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Former Governor.....

the limited time available so that the proceedings prove meaningful and beneficial to the people of Jammu and Kashmir

During the obituary reference, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Leader of Opposition, Sunil Kumar Sharma; Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, MLA's Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Mubarak Gul, Salman Ali Sagar, M.Y. Tarigami, Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh, Pawan Gupta, Sajad Gani Lone, Aijaz Jan, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Vikram Rand-hawa, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Choudhary Moham-mad Akram, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Iftikhar Ahmed and Narinder Singh also paid tributes to the departed souls.

Legislators across party lines lauded the contribu-tions of their former colleagues, recalling their dedica-tion to public service and commitment to the welfare of the people.

The Speaker and members of the house also held two minute silence in their remembrance.

Regarding the proposed suggestion by Chief Min-ister Omar Abdullah to follow parliamentary conven-tion of House observing two minute silence in honour of departed souls during obituary references instead of long speeches, the Speaker said that the suggestion will be thought and looked into as the argument carries significant weight.

CM Omar Pays.....

in their own ways toward the welfare of the people. "None of us is perfect; mistakes are inevitable, wheth-er made knowingly or unknowingly," he observed.

The Chief Minister also suggested that the Assem-bly adopt a concise format for obituary references, similar to that of the Parliament. "We are politicians, and politics often finds its way into our speeches. It would be more appropriate to pay respects briefly without lengthy addresses," he said.

Welcoming the suggestion, Speaker Abdul Raheem Rather said it would be duly considered. "As we remem-ber them today, one day we too will be remembered. Let us learn from their lives and service," the CM remarked.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah noted that all the leaders being remembered had dedicated themselves to public service, whether through elected office or party association. Referring to former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, he said Malik had a long public career, serving as an MLA, minister and Governor in various states.

Paying tribute to a G. M. Shaheen, the Chief Minister described him as a courageous leader who continued to serve the people with determination even after surviving a major landmine blast.

The Chief Minister also expressed concern over the negligence of the concerned district administration for failing to inform the Assembly Secretariat about the demise of former Legislator Mohammad Sultan Pandithpori.

"You have already taken note of the lapse, and I am sure the Chief Secretary must have also acted on it. An explanation must be sought from the concerned offices," he said.

Strong Global.....

Ocean Region (IOR) as a matter of "comfort for the friendly nations" and "discomfort for those who seek to destabilise the region".

"IOR has become the centre of contemporary geopolitics. It is no longer passive; it has become an area of competition and cooperation. The Indian Navy, through its multi-dimensional capabilities, has played a leadership role in the region. In the last six months, our ships, submarines and Naval aircraft have been deployed at an unprecedented scale. In addition, our Navy has provided safe passage to approximately 335 merchant vessels, carrying around 1.2 million metric tons of cargo and a trade value of USD 5.6 billion. This is proof that India has now become a trusted and capable partner in the global maritime economy," Rajnath said.

Terming a self-reliant Navy as the foundation of a confident and powerful nation, the Defence Minister acknowledged the Indian Navy for enhancing its capabilities through indigenous equipment and emerging as the flag bearer of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

"In the last 10 years, nearly 67 percent of the Navy's capital acquisition contracts have been with Indian industries. This proves that we are no longer dependent solely on imports. We rely on our own talent and the capabilities of MSMEs and start-ups. Currently, the Indian Navy is working on 194 innovation and indigenisation projects under iDEX, TDF, SPRINT, and Make-in-India. These initiatives have not only made the Navy technologically self-reliant, but have also made private industries and young innovators a part of this mission," he said.

Dubbing the present-day warfare as technology and intelligence-based, Rajnath highlighted that the government, is paying greater attention to Aatmanirb-harta in defence, indigenous innovation and state-of-the-art technologies.

"Maritime preparedness is no longer only about ships or submarines, it is based on technology-driven, network-centric, and autonomous systems. We need to protect ourselves from our adversaries' modern technologies, while enhancing our capabilities in these areas. We have the potential and the capabilities. We're manufacturing our equipment on our own soil," he said.

He appreciated the fact that, under Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Indian Navy is not only engaged in defence production, but also contributing significantly to nation-building. "Today, our Navy has become a pioneer in the country's self-reliance, innovation, and industrial development. With every ship and submarine built, a new job is created; with every engine, a new skill is created, and with every indigenous system, India's dependency is decreasing. Project 17A ships, which have more than 75 percent indigenous content, have created approximately 1.27 lakh jobs in shipyards

like MDL and GRSE. It is proof that every Navy project is linked to security as well as the economy and youth employment," he stated.

Noting the significant increase in Indian Navy's collaboration with MSMEs and small shipyards, he noted that, recently, contracts worth around Rs 315 crore have been awarded for the construction of yard crafts, a major step towards the Vocal for Local vision.

"The Navy has made several innovations towards self-reliance in its aviation sector. Projects such as the Multi-role Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft, Utility Helicopters, Twin-engine Deck Fighters, and Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems are giving a new direction to our domestic aviation industry. This is not only filling critical capability gaps but also strength-ening self-reliance," he added.

Rajnath underlined the importance of laying equal emphasis on formulating strategy and acquiring state-of-the-art equipment to fight present-day wars. "No nation can win a war solely with equipment and war-ships. Technology gives us an edge, but geography, deception, timing, and human judgment must always be factored into the tactical framework. Fleet-size and modernisation is important, but tactically utilising platforms is equally crucial. Agility and adaptability are essential in planning," he said.

He also underlined the need to advance the Naval strategy and thinking in sync with the rapidly-evol-ving world. "We must work together in three areas: capability, people, and partnerships. Capability means technology & strength; people means sailors & their families; and partnerships mean industries, academia & international cooperation. When these three come together, our Navy will emerge as an even more reliable and powerful force," he said.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat and Naval Command-ers were present on the occasion. UNI

BJP to raise.....

The BJP leader added that unemployment, problems faced by temporary employees, and issues concerning water, electricity, roads, and corruption will be among the key matters his party plans to highlight during the session. "We will focus on issues that directly affect the common people, especially unemployment, daily wagers' plight, and the basic amenities that continue to trouble citizens," Sharma said.

When asked about a BJP meeting held before the session, Sharma explained that such meetings are customary to chalk out strategies for Assembly pro-ceedings. "Before every session, BJP legislators meet to discuss the strategy for the upcoming days. We also discussed the Rajya Sabha election scheduled for tomorrow," he noted.

Reacting to a recent comment made by the Chief Minister about him, the Opposition leader remarked that the Chief Minister should focus on his own respon-sibilities instead of advising the Opposition. "Now the Chief Minister wants to decide what the Opposition should do. Someone should ask him how much of his own work he gets done," Sharma said. (KNT)

NC poised.....

direct contest with Ali Mohammed Mir of the BJP in one of the seats.

For the second seat, NC's Sajjad Kitchloo will fight against Rakesh Mahajan of the BJP. The third notifica-tion will see a contest for two seats in which the NC has fielded party treasurer G S Oberoi, also known as Shammi Oberoi, and Imran Nabi Dar against BJP's Sat Sharma.

The NC on Thursday issued a whip to all its MLAs to ensure their presence for casting votes in favour of the party candidates.

Going by numbers, the 41-member strong NC, which has the backing of the six Congress and one CPM MLAs, and six Independents, is likely to sail through in three seats.

The contest for the final seat is razor-thin. The Assembly has a strength of 88 MLAs out of which the NC-led ruling coalition has 54.

The BJP, with 28 Assembly members, strategically named its Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Sat Sharma in the third notification.

Sharma has already got a crucial edge at the Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) led by Sajad Gani Lone, an erstwhile ally of the BJP-PDP government, last week announced that his party will abstain from the Rajya Sabha elections.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed confidence that his party will win all four seats but deep down, he would also know that it would require every non-BJP vote to be cast in favour of NC candidates.

Congress legislators did not attend a key meeting of allies convened by the NC on Wednesday, two days ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls.

Abdullah also sought to play down the absence of Congress, saying every party follows its own procedure.

"They (Congress) have their own process. There is a difference between their party and ours. Their lead-ership has to wait for the signal of their high command, while we take our decisions here. This is not something new, and no one should have any problems with it," Abdullah told reporters.

Asked if Congress' abstention will hurt the chances of NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha polls, Abdullah said as far as the elections are concerned, the national party has regularly maintained that it will not support the BJP, nor will it allow the saffron party to win.

"So, let them have their meetings, no one should have any objection to that. The signal from the (Congress) high command will not be such that will help the BJP," he added.

Abdullah also said he is thankful to CPM leader M Y Tarigami and Independents for attending the meet-ing.

"The enthusiasm I see in my members and those with us, I am hopeful that the NC candidates will emerge winners on all four seats," he said.

