon the paramount importance of protecting forest resources and paying rich tribute to the sacrifice of the Martyr. He said, "Shaheed Ghulam

Nabi Sheikh laid down his life in the line of duty, a testament to the selfless courage and unwavering dedication of the Forest officers and officials who protect our forests.

Later, a plantation programme was carried out with Army Brigade Unit in Boniyar Range, Jhelum Valley Forest Division, Baramulla in collaboration with Forest Department and local forest fringe community.

GMC Srinagar organizes Walkathon to Promote Palliative Care Awareness

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: The Department of Anaesthesiology, Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Care Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, organized a Walkathon to commemorate World Hospice and Palliative Care Day.

The event, themed "Walk of Compassion for Palliative Care," aimed to raise awareness about the importance of palliative care in improving the quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses.

The Walkathon, which began at Nishat and culminated at Duck Park, saw enthusiastic participa-

tion from faculty members, senior residents, postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Ifrat Hassan led the walk and commended the department for their efforts in creating awareness about palliative care as an essential part of holistic health services.

She said that Palliative medicine plays a vital role in improving the quality of life for patients with life-limiting illnesses through early identification, assessment, and management of pain and other symptoms.

She emphasized to strengthen the continuum of care from



curative to palliative stages and promote community-based outreach.

Head of Department, Prof. (Dr.) Hina Bashir Shah emphasized the importance of a multidisciplinary approach involving anaesthesiologists, oncologists, and palliative specialists.

"Palliative care combines clinical expertise, communication, and ethical decision-making, helping doctors manage chronic pain, cancer-related distress, and end-of-life care with empathy and precision," she said.

Dr. Nusrat Jehan, Dr. Arshi Taj, and Dr. Mubasher Ahmad Bhat lead the core palliative care team of the Department of Anaesthe-

siology. They serve as Nodal Coordinators for ten district hospitals of Kashmir under an ICMR-supported project aimed at building capacity and improving palliative care delivery across the region. Their work focuses on training healthcare providers and extending compassionate care to patients even in remote areas.

The department has been working tirelessly to promote evidence-based pain management, responsible opioid use, and compassionate care. Under an ICMR-supported project, the department has been training healthcare providers and extending palliative care to patients in remote areas.

HT EDITORIAL

Stop further fiddling with Mother Nature

Day in and day out the people in general and environmentalists in particular have been highlighting the damages caused to Mother Earth by the masses. However, at the same time it is observed that no lesson is learnt by the general public and also by the people at helm. In the name of development trees are being felled and mountains are being blasted.

Once some unfortunate incident takes place then people for some days talk about the importance of the environment and they pledge to work for the preservation of natural resources. With the passage of time the pledge takes a back seat and most of the people carry on with their greedy nature. When objections are raised over the same the violators have a simple reason to put forward and that is development in one form or other. These people say that they cannot afford to remain away from development.

In a latest development the union environment ministry has given a green signal to the construction of Sawlakote power project in the Jammu division. There is no harm in constructing a power project or taking up any other development project but the same should not be done at the cost of causing damage to the environment. With respect to the construction of Sawlakote power project it has come to the fore that more than two lakh trees have to be felled.

One can easily assess the damage that will be caused to Mother Earth once such a huge number of trees are felled for the construction of Sawlakote power project. God forbid if anything untoward or unfortunate takes place in future then who would be held responsible for the same. If there are casualties in such an incident then it is possible that the officers who gave nod for the felling of trees would be spared and no action would be taken against them.

Over the past few years North Indian states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand along with the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir have faced multiple episodes of natural disasters with hundreds of people losing their lives in such incidents. The basic reason for such disasters is tampering with nature and playing into the hands of greedy people who want to earn benefits without caring for the lives of the people. For posterity it is imperative that the people give up their greedy nature and live in harmony with nature.

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Global antibiotic resistance deepens as WHO warns of mounting health crisis



Mohammad Hanief

The worsening situation prompted world leaders to adopt a political declaration on antimicrobial resistance at the United Nations General Assembly in 2024, setting targets to strengthen health systems and coordinate action across human health, animal health, and environmental sectors. The WHO report reinforces the importance of this "One Health" approach, which recognizes that antibiotic resistance arises not only from human medicine but also from agriculture and the environment. The use of antibiotics to promote animal growth or prevent disease in livestock remains widespread in many parts of the world, contributing significantly to the development of resistant bacteria that can spread through food chains, water sources, and direct human contact. Controlling resistance therefore requires policies that address antibiotic use across all sectors and ensure responsible practices in both healthcare and farming



The world is confronting a mounting health emergency as bacteria increasingly develop resistance to the antibiotics once relied upon to cure common infections. The World Health Organization (WHO) has sounded a grave warning in its latest Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025, which reveals that one in six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections worldwide in 2023 did not respond to standard antibiotic treatments. The findings underscore how antimicrobial resistance is spreading at a pace that threatens to outstrip medical innovation and undermine global health security.