Asked if the opposition PDP was ready to support

the NC candidates, Abdullah said while PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has not made any announcement, she has assured that a right decision will be taken after consulting her party colleagues.

"One of our candidates, Shammi Oberoi, met Meh-booba Mufti and requested her on behalf of the party to vote in favour of the NC to make our candidates successful. First, our president (Farooq Abdullah) had dialled Mehbooba.

"While the PDP has not announced anything, she (Mehbooba Mufti) has told Farooq Abdullah as well as Oberoi that she will discuss the matter with her party colleagues and take a right decision," he said.

The Union territory, with four Rajya Sabha seats, had remained unrepresented in the Upper House since February 15, 2021, the day when Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway completed their terms.

Two other members — Fayaz Ahmed Mir and Shamsheer Singh Manhas — completed their terms on February 10 the same year. (Agencies)

Congress, PDP.....

Congress and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have decided to extend their support to NC candidates in the Rajya Sabha elections, slated to be held on Friday.

After threadbare discussion, the Jammu and Kash-mir Pradesh Congress Committee, headed by its Chief Tariq Hameed Karra announced its support to the National Conference (NC) candidates in Rajya Sabha elections.

In a statement, the party said that after two rounds of deliberations since yesterday and following detailed consultations with the central leadership, who had sought certain clarifications and inputs from them, the party has collectively arrived at a decision.

"Taking into account our sensitivities as a suffering state and our identity as a tested voice for a diverse and secular India, the Congress Party has decided to keep all differences with the National Conference on the back burner—solely to reaffirm our commitment to our own ethos and principles," the statement added.

"During the 2024 elections, we chose unity over division, ignoring all dissenting voices, to defeat the BJP and free the people of Jammu and Kashmir from a climate of fear and suppression. In keeping with our political culture and moral uprightness, we refuse to act out of expediency," it reads.

"The upcoming Rajya Sabha elections have posed a new challenge. We sincerely hope that the National Conference keeps its flock together against all tempta-tions and manipulations—and in that endeavor, we extend our full support. All our 6 congress MLAs will support NC," it added.

Meanwhile, PDP Chief, Mehbooba Mufti while addressing a news conference here has announced party's support for the ruling NC in the Rajya Sabha polls.

"We have decided to give support to the NC and vote for their candidates," Mehbooba said, adding that the decision has been taken to keep the BJP away.

"This party (NC) doesn't deserve it, but we have to give our support for the larger cause of keeping the fascist forces away," Mehbooba said, adding that the decision was made after a discussion with the party's leadership and its MLAs on the NC's request for support in the Rajya Sabha election.

She said NC president Farooq Abdullah had spoken to her over the phone, requesting her party's support.

Oppn alliance.....

Addressing the "Mera Booth Sabse Mazboot: Yuva Samvaad" event through audio-conferencing, the Prime Minister said people will not forget the "jungle raj" in Bihar for another 100 years and no matter how hard the opposition tries to hide its misdeeds, people will not forgive it.

"I would tell all the youngsters in Bihar to gather all the young people at every booth and have the elderly people in that area come and tell everyone about the old stories from the jungle raj," he said.

Interacting with a BJP worker, Modi said a "mahay-agma" of development is going on in the country, with all-round work being carried out due to a stable govern-ment at the Centre and in Bihar.

"In Bihar, work is happening in every sector; in every direction. Hospitals are being built, good schools are being established and new railway routes are being developed. A major reason for this is that there is a stable government in the country and in Bihar. When there is stability, development accelerates. This is the strength of Bihar's NDA government as well," he said.

"That is why youngsters in Bihar are saying with enthusiasm — 'raftaar pakad chuka Bihar, phir se NDA sarkar'," Modi said.

He said the Bihar Assembly polls are about writing a new chapter in the history of the state and that youngsters will play a key role in it. Bihar will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11. The count-ing of votes will be taken up on November 14. The INDIA opposition bloc on Thursday (October 23) declared Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial candidate for the Bihar polls. (Agencies)

Anti-Corruption.....

Vigilance Organization Kashmir revealed that the accused had forged his Matriculation certificate and service Book, fraudulently altering his date of birth from 08.06.1940 to 08.06.1945, thereby overstaying in Government service for 21 months and drawing undue salary amounting to ₹2,62,760, causing equivalent loss to the State exchequer.

Expert examination by the Forensic Science Labo-ratory, Srinagar confirmed forgery of signatures and seals, while verification from the J&K Board of School Education established his actual date of birth. After a full trial, the Hon'ble Court held that the ACB had proved the case beyond reasonable doubt through convincing documentary, expert and oral evidence and conse-quently sentenced the accused to undergo seven years simple imprisonment and imposed fine of ₹352,760/- and ordered his lodgement at Central Jail Srinagar.

This conviction stands as a testament to the Anti-Corruption Bureau's unwavering commitment to

fighting corruption and promoting integrity in public administration.

The Bureau reiterates its resolve to bring to justice all those who misuse public office for personal gain.

90% development.....

system and then, of course, human-centric products," Narayanan said while responding to a question about the progress of the mission.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the promotional activities for the upcoming Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC-2025), scheduled to be held from November 3 to 5 in New Delhi.

He said that approximately 90 percent of the development work has been completed.

"Now three uncrewed missions have to be accomplished before going for the crewed mission and we are working towards it. In the first uncrewed mission, Vyommitra is going to fly and we are working towards that to accomplish the crewed mission by the beginning of 2027," he added.

On August 24, 2025, ISRO accomplished the first integrated air drop test for the Gaganyaan programme at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

According to ISRO, this test successfully demon-strated the objective of end-to-end perfor-mance validation of the critical parachute-based deceleration system of the crew module for the Gaganyaan mission in one of the typical mission scenarios.

"For the Gaganyaan programme, the inte-grated air drop test — because when the entire module returns in the final phase almost nine parachutes have to work in a synchronised way for the proper splashdown — so we lifted off a simulated module using a helicopter to a height of around three kilometres above the Earth. Using nine parachutes, it was successfully splashed down," the ISRO Chairman said. (Agencies)

Congress Supports.....

Asked why he did not contest the Rajya Sab-ha polls, Abdullah, who has been a parliamentar-ian for 22 years in his 45-year political career, said he has to take care of Jammu and Kashmir now.

"I have done a lot of Parliament. Now, I have to take care of my home. When the house is prosperous, the nation will also be prosperous. We have to strengthen our home, remove its difficulties, and give respite to the people here. That is our aim," he said.

The NC chief said there is no need for him to go to Parliament as it is the turn of the younger generation to go to Parliament now.

"The young will go there now, who will speak about our difficulties there. Our Parliament members are not for us only, they will have to see about the nation as well. They have to address the problems of the nation," he added.

Responding to a question on Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urging people to check for "halal certification" on products before purchasing them, Abdullah said the people of the state have to decide on that.

"You should ask that question to the people of UP. It is not related to us. The people of UP should decide on that," he said.

However, the former chief minister of J&K said India is a country with unity in diversity.

"As long as we strengthen diversity, India will be strong. It is a question of time, change takes place, no government remains forever. Their time to leave will also come. We should not lose hope, we should have patience and tolerance. Everything will be alright till we remain patient. God is for everyone, whichever religion a person belongs to. This is God's biggest blessing on India," he said.

Talking about the US tariffs, Abdullah said that should be rolled back.

"See the amount of tax America has imposed on us. What is that? Are we trying to destroy the world? I want to tell Trump to roll it back and move forward, thinking that while God has bestowed powers on him, the same God can take those powers away.

"Where did the British Empire or the Persian Empire go? Where is the Roman Empire or the Russian Empire? They were destroyed. All the empires get destroyed when their arrogance reaches their peak," Abdullah added.

Responding to a question about the people of Kashmir being angry with the installation of smart electricity metres, the NC president said the people need to understand that the govern-ment has to buy power worth crores of rupees. He also called upon the people to use electricity judiciously. (Agencies)

Maintain proactive.....

operational conduct. The Dudu-Basantgarh area, along with other parts of the Jammu region, has been the site of multiple search and anti-terror operations throughout 2025.

Basantgarh has witnessed several encounters and terror incidents in the past. It lies on a tradi-tional infiltration route used by Pakistani terror-ists who enter from the International Border in Kathua and move via higher reaches to Doda and Kishtwar districts in the Jammu region and further into the Kashmir Valley.

CS Reviews.....

under Mission YUVA, the Chief Secretary directed the Employment Department and J&K Bank to adopt proactive measures to meet the targets set for the current financial year. He emphasized that loans worth ₹1,000 crore must be disbursed to facilitate grounding of projects

worth ₹2,000 crore, thereby enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to establish viable business ven-tures.

He underscored the need for enhancing the capacity of beneficiaries to transform their ven-tures into successful enterprises and called for convergence of all employment generation initia-tives such as Lakhpati Didis under JKRLM, PMEGP, HADP, JKCIIP, and PMFME with Mission YUVA to maximize their collective impact.

Highlighting the significance of grassroots-level support systems, Dulloo directed that the Single Block Development Units (SBDUs), Block Handholding Desks (BHDs), and YUVA Doots under the Mission be optimally utilized to facili-tate on-ground execution and synergy with other government schemes.

He further instructed banks to depute their representatives to the BHDs at block level to streamline the process of approvals and ensure timely sanction and disbursement of loans. Deputy Commissioners were asked to closely monitor the establishment of enterprises by beneficiaries and expedite processes from District Level Imple-mentation Committee (DLIC) approvals to bank sanctions and loan disbursements. The Chief Secretary also urged districts to complete the recruitment of required manpower for smooth functioning of Mission YUVA structures.

To ensure wider outreach, the Chief Secretary called for involving legislators, public figures, and local influencers in awareness campaigns. He advised strategizing engagement with focus groups such as Lakhpati Didis, PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, PMKVY trainees, and artisans from the handicraft sector, encouraging their partici-pation under Mission YUVA.

Administrative Secretaries and Vice-Chan-cellors shared their insights and suggestions during the meeting, highlighting best practices from other regions and recommending measures for capacity enhancement and time-bound imple-mentation of the Mission.

Commissioner Secretary, Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented a detailed over-view of Mission YUVA's achievements and objec-tives. He informed that the Department aims to create successful entrepreneurs in every pan-chayat, building local role models to inspire others.

He highlighted that the fourth phase of the UdyamJagriti campaign is currently underway, focusing on students from Degree Colleges, Polytechnics, and ITIs; women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs); and beneficiaries with sanctioned loans. So far, 16,000 college students out of about 50,000 and 45,000 women SHG members out of 7 lakh have been reached under this phase. The Depart-ment is also contemplating capacity-building sessions for legislators to familiarize them with employment and livelihood schemes for better outreach at the constituency level.

The meeting was informed that 1,23,350 registrations have been made on the Mission YUVA portal, with 53,138 applications received— of which 50,544 pertain to nano-enterprises, 1,975 to new MSMEs, and 551 from existing units. Out of these, 27,369 applications have been approved by DLICs, 7,462 bank sanctions have been issued, and 4,673 disbursements completed, with subsidies granted in 281 cases. The average project cost is around 6.44 lakh, and 262 crore has been disbursed till date.

The Chief Secretary was also apprised about the buyer-seller app developed under the Mission to facilitate market linkages for registered enter-prises and about initiatives to promote incubation and innovation-driven entrepreneurship in the Union Territory.

Make J&K.....

of Health Services, Jammu and Kashmir; HoD, Chest Medicine, GMC Srinagar; and senior fac-ulty members from various medical institutions across the UT. Deputy Commissioners joined the deliberations through video conferencing.

While reviewing the current scenario, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for early iden-tification and comprehensive management of TB patients to ensure their complete recovery. He directed health professionals to undertake end-to-end monitoring of patients, encouraging them to personally adopt a few cases each, extend individualized medical support, and maintain regular contact with patients to track their prog-ress.

Underscoring the importance of vigorous contact tracing, Dulloo called for strengthening the network of ASHA workers to facilitate home visits and ensure 'at-home' care and counselling, thereby improving adherence to treatment and recovery outcomes.

The Chief Secretary held an extensive interac-tion with Deputy Commissioners to review the availability, utilization, and functionality of diag-nostic equipment, screening mechanisms, and treatment facilities across all districts. He urged the district administrations to optimise resourc-es, ensure uninterrupted supply of medicines, and strengthen coordination between district health teams and field functionaries for timely service delivery. He also called for annual analy-sis of TB-related deaths to determine underlying causes and implement corrective measures to prevent avoidable fatalities. He directed the Health Department to ensure integration of patient records with the Sehat App and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) portal for seam-less record management and monitoring.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed the action taken on directions issued in earlier meet-ings, emphasizing their strict and time-bound implementation to secure better outcomes under the Abhiyan.

One-Day Seminar Held in Memory of Eminent Poet and Educationist Saifi Sopori

Tribute Paid to the Distinguished Urdu Scholar for His Literary and Educational Contributions

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, OCT 23: A one-day literary seminar was organised today at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, in memory of the distinguished Urdu poet, and educationist, Saifi Sopori. The event brought together prominent poets, writers, critics, researchers, and literary personalities from across the Valley to pay rich tributes to the late scholar's remarkable contributions to Urdu language and literature.

The inaugural session was presided over by noted educationist and scholar Prof. Nazir Ahmad Malik, while Rafi Ahmad Masoodi, former Chief Education Officer, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Also present in the presidium were Prof. Ayaz Rasool Nazki and Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, former Secretary of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Saleem Salik, Editor of Sheeraza Urdu,

who warmly greeted the guests and emphasised that the Academy remains committed to highlighting the services of literary figures like Saifi Sopori. He noted that such seminars are vital for connecting younger generations with the region's rich literary traditions.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Ayaz Rasool Nazki reflected on Saifi Sopori's creative legacy, stating that his poetic expression expanded the intellectual dimensions of Urdu ghazal. "Saifi Sopori was a poet of refined sensibility who beautifully portrayed themes of human emotion, truth, and spiritual awareness. His poetry remains rooted in classical tradition while embracing the relevance of modern thought," he remarked.

Several eminent speakers, including Dr. Nazir Azad, Ayaz Rasool Nazki, Shaikat Shafi, Hasan Anzar, and Prof. Nazir Ahmad Malik, presented detailed papers on Saifi Sopori's life and



literary contributions. They unanimously observed that Saifi Sopori's poetry transcends mere romanticism or abstract thought,

embodying instead the social consciousness of his time. In his presidential address, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Malik

described Saifi Sopori as a poet who infused Urdu literature with moral, spiritual, and intellectual depth. "His poetry is not just a

play of words—it is a living philosophy that inspires self-realization and an appreciation of the beauty of existence," he said.

Guest of Honour Rafi Ahmad Masoodi lauded Saifi Sopori as a "beautiful blend of scholarship and humility," remarking that he was not only a teacher but a living institution for his students. He added that Sopori's poetry reflects the fragrance of Kashmir's culture, humanity, and deep-rooted traditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi highlighted Sopori's poetic innovation, observing that his work successfully balanced classical form with modern sensibility. "His ghazals carry profound philosophical undertones and a sincere reflection of life's complex emotions," he said.

The second session of the seminar featured a thematic (Tarhi) mushaira, presided over by renowned poet Rafiq Raaz, with Rukhsana Jabeen and Shabir Ahmad Shabir as distin-

guished guests. Prominent poets, including Rafiq Raaz, Rukhsana Jabeen, Shabir Ahmad Shabir, Shafi Shadab, Sagar Sarfaraz, Ashraf Adil, Tanveer Tahir, Ahmad Manzoor, Gulzar Jaffar, Rashid Azmi, Parvaiz Manos, Athar Basheer, Ahmad Rayees, Sabir Nowsheri, and Ashhar Ashraf, presented their verses based on the given poetic line, receiving enthusiastic applause from the audience. The proceedings were conducted gracefully by Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Lone, who managed the program with scholarly finesse and also shared his insightful reflections on Saifi Sopori's personality and literary vision.

The day-long seminar proved to be a meaningful tribute to Saifi Sopori's enduring legacy, reaffirming his role as a poet of thought and sensitivity. Participants resolved to promote further research on his life and works to ensure that his intellectual and poetic heritage continues to inspire generations to come.

KU holds training workshop for school teachers on mental health interventions among students

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 22: The Department of Social Work, University of Kashmir (KU), began a two-day training workshop for school educators on 'Time Dependent Prevention and Early Intervention of Mental Health Issues in School Settings' at the University's Main Campus.

The programme aims to build the capacity of



teachers to identify, respond to, and prevent mental health issues among students through structured interventions and school-based strategies.

The workshop includes interactive sessions, skill-based modules, and discussions on early intervention strategies and is being attended by school teachers from various districts.

Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, said that the University is committed to addressing youth mental health as a crucial aspect of holistic education. "Teachers are often the first to notice when a child is struggling, and empowering them with the right tools and understanding can make all the difference," she said.

Noted psychiatrist Dr. Arshid Hussain, IMHANS Srinagar, in his remarks, highlighted the need for early intervention and community-based mental health models in schools. "Teachers can play a transformative role in nurturing mental well-being among children when equipped with scientific and empathetic approaches," he said.

Dr. Aadil Bashir, faculty, Department of Social Work KU and Principal Investigator (PI), said that the workshop aims to bridge the gap between research and practice by translating findings into actionable tools for educators.

The workshop is part of an ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research)-sponsored research project on primary prevention interventions for youth in Kashmir, carried out by the Department of Social Work led by Dr. Aadil Bashir as the Principal Investigator (PI).