The WHO report shows that between 2018 and 2023, antibiotic resistance rose in more than forty percent of the pathogen-antibiotic combinations it monitored, with average annual increases ranging from five to fifteen percent. The data, gathered from over one hundred countries through the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), highlights an accelerating crisis in which life-saving drugs are losing their power against some of the world's most widespread infectious diseases. The report compiles resistance prevalence estimates for twenty-two antibiotics used to treat infections of the urinary and digestive tracts, the bloodstream, and certain sexually transmitted infections, revealing disturbing patterns of resistance across eight major bacterial pathogens that cause millions of infections each year.

Antimicrobial resistance is not evenly distributed around the world. The WHO notes that the problem is most acute in the South-East Asian and Eastern Mediterranean regions, where one in three infections are resistant to antibiotics, while in the African region one in five show resistance. Countries where health systems are fragile, diagnostic capacity is weak, and regulation of antibiotic use is poor are the most severely affected. In many such places, antibiotics can be purchased without prescription, leading to widespread misuse and overuse. The absence of strong surveillance networks and laboratory infrastructure has made it difficult to detect resistance early or track its spread, allowing resistant strains to circulate unchecked in communities and hospitals.

The rise of antimicrobial resistance is eroding one of the fundamental pillars of modern medicine. Medical procedures such as organ transplants, cancer chemotherapy, and caesarean deliveries depend on effective antibiotics to prevent and treat infections. As these drugs lose their efficacy, routine surgeries and common illnesses risk becoming fatal. The WHO warns that the progress achieved over decades of medical advancement could be reversed, pushing the world toward a post-antibiotic era in which once-curable diseases again become deadly.

The report draws attention to the growing threat posed by Gram-negative bacteria, which are developing resistance faster than most

other pathogens and are particularly difficult to treat. Among them, *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* have emerged as leading causes of bloodstream infections that often lead to sepsis and organ failure. Globally, more than forty percent of *E. coli* and over fifty-five percent of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* are now resistant to third-generation cephalosporins, which have long been considered first-line treatments for such infections. In Africa, the situation is even more dire, with resistance exceeding seventy percent in some areas. Resistance is also increasing against carbapenems and fluoroquinolones, antibiotics that were once reserved as last-resort options. The growing inefficacy of these drugs has drastically narrowed treatment options and pushed healthcare providers to depend on older, less effective, or more toxic alternatives. In many developing countries, newer antibiotics remain prohibitively expensive and are often unavailable, leaving large sections of the population without access to adequate care.

While the spread of resistance continues, there has been some progress in global monitoring. Participation in WHO's GLASS network has expanded from twenty-five countries in 2016 to more than one hundred in 2023, representing a significant step toward understanding resistance trends worldwide. However, gaps remain considerable. Nearly half of WHO member states failed to report any data to the system in 2023, and among those that did, many lacked the infrastructure to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the information collected. Countries with the greatest burden of resistance are often the least equipped to monitor it effectively, leaving the global community without a complete picture of the crisis. The WHO emphasizes that reliable surveillance data are essential for guiding treatment protocols and designing effective national strategies, and calls for investments in laboratory capacity, training, and data systems.

The worsening situation prompted world leaders to adopt a political declaration on antimicrobial resistance at the United Nations General Assembly in 2024, setting targets to strengthen health systems and coordinate action across human health, animal health, and environmental sectors. The WHO report reinforces the importance of this "One Health" approach, which recognizes that antibiotic resistance arises not only from human medicine but also from agriculture and the environment. The use of antibiotics to promote animal growth or prevent disease in livestock remains widespread in many parts of the world, contributing significantly to the development of resistant bacteria that can spread through food chains, water sources, and direct human contact. Controlling resistance therefore requires policies that address antibiotic use across all sectors and ensure responsible practices in both healthcare and farming.

Innovation remains central to addressing the crisis, yet the development of new antibiotics has slowed to a near standstill. Pharmaceutical companies have scaled back research due to high costs, regulatory hurdles, and limited financial returns, leaving few new drugs in the pipeline. The WHO stresses the need for global incentives to reinvigorate antibiotic research while guaranteeing equitable access to new medicines, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Alongside innovation, preventive measures are vital. Improved vaccination coverage, better sanitation, clean water, and hygiene can reduce infection rates and limit the need for antibiotics in the first place. Equally important is the promotion of public awareness about responsible antibiotic use. The misuse of antibiotics — taking them without medical advice, stopping treatment too early, or using them for viral illnesses — remains a widespread problem that accelerates resistance. Combating these behaviors requires sustained education and awareness efforts targeting both the public and healthcare professionals.

To support countries in tracking and managing resistance, WHO has expanded its digital GLASS dashboard, which provides detailed data visualizations of global and regional trends in resistance and antimicrobial use. The platform allows policymakers and researchers to access country profiles, analyze progress, and identify priority areas for intervention. This move toward greater transparency and accessibility aims to strengthen international collaboration and promote accountability in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

The WHO's 2025 report portrays both progress and peril. On one hand, growing international participation in surveillance efforts marks an important achievement in collective response. On the other, the continuing rise in resistance, the uneven capacity among countries to respond, and the lack of new treatment options point to a global health threat that remains largely unchecked. Without decisive and coordinated action, the world risks entering a future where minor injuries or routine infections once again carry deadly consequences.

Antimicrobial resistance now stands as one of the most urgent health challenges of the century. It demands not only stronger policies and systems but also a fundamental shift in how societies value and use antibiotics. The preservation of these vital medicines depends on global solidarity, scientific innovation, and responsible stewardship at every level. The coming decade will determine whether humanity can stay ahead of the evolving resistance or succumb to an era where the simplest infections become untreatable once more.

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From Crafts to Confidence; SARAS Mela in Srinagar empowers women entrepreneurs across India

Self Help Group movement emerges as a catalyst for social revolution: Secy RDD

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: The 10 days SARAS Mela 2025 concluded today at Sher-e-Kashmir Park here with resounding success.

During the concluding ceremony, Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad was present.

The Secretary described the 10-day event as a resounding success celebrating India's unity in diversity while giving a strong boost to women entrepreneurship across the country.

While appreciating the enthusiastic participation and overwhelming public response, the Secretary said, "The SARAS Mela is not just a sale exhibition, it is a celebration of India's unity and diversity".

He informed that self-help groups (SHGs) from states as

diverse as Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and Jammu & Kashmir participated in the event, reflecting the national scale of the initiative.

"All Kerala products were sold out. The stalls from Kishtwar are also empty, and even those from Uttar Pradesh have registered massive sales," he noted, adding that the commercial success was matched by the social impact of the event.

Highlighting the broader significance of the initiative, the Secretary termed the SHG movement as a 'catalyst for social revolution'.

"The biggest benefit of this celebration is the exchange of ideas. SHGs from J&K learn best practices from their counterparts in other states and vice versa. This exchange strengthens the entire network of women entrepreneurs," he observed.

He further said, "not only



Lakhpatri sisters, but millionaire sisters have also emerged from this movement. This is not merely a programme; it is a revolution in women empowerment". MD, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra

Sharma said that the participants expressed immense satisfaction with their experience in Kashmir and lauded the warmth, hospitality, and co-operation extended by the local community.

She added that the SARAS Mela served as a powerful platform for financial independence and empowerment of SHG members supported under DAY-NRLM, representing states including Rajasthan, Lakshadweep, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Tripura, among others.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) from October 4 to 14, the SARAS Mela brought together the talent and creativity of over 150 rural women entrepreneurs from 13 states, offering visitors a colourful display of crafts, culture, and cuisine, a true na-

tional tapestry in the heart of Srinagar.

During the event, the Secretary also visited over 60 stalls run by SHG participants from outside the Union Territory, each showcasing unique products that reflected the artistry and craftsmanship of their regions.

The Mela concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where SHG members were awarded certificates for their outstanding contributions.

In the awards category, Kishtwar district secured first position for best sales, while Srinagar district bagged the top honour in the best food category.

The event reaffirmed Jammu and Kashmir's role as a hub of cultural and economic collaboration, with the SARAS Mela acting as a bridge connecting women entrepreneurs from across the nation.

FCS&CA Kashmir conducts extensive inspections of market establishments in Srinagar City

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: The Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department (FCS&CA) Kashmir conducted extensive inspections across multiple restaurants and food establishments in Srinagar district today.

The inspection drive was led by Assistant Director Enforcement (First Class Magistrate), Shohab Latief, along with officials from the Food & Safety Department and Legal Metrology Department. The inspection team visited several prominent establishments and other high-footfall restaurants and sweet shops.

The focus was on ensuring compliance with food safety standards, proper hygiene practices, and consumer protection regulations.

The inspection covered multiple critical aspects including quality verification, quantity verification, cleanliness and hygiene standards, proper product dating and labeling, and overall food safety compliance.

Officials from the Legal Metrology Department conducted thorough checks on measurement accuracy and quantity standards. The inspection results were largely satisfactory with no major violations discovered.