Drawing from rigorous field research and assessments, the team has developed a practical manual titled "Wal Sukoon Chandav" (Come, Let's Find Peace), a guide designed to support students' emotional well-being, promote resilience, and foster safe, responsive school environments.

Radio Uri 90 FM: The Voice That Unites the Borderlands

HT NEWS DESK

URI, OCT 23: In the breathtaking yet challenging terrain of Uri, a town nestled near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, Radio Uri 90 FM stands as a shining example of how communication can heal, connect, and empower. Supported by the Indian Army, the station has transformed into the heartbeat of the border community—a space where information, culture, and emotion meet.

Every day, Radio Uri 90 FM broadcasts a blend of news, cultural programs, awareness campaigns, and entertainment shows, reaching even the remotest villages where internet or television signals often fail. From updates on local development works and weather forecasts to discussions on education, women empowerment, and health awareness, the radio has become an essential part of daily life in Uri.

The station's vibrant team—RJ

Majid, RJ Afshan, RJ Sanjeel, RJ Danish, and RJ Mehak bring the airwaves alive with their energy and dedication. Their local connect, warmth, and commitment to community upliftment have made them household names. Whether it's a cheerful morning show, an inspiring talk with local achievers, or an emergency alert—these RJs ensure that their listeners are informed, inspired, and entertained.

From 2 years, Radio Uri 90 FM has also played a significant role in promoting local talent. It gives a platform to local singers, poets, and storytellers to showcase their creativity. Traditional Kashmiri and Pahari music, folk tales, and local art regularly feature on-air, preserving the region's rich cultural heritage for younger generations.

Beyond entertainment, the station works closely with local authorities and social organizations to spread awareness on social issues such as education for girls, envi-



ronmental conservation, mental health, drug abuse prevention, and hygiene. During crises like landslides, floods, or heavy snowfall

the radio becomes a lifeline of information, broadcasting vital updates and connecting rescue teams with local residents.

The employment opportunities offered by Radio Uri have also changed many lives. For youth living in this remote border belt, the station is not only a workplace but also a symbol of dignity, purpose, and community service. It has inspired many to pursue careers in media and public communication.

Listeners describe Radio Uri 90 FM as a "voice of the people", one that bridges the distance between hearts divided by geography and challenges. Its message of peace, unity, and positivity continues to echo across the mountains reminding everyone that even in the farthest corners of the country, hope speaks loud and clear through the radio waves.

With its motto "Pahadu Ke Dhun" Radio Uri 90 FM continues to touch lives, connect communities, and keep the spirit of Uri alive—proving that true development begins when people are heard, respected, and empowered.

PDP Holds Workers' Meeting at Devsar, Bashir Ahmad Zakir Elected Block President

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 23: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) today held an important workers' meeting at the Tehsil headquarters Devsar, chaired by senior party leader Mohammad Sartaj Madni.

During the meeting, party workers discussed various organizational matters and future strategies to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. On this occasion, Bashir Ahmad Zakir was unanimously elected as the PDP Block President for Devsar.

Later, while interacting with media representatives, Mohammad Sartaj Madni reaffirmed the PDP's strong commitment to addressing the genuine concerns of the people and ensuring special attention towards resolving their day-to-day problems.

He said the PDP is determined to promote peace, progress, and prosperity in the region through sincere public service. Madni urged



party workers to remain connected with the common people and work tirelessly to strengthen the organization at every level.

He added that with people's trust and coop-

eration, the Peoples Democratic Party will continue to play a constructive and responsible role in the political and social development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sadiq Memorial Kupwara Annual Day Shines with Stellar Student Performances

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, OCT 23: The Sadiq Memorial Educational Institute, Kupwara, celebrated its Annual Function Day 2025 with great enthusiasm and cultural fervor. The event witnessed overwhelming participation from students, teachers and parents, as young learners showcased their talent through a series of performances, speeches and cultural presentations that reflected both educational excellence and traditional values.

The function was graced by renowned educationist and PSAJK Founder, G.N. Var, as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour included Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Kupwara Mohammad Maqbool, Former CEO Kupwara Javid Iqbal Wani, Principal GHSS Sulkoat Bashir Ahmad, Vice Principal Women's Degree College Sulkoat Farooq Faizan, Senior Lecturer Abdul Waheed, Chairman Sadiq Memorial Kupwara Mohsin Hussain, Principal Tabassum Farooq and ZNO Kupwara Faiz Wani.

The event began with a recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Shariff, followed by welcome addresses and vibrant performances by students that captivated the audience. From motivational speeches to thought-provoking skits, sports and colourful cultural presentations, the day was a celebration of the students' creativity, confidence and discipline.

Speaking on the occasion, G.N. Var lauded the school administration, staff, and students for their outstanding dedication to

education despite economic challenges.

Var said, "Sadiq Memorial Educational Institute has proved today that talent knows no boundaries. The students have shown excellence in every field, whether in speeches, cultural programs or academics. I am deeply impressed by the dedication of the school management for keeping the flame of education alive in such a far-flung area."

He added, "This institute deserves every possible support from the community so that it continues to provide quality education to underprivileged children. Every parent dreams of seeing their child succeed and Sadiq Memorial is turning those dreams into reality." ZEO Kupwara Mohammad Maqbool appreciated the school's commitment. He said "Sadiq Memorial is not just a school, it is a mission of education and values. The hard work of the teachers and management is clearly visible in the students' confidence and performances."

Vice Principal Women's Degree College Sulkoat Farooq Faizan described the event as a "celebration of discipline and determination. Institutions like Sadiq Memorial are the backbone of our society, and community support for them is essential."

Former CEO Kupwara Javid Iqbal Wani highlighted the school's growing impact on local education. "Schools like Sadiq Memorial are shaping the future of Kupwara. The event was a reflection of strong academic leadership and genuine dedication. I congratulate the entire team for their remarkable contribution."

DC Srinagar inspects progress of Noor Jehan Bridge at Qamarwari

Directs for speedy completion of remaining works to ensure immediate commissioning of the vital project

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 23: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today conducted an onsite visit to Rs 14.77 crore nearing completion project of Noor Jehan Bridge over River Jhelum at Qamarwari and assessed the progress of ongoing works.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Executive Engineers of R&B, SDA, Tehsildars of Eidgah & Shalteng and other concerned.

During his visit, the DC re-

viewed the pace and quality of work on the bridge being constructed over the River Jhelum connecting Noorbagh with Qamarwari. He directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the completion of remaining works to ensure speedy commissioning of the vital project, which is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity in the area.

He also instructed concerned Officers to remove all bottlenecks, ensuring proper road alignment and complete finishing works on a war footing.

The DC emphasized that the completion of the Noor Jehan Bridge will significantly decongest traffic on the existing Qa-



marwari-Cement Bridge and provide alternative connectivity between Noorbagh and Qamarwari areas across River Jhelum.

Pertinently, load testing of the bridge has been completed on the bridge.

Later, the DC visited the Parimpora Fruit Mandi, one of the largest horticultural markets in Kashmir and held a detailed interaction with Mandi members and traders.

He reviewed the progress on works undertaken for development and upgradation of the Mandi including macadamisation and upgradation of approach roads and internal links, besides other infrastructure improvements being car-

ried out by the Srinagar Development Authority and R&B Department.

On the occasion, the DC assured the members of the Fruit Mandi that land for truck terminal has been identified and shall be developed under National Clean Air programme (NCAP) to facilitate smooth movement of vehicles, traders, and goods.

Besides, senior Officers of District Administration, President of New Kashmir Fruit Association Parimpora, Basheer Ahmad Basheer, Vice President, Anil Kumar, General Secretary Mohammad Ayoub and other members of the Association accompanied the DC during the visit to Fruit Mandi Parimpora.

JMC Commissioner conducts extensive tour of Greater Kailash

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 23: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 68- Greater Kailash- an important and fast-developing area within the municipal limits.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav inspected several prominent locations including Greater Kailash Shiv Mandir, Fountain Chowk, Jalochak Basti, Greater Kailash Park and Royal Avenue. The tour was aimed at assessing the on-ground condition of public infrastructure and identifying areas where developmental intervention is required.

Members of the Greater Kailash Residents Welfare Society and several locals met the Commissioner and apprised him of the pressing civic issues affecting the area. They raised various demands for improvement and up-gradation of civic amenities, including renovation and beautification of the pond near the Shiv Mandir, completion of the Nallah work to ensure proper drainage and prevent water-logging during the rainy season, laying of new lanes and drains in the Jalochak Basti to improve sanitation and connectivity, repair of the collapsed boundary wall to restore safety and aesthetics of the Greater Kailash Park and completion of pending lane and drain works in the Royal Avenue area.