Minor issues were identified at some establishments, for which warning were issued. The Food & Safety Department imposed compound fines for minor violations to ensure strict compliance.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director Enforcement reaffirmed the department's unwavering commitment to consumer rights and safety, emphasizing that regular inspection drives are being conducted to maintain transparency and accountability. "All departments are working in close coordination to protect consumer interests and to ensure that food establishments maintain the highest standards of hygiene and quality," he said.

Citizens have been urged to report any complaints related to food quality, safety, or malpractices through the toll-free helplines and official social media handles of the FCS&CA, Food Safety, and Legal Metrology Departments.

The department reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the highest standards of food safety and consumer protection across all establishments in the region.

DC Ganderbal chairs district level NCORD Committee meeting

Directs to enhance awareness to sensitize public about the ill effects of drug abuse

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today convened a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review and strengthen measures aimed to curb drug abuse in the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal was also present in the meeting.

At the outset, a detailed review was held on various aspects of drug prevention including identification of hot spots, follow up of cases registered under the NDPS Act, surveillance of educational institutions, and awareness campaigns under IEC and Nasha Mukta Panchayat initiatives besides destroying the channels/networks and sources of drug peddling.

Officers from Health, Drug Control, Education, Excise, Social Welfare, Tehsildars, BDOs



and police besides others concerned briefed the chair regarding activities carried out by their respective departments to curb drug menace in the district.

The DC emphasized on strengthening inter-departmental coordination to track and apprehend those involved in drug trafficking, and promote community-level

awareness efforts.

The DC laid strong emphasis on tracking suspected couriers, and directed to implement enhanced surveillance measures across key transportation hubs to intercept the flow of illicit materials.

He directed officers from the Drug Control department to ensure sealing of medical establishments

that fail to comply with installation of CBS and CCTV systems, and called for stringent action against drug peddlers. He also directed the Excise department to intensify drives on destruction of illicit crops.

The DC directed CMO for establishing a facility for drugs testing at the District Hospital. He also directed BDOs and Social Welfare

department to enhance awareness under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan to sensitize the public about the ill effects of drug abuse.

DC directed Tehsildars to re-verify all 126 panchayats and submit a report within a week for declaration of Nasha Mukta Panchayats.

He stressed to put curbs on sale and consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products around educational institutions and levy fines on those found guilty.

He also asked the Police and Revenue Department to work in close coordination with each other to identify drug peddlers and attach the properties obtained from proceeds of crime.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, CMO, all Tehsildars, all BDOs, representatives from Education, Excise, and Social Welfare, besides other officials from multiple departments.

DLSA Shopian conducts 4th UTRC meeting for release of UTPs

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 14: In compliance with the directions of Judge Supreme Court of India (Executive Chairman, NALSA), Justice Surya Kant, District Legal Services Authority Shopian today conducted 4th Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in District Court Shopian.

The meeting was held to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eligible under-trial prisoners (UTPs)/Prisoners.

In the meeting, chaired by Pr. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman



DLSA), Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, the committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners short-listed by the Secretary, DLSA Shopian for consideration and the committee has recommended two under-trial prisoners for medical examination and age determination so that their cases will be taken up in next UTRC meeting.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta; Senior Superintendent of Police, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary; Secretary District Legal Services Authority Shopian, Mudasar Farooq; Superintendent Jails (Correctional Home), Pulwama, Shabir Ahmad and Chief LADC Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie.

PCCF Reviews Biodiversity Conservation, Eco-Tourism Initiatives in Bandipora

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 14: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Jammu and Kashmir, Suresh Kumar Gupta, conducted an extensive tour of Bandipora Forest Division to review biodiversity conservation efforts and assess the progress of eco-tourism initiatives being undertaken by the Forest Department.

During the visit, the PCCF was accompanied by Conservator of Forests, Srinagar Circle, Saurabh Sharma, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bandipora, Waseem Farooq Mir, DCF, and Range Officers from Khuihama, Gurez, and Ajas Ranges.

At Kanzalwan Park in Gurez Range, Gupta interacted with members of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and local representatives. The interaction focused on implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, strengthening of BMCs, and enhancing community participation in biodiversity documentation and conservation.

The PCCF appreciated the proactive role of local communities and BMC members in protecting their natural heritage. He emphasized the need to blend traditional ecological knowledge with scientific forest management for sustainable conservation outcomes.

Later, the PCCF along with senior officers visited the under-construction Habba Khattoon Park in Gurez, where he reviewed ongoing eco-tourism development works being executed by the Forest Department. The team inspected landscaping, fencing, and pathway construction works being carried out under the eco-tourism promotion initiative aimed at showcasing the natural beauty of Gurez Valley.