Dr. Yadav listened patiently to the residents and assured them that the issues raised would be prioritized. He emphasized that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to ensuring equitable development of all areas under its jurisdiction. He directed the concerned officers to prepare detailed estimates for the pending developmental works for timely completion of the same.

The Commissioner said that public participation plays a vital role in shaping a clean, sustainable and well-developed city.

Health Officer JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma; Executive Engineer, Division 5, Er. Yasir Bashir Kitchloo; Chief Transport Officer, S. Dharamveer Singh and Sanitation Officer, Parshotam Kumar accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

Samba: District Ujjwala Committee reviews implementation of PMUY 3.0

Rakh Barotian, Bari Villages tagged for 100% saturation under DAJGUA

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, OCTOBER 23: Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Ujjwala Committee (DUC) to review and streamline the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) 3.0 in Samba District.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, HPCL, BPCL) and officers from stakeholder departments including Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), District Industries Centre (DIC), Revenue, Rural Development, Urban Local Bodies, Transport, Fisheries, Agriculture and



Employment Departments.

At the outset, Assistant Director, FCS&CA Rahul Gupta pre-

sented a detailed overview of the PMUY application verification and seeding process.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon maintaining transparency, accountability

and inter-departmental coordination for expeditious release of LPG connections under PMUY. She directed all concerned departments to ensure timely verification of connections as per the guidelines.

Special focus was laid on Rakh Barotian and Bari Villages, identified for complete saturation of LPG connections under the Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for reviewing progress at regular intervals with each department submitting updated verification reports to ensure that no eligible household is left out in the process.

ADDC Rajouri reviews progress of RDD schemes and budgetary heads

Stresses timely completion of pending works

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 23: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq today chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to assess the progress of the schemes and budgetary heads being implemented by the Rural Development Department in the district.

Taking a detailed review of PRI Capex works, the ADDC was informed that out of 2862 proposed works, 2756

have been tendered and 1748 allotted so far. The ADDC instructed to complete the allotment process for the remaining works within two weeks.

He also reviewed the progress under BDC, DDC, SSY, Aspirational Panchayats and ABDP components, besides taking stock of the status of CDF works. He directed the department to expedite tendering, allotment and execution of all pending projects.

While reviewing the PMAY scheme, the ADDC instructed the officers to prioritize the completion of all houses cur-

rently under construction. He also reviewed the status of MGNREGA, emphasizing the completion of e-KYC of beneficiaries to ensure smooth wage disbursement.

He further conducted a block-wise review of the generation of MGNREGA Persondays and the status of wage payments.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed; Assistant Commissioner Development Auqil Naveed; Executive Engineer REW; BDOs; AEEs; JEs; other district and sectoral officers.

Joint drive conducted in Ukhral to enforce drug control regulation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 23: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aliyas Khan, a joint inspection was conducted by the Revenue Department, Police and Drug Control authorities in the Ukhral area to ensure strict compliance with drug control regulations and address safety concerns in the region.

The drive was undertaken under the directions issued by the Deputy Commissioner during a meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) which met to review control measures against drug trafficking, substance abuse and associated safety challenges in the district.

The inspection aimed to ensure that chemist shops operate strictly within the legal framework and are not involved in the illegal sale of psychotropic drugs. The teams also checked the functioning of CCTV cameras in medical shops to enhance sur-



veillance and accountability.

The proactive measure aimed to serve as a deterrent against illegal practices and promote transparency in the pharmaceutical sector. The inspection teams thoroughly examined sales records and compliance practices related to the sale of psychotropic substances requiring careful regulation.

All medical shop owners were asked to adhere to the prescribed norms and avoid selling psychotropic drugs without valid prescriptions. The shopkeepers were also directed to maintain an adequate stock of essential medicines to ensure genuine patients are not inconvenienced.

DC Ramban reviews progress of developmental works across key sectors

Directs departments to redress public grievances, expedite project completion

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, OCTOBER 23: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aliyas Khan today directed the executing agencies and stakeholder departments to resolve public grievances on priority, especially those related to basic amenities and developmental works. He also reviewed the progress of the projects being implemented under the District Capex Budget and other developmental schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner issued the directions while reviewing the action taken by the departments on issues raised during his recent public outreach programmes held across the Subdivisions Gool, Banihal, Ramsoo and other tehsils of the district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Assistant Commissioner Development Sheraz Ahmed; Executive Engineers, AEEs and other officers from PWD, PMGSY, REW and allied departments.



Referring to the limited working season and approaching win-

ters, the DC instructed departments, particularly the Rural

Engineering Wing (REW) and PWD R&B, to expedite allotment and

initiation of allotted works to ensure their timely completion. He emphasized strict adherence to quality standards particularly in roads and other infrastructure projects.

The DC further directed REW to ensure early retendering of remaining works and start of allotted works. He also reviewed the status of developmental projects of Urban Local Bodies, Youth Services & Sports, Education and Revenue departments.

Underscoring the importance of effective utilization of funds, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to achieve their financial and physical targets within the stipulated time frame.

Providing feedback, the officers highlighted the bottlenecks impeding progress on certain projects. The DC addressed most of these issues on the spot by issuing necessary directions to the concerned officers for immediate redressal, ensuring smooth implementation of developmental initiatives across the district.

Div Com Kashmir Inspects Operational Readiness of 60 MLD STP Noorbagh

Project covering 15000 Households in Srinagar, to be commissioned on October 31: Anshul Garg

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today conducted an on-site inspection of the 60 Million Litres Daily (MLD) Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh, Srinagar, to assess its operational readiness ahead of its commissioning scheduled for October 31.

The inspection was carried out after completion of a project of the Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme for Greater Srinagar, initiated under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) at a cost of Rs 143 Cr which was later revised to Rs 157 Cr.

During the visit, Div Com highlighted the critical importance of the project in strengthening urban sanitation infrastructure and improving environmental and health standards in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Garg



informed that the project was executed by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) under the supervision of the Housing and Urban Development

Department.

"We have commenced the trial run of the 60 MLD STP after NBCC and UEED geared up their resources to complete this long-

pending project", Div Com said and added that once commissioned it will immediately benefit around 15,000 households in Srinagar city.

Acknowledging the city's expanding population since the project's inception, Garg announced that the administration is already planning the second phase of the project of 70 MLD capacity to cater increasing requirements in proportion to growth of the city.

He also directed the Superintending Engineer, UEED, to initiate the process for acquiring a dedicated power supply line to ensure uninterrupted functioning of the plant and also get the DPR finalised for the utility shifting, tertiary treatment, automated quality monitoring and other infrastructural requirements within 1 week for consideration of the Administrative Department.

During his interaction with local residents, the Div Com listened to their grievances regarding sewerage and stormwater issues and assured them that their concerns would be resolved at the earliest.

Addressing media queries about the power scenario in the valley, Garg said that power supply remains a top priority for the administration. "Regular reviews are being conducted at both the UT and Divisional levels to ensure regular power supply", he said.

"Currently the concerned department is conducting pruning of trees, maintenance works, and augmentation of buffer stock of transformers to ensure overall preparation for winter", he said. The power scenario this winter is expected to be better than in previous years," he added.

The Div Com was accompanied by the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, and officers from the Revenue Department and UEED during the visit.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on ABHA ID Enrolment, PMJAY-Sehat (Golden Card) Coverage, TB Control Measures

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 23:- The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress of health initiatives in the district, including the enrolment of Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs and the coverage under the PMJAY-Sehat (Golden Card) scheme.

The meeting also assessed the ongoing Tuberculosis (TB) control measures and related health interventions.



At the outset, the DC emphasized the importance of achieving universal coverage under the ABHA ID initiative to ensure seamless access to digital health services. He directed the Officers to intensify awareness campaigns and expedite the registration process across all Medical Zones/Blocks in the district so that citizens are benefited from the government initiatives.

On the occasion, the DC also reviewed the progress of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), under which Golden Cards are issued to eligible beneficiaries.

The DC called for coordinated efforts to saturate the process so that all eligible families can avail benefits of cashless healthcare services at empanelled hospitals.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the performance of Srinagar District under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). He commended the Health Department and associated teams for their accelerated efforts and improved performance in efforts towards TB elimination.

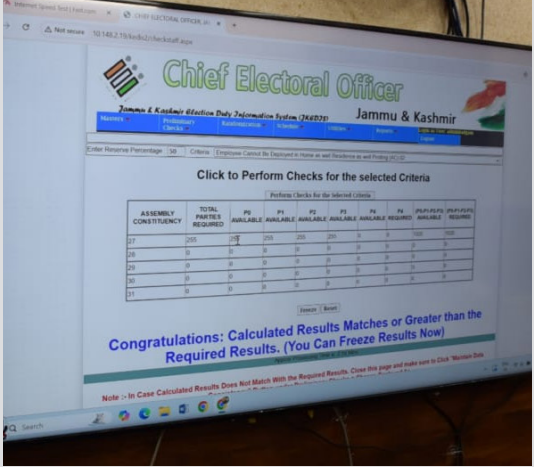
The DC emphasized the need to sustain the current momentum and further strengthen grassroots-level initiatives to achieve the goal of a TB-free district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; Medical Superintends of SKIMS, JLNH, SMHS, CD Hospital, District Tuberculosis Officer, and all Zonal Medical Officers.

First Randomisation of Polling Staff Held at Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 23: The first randomisation of polling staff designated for deployment across 173 polling stations for the Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam was today held at Budgam.



The randomisation was carried out by the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Through this process, software-generated deployment of 1020 employees, including a 50% reserve, was completed to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality in the deployment of polling staff.

Returning Officer (RO) 27-AC Budgam, Deputy District Election Officer (Dy. DEO), Nodal Officer ETBPS, and other officers were present during the randomisation process.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO Budgam emphasised that the District Administration is fully committed to conducting free, fair, inclusive, and peaceful elections in the constituency.

He further directed all concerned officers to ensure that every arrangement from training of polling staff to logistics and communication facilities is completed well in advance as per the ECI mandate.

The DEO also reiterated that transparency and accountability shall remain the guiding principles throughout all stages of the electoral process for bye-Election to 27-AC Budgam.

SWD Srinagar organizes Exposure visit for CCI Students under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: The Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Srinagar today organized an Exposure Visit for students of Child Care Institutions (Palash/Pareesha) Shalimar to the SPS Museum and SPS Library, Lal Mandi Srinagar under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.

The visit was aimed at providing opportunities for observation, discussion, and knowledge exchange among the students.

During the visit, students first visited the SPS Museum, where they learned about history, science, art, and culture through firsthand observation of artifacts and exhibits. They



explored sections showcasing ancient

sculptures, coins, animal skins, heritage crafts, weapons, and papier-mache art, gaining valuable insights into the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

Later, the students visited the SPS Library, where they explored various books and resources while learning about modern library systems, information management, and potential career opportunities in library sciences. The visit aimed to encourage lifelong learning and academic curiosity, highlighting the importance of libraries as free and open sources of information and knowledge.

The students were accompanied by staff members from SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar, along with educators and caretakers from Palash and Pareesha.

DLSA Srinagar holds Legal Awareness Programme for Inmates at Central Jail

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority, organized an awareness programme at Central Jail, Srinagar, with the objective of spreading awareness among inmates regarding their legal rights and available legal remedies.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief and was conducted under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman.

The programme focused on educating the inmates about the process of filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) before the Supreme Court of India and the assistance available through Legal Aid Defence Counsels.

Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel delivered an insightful session on the filing procedure of SLPs and apprised the inmates



of their legal rights as undertrial prisoners.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels spoke about ensuring access to justice at every crucial stage, including pre-arrest, arrest, and remand and emphasized the importance of timely legal representation to safeguard constitutional rights. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to premature release, parole, and furlough of prisoners was also highlighted.

ACD Kupwara reviews developmental works in border village Jumagund Qadirabad

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 23: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Arshad Qadir Bhat, today visited the remote and border village Jumagund of Block Qadirabad, District Kupwara, to review the progress of developmental works being executed under various Rural Development Department (RDD) schemes.

During the visit, the ACD took stock of ongoing and completed works under MGNREGA, PMAY(G), 14th/15th FC, and other flagship programmes aimed at improving rural infrastructure and livelihood opportunities. He inspected several works on the ground, including road connectivity, community assets, and water conservation structures, and instructed the concerned officials to maintain quality standards and adhere to project timelines.

Interacting with the villagers, the ACD gave a patient hearing to their griev-

ances and suggestions related to basic amenities, road connectivity, and employment generation. He assured the residents that their genuine demands would be taken up with higher authorities for early redressal.

He directed the technical and field staff to work with utmost transparency, accountability, and community participation, stressing that the development of border areas remains a top priority of the district administration. The ACD further emphasised the need for regular monitoring, social auditing, and timely completion of works to ensure the tangible impact of government schemes on the ground.

The visit, aimed at strengthening field-level supervision, reaffirmed the administration's commitment to the holistic development of far-flung and border habitations, ensuring that the benefits of welfare and development schemes reach every household in these remote areas.

SKUAST-K takes Modern wheat Technology to Tribal farmers of Gurez

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 17: In a remarkable stride towards agricultural empowerment of tribal communities, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) conducted a two-day mega outreach programme, under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) – AICRP on Seeds (Crops), NSP Srinagar Centre, in collaboration with KVK/MAR&ES Gurez.

The initiative marked the formal introduction of SKUAST-K's most novel wheat variety 'Shalimar Wheat-3' (SW-3) to the tribal farmers of Gurez valley, ensuring that the benefits of latest agri-technology reached even the last villages along the LoC, including



Chorwan, Gujraan, Abdulain and Chakwali.

A record 70 quintals of SW-3 seed, coupled with the scientific package of practices, were

distributed among 700 tribal farmers, covering over 70 hectares (1400 kanals) of land across the valley. The event drew wide appreciation for bringing cutting-

edge research directly to the doorstep of the most remote farming communities.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Investigator NSP (Seeds), SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Gowhar Ali, highlighted that Shalimar Wheat-3 represents the university's latest innovation, a biofortified, disease-resistant, and high-yielding variety capable of producing up to 38 quintals per hectare, significantly enhancing nutritional and economic security.

The key contributor to the development of SW-3, Dr. Shabir Hussain Wani, emphasized that adoption of the technology on scientific lines would boost productivity and minimize dependency on external seed sources

in Gurez.

Speaking on the occasion, Head KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, reiterated SKUAST-K's commitment to preserving traditional crops while introducing University Released Varieties (URVs) to improve livelihood opportunities under natural and organic farming systems. He added that the impact assessment and monitoring of the technology adoption will continue to ensure long-term benefits for the tribal farming community.

The participating farmers expressed heartfelt gratitude to SKUAST-Kashmir for bridging the technology gap and bringing sustainable agricultural solutions to the frontiers of Gurez valley.

HT EDITORIAL

Throw open Noor Jehan bridge at the earliest

On Thursday Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo conducted an onsite visit of the Noor Jehan bridge coming up over river Jhelum at Qamarwari. The DC was accompanied by a battery of officers and officials and he was apprised about the pace of work on the bridge. The work on the bridge has been going on for the past 12 years or so and the people are yearning for the day when it would be thrown open for vehicular traffic.

It seems the wait is almost over and the bridge is likely to be thrown open very soon. The bridge is coming up at a cost of Rs 14.77 crores and it would lead to decongestion of traffic in the Qamarwari area. The bridge will connect the Noorbagh area with the Qamarwari area. The DC directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the completion of remaining works to ensure speedy commissioning of the vital project. Instructions were also issued to the officers to remove all bottlenecks for ensuring a proper road alignment.

Over the past one decade or so the bridge has missed many deadlines and hopefully this time around the same would be thrown open. It would be in place to mention that the load testing of the bridge has already been completed. Since a green signal has been given in this regard it is imperative that the bridge is thrown open sooner than later. The officers and officials need to pull up their socks and ensure that the remaining works are completed without any further delay.

Roads and bridges are pivotal when it comes to the infrastructure development of a particular place. Given this fact it is important that the construction works on roads and bridges are completed well on time. The deadlines set in this regard need to be followed in letter and spirit and no delay should be accepted by the people at helm. In case there is some delay in commissioning stern action should be taken against the violators.

Since the Noor Jehan bridge is set to be inaugurated soon the concerned department should ensure that the other development works being carried out at the other places are completed well on time. No laxity should be allowed in this regard and officers as well as officials should be held accountable for delay in commissioning of any development project. This would send a stern message to the other officers and officials.

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Vedic Code, Modern Cure: The Neurophysiological Wisdom of Kartik and Magh Snan



Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

The sacred mandates for these baths are deeply rooted in the foundational texts of the Indian tradition, revealing their cosmic and spiritual importance. The Padma Purana, particularly its Uttara-Khanda, extensively details the spiritual efficacy of Kartik Snan (October-November). This month is deemed exceptionally sacred, marking the time of Lord Vishnu's awakening from cosmic sleep (Yoganidra).

The profound tradition of Sanatan Dharma, often called the eternal way, has for millennia anchored itself in practices that harmoniously integrate the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of human existence. Among the most rigorous and revealing of these are the ritual baths, or Snans, performed during the cold winter months of Kartik and Magh. These centuries-old observances are far from mere hygienic acts; they are meticulously timed acts of spiritual discipline that intuitively harness the very physiological benefits modern science is now validating through cold hydrotherapy. The ancient Indian knowledge system, as encoded in these rituals, demonstrates a sophisticated and prescient understanding of hormesis—the principle that controlled, mild stress can trigger a beneficial biological response, leading to greater resilience and well-being.