Gupta underlined the importance of developing eco-friendly tourism infrastructure that attracts visitors while ensuring livelihood generation for local communities through homestays, eco-guiding, and handicrafts, maintaining ecological balance at the same time.

Speaking on the occasion, Conservator of Forests, appreciated the efforts of Bandipora Forest Division in integrating biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration, and eco-development works, particularly in remote areas like Gurez. He also emphasized convergence with other departments to promote nature-based tourism and improve community welfare.

DLSA Srinagar Empowers Widows through Awareness on Welfare Schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 14: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, has launched a special awareness campaign aimed at empowering widows by sensitizing them about their legal rights and welfare entitlements under various government schemes.

As part of the campaign, a series of outreach activities, awareness drives, and door-to-door interactions were organized across different areas of district Srinagar, as well as at the Legal Aid Clinic, Zila Sainik Bhawan. The initiative seeks to bridge the information gap and ensure that widows, particularly those from economically weaker backgrounds, are able to access social security and rehabilitation measures with ease.

A dedicated team of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) was deputed to

carry out the campaign in pursuance of the advisory issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) regarding the protection and promotion of widows' rights. The volunteers played a pivotal role in disseminating information, assisting in documentation, and guiding beneficiaries toward the appropriate welfare channels.

The campaign was organized under the leadership of Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Arun Palli, and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar. It was carried out under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum, and under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief, with Sub-Judge/Secretary,



DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman, overseeing the overall supervision of the initiative.

At Zila Sainik Bhawan, an awareness programme was held in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department and the Human Rights and Anti-Corruption

Forum, bringing together government officials, legal professionals, and social workers on a common platform to deliberate on the challenges faced by widows and measures to address them effectively.

Panel Lawyer, Advocate Laila Khalid, and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Safa, addressed the gathering and elaborated on the range of welfare schemes, including financial assistance, pension benefits, free legal aid, educational support, and self-employment initiatives available for widows under various central and state government programmes. They emphasized that awareness is the first step towards empowerment and encouraged participants to act as community advocates by spreading the message further.

The speakers also highlighted the role of DLSA Srinagar in ensuring access to justice for all, especially for the marginalized and

vulnerable groups, through its legal aid clinics, counseling sessions, and regular outreach programmes.

Participants expressed gratitude for the initiative, acknowledging that many of them were previously unaware of their entitlements and the procedures to avail them. DLSA representatives assured continued assistance in helping beneficiaries complete documentation and link them with the concerned departments.

The campaign stands as a testament to DLSA Srinagar's unwavering commitment to promoting social justice, human dignity, and gender equality, in line with the broader objectives of the Legal Services Authorities Act. Similar awareness drives are planned in other parts of the district in the coming weeks to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left behind.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION HELD AT GDC SURANKOTE

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, OCTOBER 14: Government Degree College (GDC) Surankote in collaboration with the Land Resources Division of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi organized a One-Day National Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction on the college campus today. The event, held in hybrid mode with online and offline participation marked the observance of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR). The seminar aimed to raise awareness among youth about disaster resilience, preparedness and environmental sustainability.

The seminar, themed "Youth for Resilient Pir Panjal: Reducing Disaster Risks through Awareness, Action and Preparedness," focused on engaging students and academic professionals in proactive measures for reducing disaster risks in the Pir Panjal region. The event encouraged youth to act as advocates of climate action and sustainable living, aligning with the national vision of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

Member Legislative Assembly Er Chowdhary Mohammad Akram was the Chief Guest. The programme featured lectures by distinguished speakers including Dr. Arif Wali (Associate Director, Land Resources Division, TERI), Prof. Shabir Hussain Shah (retired college Principal) and Jhanghir Hussain Mir (Environmental Thinker and Activist).

Several members of the local community and social organisations were also present, with students actively engaged in discussions, made the sessions interactive and impactful.

The seminar started with the recitation of the National Anthem, followed by a welcome address by Prof. Fateh Mohammad Abasi, Head of the Department of Zoology. He welcomed guests and participants, while lauding the joint efforts of GDC Surankote and TERI for promoting academic exchange and community awareness on disaster management and environmental resilience.

In his address, the Chief Guest Chowdhary Mohammad Akram, an engineer by profession, analysed the root causes of frequent landslides and erosion hazards in the Pir Panjal region. He highlighted the impact of deforestation, poor drainage and unscientific urban planning on terrain instability. He advocated for slope strengthening, eco-friendly infrastructure and resilient land-use strategies. The Chief Guest appreciated Prof. (Dr.) Rani Mughal, Principal GDC Surankote for hosting such a significant seminar on disaster risk reduction and ensuring that the college continues to engage in meaningful environmental discourses. He assured full governmental support in strengthening community-based disaster preparedness and integrating scientific inputs into local development planning.