The sacred mandates for these baths are deeply rooted in the foundational texts of the Indian tradition, revealing their cosmic and spiritual importance. The Padma Purana, particularly its Uttara-Khanda, extensively details the spiritual efficacy of Kartik Snan (October-November). This month is deemed exceptionally sacred, marking the time of Lord Vishnu's awakening from cosmic sleep (Yoganidra). Consequently, bathing in early hours during this period is believed to purify the body, mind, and soul, acting as a potent mechanism for the cleansing of accumulated karma and the removal of ultimately leading toward salvation (moksha). This act of confronting and overcoming physical inertia at the coldest time of the day is itself the spiritual mechanism for generating accelerated Punya.

Following Kartik, the observance of Magh Snan (January-February) intensifies the discipline. Lauded in texts like the Skanda Purana and Matsya Purana, Magh is considered a month when celestial beings and ancestors descend to Earth to participate invisibly in the ritual. These ancient mandates confirm that the

bath is not just a ritual but an anchor for profound self-mastery, often integrated into intensive ascetic regimens.

This insistence on cold immersion, particularly at the Brahma Muhurta, reveals the practical genius of the ancient sages. Modern scientific research into Cold Water Immersion (CWI) provides compelling, concrete validation for the physical and mental benefits traditionally associated with these snans. The traditional claim of enhanced freshness, energy, and focus directly corresponds to CWI's effect on the neurochemical cascade. Studies have shown that cold exposure triggers a massive release of catecholamines, including a staggering 530% increase in Noradrenaline and a 250% increase in Dopamine. Noradrenaline is vital for vigilance, and cognitive function, while Dopamine regulates motivation. This acute release of powerful neurotransmitters provides a clear biochemical basis for the hyper-alertness required for pre-dawn rituals and the traditional claim of improved mental clarity.

Furthermore, the spiritual goal of cultivating discipline finds a powerful correlative in modern neurophysiological adaptation. Stepping into cold water requires the conscious decision to override the primal, survival-driven instinct to retreat. This intentional embrace of discomfort strengthens the Prefrontal Cortex (PFC), the brain region responsible for impulse control, decision-making, and self-discipline. The consistent, month-long practice ensures that this acute physiological stressor is transformed into a repeated training tool, reinforcing the self-mastery pathways essential for spiritual and mental elevation.

The concept of the theological purification of the spiritual essence, also finds a parallel in the body's physiological cleansing. The cold shock induces intense vasoconstriction followed by a strong, compensatory vasodilation. This action stimulates circulation and lymphatic drainage, effectively acting as a biological pump to remove cellular waste and inflammatory markers—a process

akin to a measurable physiological detoxification. Moreover, long-term CWI has been associated with cardiovascular resilience and, immunologically, studies have demonstrated a significant reduction in self-reported sickness absence among regular cold shower participants, confirming the traditional view that snans enhance immunity and prevent disease through purification.

A key element in the survival of this tradition is the nuanced understanding provided by Ayurveda. While the ritual mandates cold baths, the traditional system of medicine also recognizes that cold water during winter can aggravate the Vata and Kapha Doshas. To mitigate this potential systemic imbalance and avoid pathology, the tradition integrated sophisticated countermeasures. The rigorous discipline of Kartik Snan often extends beyond the daily bath for many devotees who undertake Ganga Sevan (residence by the Ganga). These individuals observe Kalpvash, residing on the banks of the holy river, particularly the Ganga, for the entire month of Kartik. This profound dedication is exemplified in sacred cities like Varanasi (Kashi), where the tradition of residing near the ghats for the full month is a time-honoured spiritual aspiration.

The rituals of Kartik Snan and Magh Snan stand as profound proof of the foresight embedded within the ancient Indian knowledge system. By aligning human practices with cosmic rhythms and environmental stressors, the sages codified hydrotherapy's benefits centuries before Western science, offering a holistic model that addresses physical vitality, mental clarity, and spiritual connection. The enduring value of this wisdom lies in its accessibility and its comprehensive, integrated approach to well-being, providing a powerful and low-cost solution for enhancing resilience in the modern world.

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Darbar Move: A Cultural Bridge Between J&K



MOOL RAJ

The revival of the historic Darbar Move by the Jammu and Kashmir government marks a momentous development in the region's administrative and cultural landscape. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's decision to restore this age-old practice has reignited a long-standing debate over tradition, governance, and economic practicality. The move, which involves the biannual shifting of the civil secretariat and other government offices between the twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu, was a defining feature of Jammu and Kashmir's administrative heritage for nearly a century and a half. It symbolized not only a functional necessity in the bygone era but also a cultural bridge uniting two diverse regions—each distinct in geography, climate, and sentiment. The Darbar Move, first introduced by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872, was conceived to ensure equitable administrative access to both the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu plains. In those days, the road connectivity between the two regions was poor, and communication was often hindered by harsh weather conditions. To overcome these limitations, the Maharaja decided that the civil secretariat and key government departments would shift to Jammu during the winter months and return to Srinagar in the summer. Over time, this semi-annual migration evolved into a deep-rooted tradition, representing a symbol of unity, administrative inclusiveness, and cultural integration. Even after 1952, when Jammu and Kashmir was accorded special status, the practice continued as a vital link between the regions—ensuring that governance was not confined to one part of the state but accessible to all.

However, the Darbar Move was abolished in June 2021 by the then Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, citing the advent of modern technology, improved

road networks, and the establishment of a robust e-office system. The decision was justified on the grounds of efficiency and economy, as the annual shifting of thousands of employees, records, and logistics incurred huge expenses running into crores of rupees. Despite these arguments, the abolition was met with disappointment and resentment in several quarters, particularly among Jammu's business community, for whom the Darbar Move had long been a source of livelihood. Hotels, restaurants, transporters, taxi operators, and traders in Jammu relied heavily on the influx of government employees and officials during the winter months, which provided a much-needed economic boost to the region. Now, after a hiatus of more than four years, the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government has decided to reinstate this traditional practice. The decision, according to the Chief Minister, aims to restore the historical and socio-cultural legacy of Jammu and Kashmir while simultaneously taking the administration closer to the people. The move has been described by the government as a step toward reviving an old bond of inter-regional interaction and ensuring that governance remains people-centric rather than confined to the digital domain. The file proposing the restoration of the Darbar Move was recently approved by the Lieutenant Governor, signaling the formal commencement of the process. The General Administration Department (GAD) has since issued Order No. 1357-JK(GAD) of 2025, outlining the schedule for the closure of government offices in the summer capital Srinagar and their reopening in the winter capital Jammu.

As per the order, thirty-nine departments, including the Chief Minister's Secretariat, will move to Jammu in full strength, while forty other departments will move partially, with a limited staff contingent of ten officials or thirty-three percent of their total workforce, whichever is less. This hybrid arrangement seeks to balance tradition with administrative efficiency, reducing the logistical burden while retaining the spirit of the Darbar Move. The decision has been received with enthusiasm in Jammu, especially among the business community, who see it as a revival of the city's economic lifeline. The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its president Arun Gupta, has hailed the government's decision, expressing optimism that

a complete restoration of the Darbar Move in its original form will rejuvenate trade, tourism, and local enterprise. Yet, the revival of this practice has also reignited debates over its contemporary relevance. Critics argue that the socio-economic and technological realities of the 21st century have rendered the Darbar Move obsolete. With advanced e-governance platforms, seamless communication networks, and all-weather road connectivity between the two capitals, there seems to be little administrative justification for physically relocating entire departments twice a year. Opponents view the move as an unnecessary expenditure that drains the exchequer and disrupts the continuity of governance. They contend that the funds spent on logistics, transport, and temporary accommodation could instead be redirected toward public welfare projects, infrastructure, and digital transformation initiatives that would benefit citizens year-round.

Nevertheless, supporters of the Darbar Move counter that the decision transcends mere economics. They emphasize its symbolic and integrative value, asserting that it fosters a sense of unity and shared governance between the regions. The move, they argue, is not simply about shifting offices—it is about bridging historical divides, nurturing inter-regional understanding, and preserving a legacy that has defined Jammu and Kashmir's unique administrative identity for generations. For many, its restoration represents not just a political or administrative act but an emotional reaffirmation of the region's composite culture. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in defending his decision, has stated that governance is not only about files and computers but about human connection and accessibility. By reinstating the Darbar Move, he aims to revive a tradition that once ensured the government's presence in every corner of the region. The administration, he says, must not operate from the confines of a single capital but should remain visible, mobile, and responsive to people's needs across geographical and cultural boundaries. This vision, though rooted in history, is projected as a bridge to the future—one that combines traditional inclusivity with modern adaptability.