In his virtual address, Dr. Arif Wali offered an in-depth overview



of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and discussed the growing impact of greenhouse gases on global ecosystem. He highlighted the concept of carbon trading and shared successful community-led resilience stories from the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve.

Dr. Wali emphasised that

investing in prevention and preparedness is far more beneficial than post-disaster recovery, urging young people to adopt science-based climate solutions and become leaders of local adaptation initiatives.

Prof. Shabir Hussain Shah discussed the growing environmental challenges in the Rajouri-

Poonch region, particularly illegal mining, poor land management and unplanned urbanization. He drew special attention towards the Surankote river belt, where increasing soil erosion has turned river water red, posing a grave threat to future agricultural productivity. He stressed that soil conservation

must be prioritized to prevent long-term ecological decline. Prof. Shah urged the policymakers and intellectuals to collaborate for sustainable development and environmental protection across the Pir Panjal range.

Er. Zia Ur Rehman, an expert in Soil Mechanics and Foundations, elaborated on soil stability and consolidation, citing case studies from Kalaban and Mendhar. He explained that unchecked deforestation and unregulated construction weaken soil cohesion, increasing the risk of landslides. He asserted that scientific land-use planning, environmental impact assessments and soil testing must become mandatory before any developmental project in mountainous areas.

Nazir Hussain Qureshi emphasized the need for conserving natural resources—especially water—and promoting sustainable housing designs suited to local topography. He called for responsible use of resources, proper watershed management and environmentally conscious construction practices to ensure harmony between human development and nature.

Students presented their papers on the theme "Youth for Resilient Pir Panjal: Reducing Disaster Risks through Awareness, Action and Preparedness", addressing environmental conservation, climate change adaptation and community-based disaster management.

The panel of judges included HOD Geography Dr. Ashfaq Mughal; HOD Physics Prof. Rizwan

khan; Assistant professor Department of Zoology Dr Prince Sharma.

First Position was bagged by Syed Tahir Sajad from semester first while second and third positions were secured by Adrees Ahmed Rather and Asma Badar respectively. Moreover, Kalam of Alama Iqbal also added a cultural and thoughtful dimension to the day's proceedings.

Jhanghir Hussain Mir in his talk linked environmental consciousness with moral and spiritual responsibility, drawing inspiration from the story of Hazrat Nuh (A.S.). He urged the audience to adopt sustainable lifestyles and pressed for investing in renewable energy—particularly solar and wind power projects at Pir Ki Gali. He also paid tribute to late M.B Mughal, describing him as "a great environmentalist" and a lifelong inspiration for community service and environmental preservation.

Delivering the closing address, Prof. (Dr.) Rani Mughal, Principal of GDC Surankote, expressed her delight over the active collaboration with TERI and the enthusiastic participation of the participants. She remarked that disaster management should move "from a reactive response system to a proactive culture of learning, awareness and preparedness."

Prof. Abdul Karim delivered the Vote of Thanks, extending gratitude to all dignitaries, guests and participants for their valuable contributions.

DC Kathua reviews working of Agriculture, allied sectors

Stresses on effective implementation of HADP, financial inclusion schemes for farmers

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Agriculture and allied departments to assess the physical and financial progress of the schemes being implemented in the district. The meeting was convened in the VC Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur; Chief Agriculture Officer, Jatinder Kumar; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr Jugal Kishore; District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Ramesh Kumar Manhas; AD Fisheries Pawan Sharma; Chief Horticulture Officer Ashwani Kumar; Dy Registrar Cooperative Shrutu Sharma besides representatives of different banks attended the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal of ac-



tivities under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other flagship initiatives focused on strengthening the rural economy and promoting financial inclusion. He emphasized coordinated and result-oriented efforts among all departments including Banks to achieve set targets within stipulated timelines for the larger welfare of the farming community.

Assessing the progress made in Agriculture sector, the DC reviewed the ground level impact of different beneficiary-oriented schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), PM-KISAN, Soil Health Card Scheme, Mushroom Development Programme, PM Fasal Bima Yojana

and initiatives for the promotion of Women Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Progress under Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture and Cooperative sectors was also reviewed in detail. The DC exhorted the officers to intensify outreach and awareness activities to ensure that the benefits of all welfare schemes percolate down to the grassroots level.

He further directed the departments to maintain close coordination with banking institutions for effective implementation of financial inclusion schemes and to extend credit facilities to all eligible farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all stakeholders to work with renewed zeal for the holistic development of the farming community under HADP and other flagship programmes.

DDC Doda reviews implementation of RDD Schemes

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, OCTOBER 14: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh today chaired a review meeting in the conference hall of DC Office Complex Doda to assess the progress of key schemes being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD) in the district.

The review covered major flagship programmes including the District Capex Budget (CAPEX), MGNREGA, PMAY(G), Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGS), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and the MPLAD.

At the outset, ACD presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the latest status and progress achieved under these schemes. The DDC Doda held a detailed block-wise and sector-wise review of the works and emphasized the need to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects.

The DDC directed all departments to maintain close coordination and effective monitoring to achieve results on the ground. He also instructed officers to expedite the pace of work and ensure transparency and quality in execution.

The meeting was attended by the ADDC, ADC, CPO, ACD, SE R&B, ACP, BDOs, JE and other concerned technical staff.

Awareness event on "Fostering Emotional Well-being among Students" organized at GGM Science College

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 14: The Manodarpan Psychological Counselling Cell of GGM Science College, in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Cell today organized an awareness event on the theme "Fostering Emotional Well-being among Students" here in the College conference hall. The program was held under the aegis of the Principal Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta.

As many as 200 students, along with faculty members actively participated in the event making it a vibrant and engaging session.

Dr. Romesh Kumar, Psychologist/Counselor and HOD at DIET Jammu, was the Resource Person for the event. He delivered an insightful and interactive session on the importance of maintaining emotional balance and mental health in both academic and personal life. He emphasized self-awareness, empathy and resilience as key elements of emotional well-being. Dr. Romesh Kumar also engaged the students in a series of interactive activities related to

emotional and psychological health, including breathing exercises, mindfulness practices and simple yoga asanas. These activities provided participants with practical tools to enhance focus, reduce stress and cultivate emotional stability in their daily lives.

Dr. Vandana Khajuria, In-charge Principal of the college highlighted the significance of emotional well-being as a cornerstone of healthy growth and holistic development among students. She appreciated the efforts of the organizing team for conducting such an impactful and need-based program.

Earlier, the session commenced with a welcome address by Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology and Convener of the Manodarpan Psychological Counselling Cell Bal Krishan, who also introduced the guest and gave an overview of the objectives and initiatives of the Manodarpan program. Dr. Yasmeen Mughal from the Department of English also shared her thoughts on the theme of the program.

Mega Health Camps being organized to provide free medical services across Kathua District

DC reviews arrangements with Health Department, Rotary International

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, OCTOBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements and logistics for the upcoming Mega Health Camps being organized jointly by Rotary Club International and the District Administration Kathua in various medical blocks of the district during the last week of October 2025.

The camps are scheduled to be held at Basohli, Bani, and Kathua, where a series of surgical and medical procedures will be carried out for identified patients. The initiative seeks to bring advanced healthcare facilities to the doorstep of people living in remote and underserved regions.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Rotary

Club International, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina, and Block Medical Officers. A detailed discussion was held to finalize all arrangements to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the Mega Health Camps.

The Mega Health Camps aim to extend free medical services, diagnostic care, and surgical interventions to the needy and marginalized sections of society, particularly those residing in far-flung and difficult terrains of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department to give wide publicity to the initiative and prepare a comprehensive database of potential beneficiaries. He also instructed the CMO and BMOs to identify



patients requiring surgical or specialized medical attention and ensure their inclusion in the programme.

It was informed that Rotary Club International has previously organized similar health outreach programmes across several districts, benefiting thousands through quality medical treatment, free surgeries, and post-operative care.

During the forthcoming camps, teams of renowned doctors, surgeons, and medical specialists from across the country will participate, offering free consultations, diagnostics, and surgeries in fields such as ophthalmology, orthopaedics, general surgery, ENT, and gynecology.

The District Administration, in collaboration with Rotary Club International and the Health Department, will provide full logistical support including transportation, accommodation, and medical infrastructure to ensure seamless execution of the event.

Highlighting the importance of such initiatives, the DC emphasized that the Mega Health Camps reflect the government's commitment to inclusive healthcare delivery and align with the vision of reaching the last mile with quality medical services.



Harmanpreet rues India's 6 for 36 collapse against Australia

India went from 294 for 4 in the 43rd over to 330 all out, a total that proved inadequate

Vishal Dikshit

NEW DELHI: India's famed top five finally came to the party at the Women's World Cup 2025 to put on a staggering total of 330 but such was their lower-order collapse, the flatness of the pitch, and the might of the Australians that India fell "30 to 40 runs" short. It was the first time any team had scored over 300 while batting first against Australia but India believe they could have got much more after they were placed at 294 for 4 in 42.5 overs. As it happened, they lost the next six wickets for 36 runs to be bowled out with seven balls to spare. After their openers Smriti Mandhana and Pratika Rawal scored half-centuries, India's middle-order batters got off to starts but they and the lower order couldn't cash in on the promise.

"The way we started we thought if we could have added more 30-40 runs on the board, we missed runs in the last six-seven overs," captain Harmanpreet Kaur said at the presentation. "We kept losing wickets and that really cost us because today's pitch was totally different. We knew it was a good batting wicket, but those last six overs where we were not able to capitalise really cost us."

"Today the first 40 overs were really good and in the last 10 we were not executing well. In matches these things are going to happen,

we are not going to be 100% all the time but it's very important how you come back."

Head coach Amol Muzumdar concurred with his captain that India had to finish better to get over the line. He pointed to the defeat to South Africa, where they couldn't defend 251 despite being in a strong position, to highlight that the team have issues with the ball as well.

"Look, in my opinion, the finish is very important in a cricket game," Muzumdar said at the press conference. "I always say, even in this dressing room, that yes, we need a good start, but we need a better finish. So, if you see the finish that we had in the South Africa game, as far as bowling is concerned in the last five overs, we ended up losing that game. And, even today, basically, if we would have got another 20 runs, maybe things would have been different. But, at the same time, it's been a gradual progress for us. And there are a lot of learnings. I keep talking about positives and learnings. One of the things to learn is to finish well." India have

struggled to defend competitive totals in their last two games, losing both with seven and six balls remaining. They have played these games with only five bowlers in batting-friendly conditions. Their next match against England is in Indore, which tends to offer plenty of runs as well. Will India look to bolster their attack?

"Obviously, after this game, we will have a look at it," Muzumdar said. "I am sure the team management will have a proper discussion about this and then we will take a right call as we approach the next game. I am sure about that."

"We'll sit and discuss [about five bowlers] because this combination has given us a lot of success in the past," she said. "Two bad games are not going to make a big difference for us. Going forward there are a lot of things we need to sort it out and

hopefully we'll come up with the best approach."

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Not my job to update selectors on fitness: Shami hits back

PTI

KOLKATA: India pacer Mohammed Shami on Tuesday took a dig at the national selectors for omitting him from the white-ball tour of Australia, asserting that his availability for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy proves he is fit and that it is not his responsibility to update the panel on this.

Shami, who last represented India in the Champions Trophy triumph and finished as the country's top wicket-taker alongside Varun Chakravathy, has battled recurring ankle and knee injuries that required surgery after the 2023 World Cup. The 35-year-old has not been part of the Indian Test side for some time, having last played in the World Test Championship final against Australia in June 2023.

Tireless Bawne will 'put the body on the line' again to try and win the Ranji Trophy

Deivarayan Muthu

NEW DELHI: Maharashtra's marathon man Ankit Bawne is entering his 13th Ranji Trophy season after having made his debut as a 15-year-old against Karnataka in Ratnagiri back in December 2007. Eighteen years on, he still relishes the domestic grind and is motivated to perform.

Being the second-highest run-getter among active Ranji players, behind Jammu & Kashmir professional Paras Dogra (9505), with 7244 runs, and the

highest run-getter overall in the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy with 4010 runs is a testament to the 32-year-old's durability and consistency.

"I'm the only child for my parents and I've been staying away from home since I was 14," Bawne told ESPNcricinfo in the lead-up to the new domestic season. "It has been a great journey, but still a long way to go and I believe there's still a lot of runs left in me."

"I feel the grind is important no matter what level of cricket

you play. Some play for India, some play for the state and maybe some players will stay at the league level and they won't get higher honours. But I feel that attitude and discipline should always be there. I want people to remember me as a hard-working person and not somebody who has scored 10,000 runs or the all-time top-scorer in Vijay Hazare and all. It's okay if they [selectors] drop me because I'm not scoring enough runs, but nobody should drop me because I'm not fit and just pushing my

career."

Bawne was able to translate his domestic success to the India A level in red-ball cricket - he scored 663 runs in 19 innings at an average of just over 55 - but an opportunity at the next level didn't come to pass. It has been more than five years since he last represented India A - the team management has moved on to a new pool of emerging players post Covid-19 - but that hasn't deterred him from toiling away in domestic cricket.

"I just want to control the controllables. Selection is not in my hands," Bawne said. "I have got some centuries against good sides and captained India A. Suddenly, I was not part of India A, but I'm a player who doesn't question the selection committee and whatever is written for me, I'll do that. See, some umpiring decisions are not in your hands. Like that, the weather is also not in your hands (laughs)."

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