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Battle of Op Hill! One of the finest battles fought by the Indian Army



■ BY M S NAZKI

Battle of Op Hill! Everyone was a stranger that night and so was the strange fight to the finish! 1965 had some bullet and bomb scorchers and this was one of the biggest explosions that shook the nuts and bolts of Pakistan grand slam plans!

'OP Hill is located on the Mendhar Ridge which dominates the Line of Control, occupation of OP Hill denies access to our own (Indian) rear areas and provides protection to our lines of communications. Pakistan occupied it and we had to free it'! Needless to mention it was!

'The inter-battalion boundary passes through OP Hill. The Pakistan Generals referred to this complex as 'Chu-e-Nar' and attached great importance to it. Consequently they occupied it at the first opportunity, finding it vacant. A captured diary of a Pak officer revealed that 'Chu-e-Nar' was awarded the Banner of GOC 12 Inf Div of Pakistan, the Pak formation respectively for the sector at that time.' It still is!

'Before I proceed, let me talk you through 12th Infantry Division of Pakistan. The 12th Infantry Division is the largest Pakistani Army infantry division and is currently based in Murree, Punjab close to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. The Chinari Division's headquarters are located in the Murree Hills Cantonment. The brigades of 12th Division are deployed all across Pakistan Occupied Jammu Kashmir and the Line of Control. With 6 Infantry Brigades, First Divisional Artillery brigade and a number of supporting units of Air Defence, Supply, Engineering, Signals and Remount and Veterinary Corps under its command, 12th Infantry division is the largest division of Pakistan Army. The division was formed in 1948, from troops allocated to Pakistan from the old British Indian Army. It was the first division sized formation to be created by the Pakistan Army (the three prior ones, 7th (Golden Arrow), 8th and 10th infantry divisions predated Pakistan). The division went into combat against the Indian army in Kashmir. A notable action was the recapturing of Skardu from the Indian forces, accomplished with help from

tribesmen from the tribal areas. In between the wars the division was active on the ceasefire line, where fighting broke out on several occasions. In 1965 the division undertook Operation Grand Slam, where under the command of 7th Infantry Division, it attacked Chamb. Although its performance was greatly lauded at the time, its commander Maj-Gen Akhtar Hussain Malik was privately criticized by General Ayub Khan, for abandoning several posts in Poonch which were then taken by the Indian army, and for losing the strategically vital Hajir Pir Pass (this would not be retaken until after the ceasefire). Six years later, the division went into action again, this time in the Poonch-Rajouri sector. During the war, it was commanded by Maj-Gen Mohammad Akbar Khan!

'Down the long corridors of documented history there are many sagas of bravery, raw courage and fighting in the face of insurmountable odds which adorn the great history of our army. The Battle of OP Hill is one such operation which was demonstrative of the valor and steadfast resoluteness of the brave Indian soldiers who passed away into oblivion with the words 'For your tomorrow we gave our today'!

'Those who fought it very distinctly remember, OP Hill was an Indian post prior to the 1965 Operations. Vacated by the Indians due to operational commitments, it was occupied by the Pak soldiers. The Pak commanders, realizing its tactical significance, due to its vantage significance overseeing the Mendhar Valley held the post even after the termination of the 1965 war and the consequent Cease Fire Agreement on 23 Sep 1965. A Pakistan OP (observation post) was deployed on the post who directed lethal and effective matchlock shelling on the road axis Mendhar - Balnoi and the Balnoi Base. India reported the violation to the UN. After parleys and discussions with the UN Observers failed, 25 Inf Div decided to evict the enemy from this position. Commander 120 Infantry Brigade was assigned the task to do that. Subsequent to the receipt of orders and quick formulation of plans, a battalion attack was launched on the night of 6/7th Oct 1965, this attack failed. The lessons learnt were applied for the second battle fought on the night of 02/03 Nov 1965 in which OP Hill was captured, though at a very high cost'! But the battle was legendary for more than one reason!

'OP Hill was the scene of a bloody and historic battle fought 56 years ago. Bloody it was, because of its intensity and violence which left heavy casualties. This battle is a classic example of an Infantry Brigade capturing a Battalion defended area in one night in mountainous terrain. The battle itself is a tribute to

the valor and determination of the attacking infantry and Support Artillery!'

'I'm not Tennyson who created words with his magical poetry when he wrote the 'Charge of the Light Brigade', just I will recite those words, 'cannon to right of them, cannon to left of them, cannon in front of them, volleyed and thundered; Stormed at with shot and shell, yet they rode on'! But if I have to recreate that magic of that night, 'everything that the enemy had in form of the machine gun barrels sending spit fire and the guns landing left right and center, these men climb full well knowing as to what would happen at the target end! Had to be a hand to hand, fist and dagger fight (call it bayonet fighting). It was!'

Perhaps at that time in the night the gossip would have been like this on the forming up place (FUP if I'm not wrong), 'wound or Injury or maybe we never meet after the assault? Whatever happens I am your co-warrior; I was born to fight this battle with you.' That night many friends said ad they assaulted the OP Hill, with one aim, 'Aaj to marenga, yah mit jayenge, OP Hill par kal hamara hi OP hoga, Chalo Chalen, dekhte hain kitne pahunchenge aur kitnon ko yaad Rakhegi Duniya'! Everyone of us remembers them in Mendhar and will do so forever!

In 1965 General Ayub Khan forgot one thing, though he was a good friend of our former Field Marshal KM. Cariappa and the latter told him something on the last day of the 1965 Indo-Pak war. The 36-year-old Squadron Leader KC Cariappa was flying near the border and was shot down. A few moments later, he emerged from the wreckage of the war plane and was taken prisoner by the Pakistan army. Like all the officers, he gave his name, rank and unit number and nothing more. The information was relayed to Pakistan Army headquarters at Rawalpindi. An hour later, his captors came rushing to a small cell where he was kept prisoner to know if he was the son of Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Indian chief of armed forces after Independence. KM Cariappa was first appointed as the chief of all three services and later made Army chief. He told them that he was indeed the son of the military legend and they returned. KC Cariappa was never sure of what happened after that but he was worried that his family would not know about his arrest in Pakistan. 'These are old stories but still matter because they will eventually do so in future!'

'A battle starts with the self, and if we lose that there can be a battle with another, Imran Khan should be knowing this because in every battle a human being is a loser just for a bullet head it matters less since the shell drops off. What does it cost in defense industries

in the world, perhaps peanuts but human blood costs more! Lead does not!'

169 Field Regiment Gunners always strike me and in this battle they did an exceptional job! The regiment was raised as 169 Field Regiment in Naushera on 1 November 1963 under the command of Lieutenant Colonel HS Dhaliwal. The class composition of this unit is 'Maratha' with the war cry 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Ki Jai'. The regiment is presently a medium regiment. The Battle of OP Hill took place after the ceasefire came into effect on 23 September 1965. OP Hill was a Border Observation Post in the Bhimber-Gali-Mendhar Sector, 20 km south west of Poonch. This Observation Post (OP) was being used by the Pakistanis to direct accurate artillery fire. To avoid isolation of Balnoi from Mendhar and Krishna Ghati, capture of OP Hill was imperative. 120 Infantry Brigade was tasked to evict the enemy from this strategic location. Following a failed battalion level offensive by 2 Garhwal on 6 and 7 October 1965, a full-fledged brigade attack was mounted on 2 November 1965. After a grim battle lasting 2 days, the enemy was dislodged. For its actions, the 169 Mountain Regiment along with 5 Sikh Light Infantry, 2 Dogra, 7 Sikh and 2r Mountain Composite Regiment (Artillery) were awarded the battle honor 'OP Hill'.

If you want to see what happened 56 years ago then go and see the names of the fighters who charged up the OP Hill on the magnificently made war memorial! A few against many is always at times as to get into dreams of valor and determination. Here the fight was live and not a cinematic interpretation!

But I will still make an attempt to describe the battle, 'the starless sky was casket-black and brooding. Even the clouds seemed morose. Gelid (frozen) hands clasped algid (cold) steel as we gazed upon our foe who was relentless with cannons and the machine guns. Everyone was moving up but some were falling by the bites of the invisible vipers hissing in air! Suddenly the clouds cleared. Their bayonets glimmered cruelly under the eerie moon. The monsters swarmed and swayed below us like corn in a field, yet it seemed there were more of them than a thousand bushels could hold. Our commander raised our proud pennant aloft in defiance. It represented our dreams, our lives and our salvation. If it was taken, OP Hill was ours, the enemy was wrong! We were right up there on OP Hill with tricolor fluttering! But the worst possible thing was that some of them gossiping at FUP (forming up place were not amongst the victorious! The memorial at Balnoi signifies a lot! 'For our tomorrow they gave their today' Remember that!

A Truth Hidden in the Shadows of History

Ambedkar or B.N. Rao? The True Story of the Constitution



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

By the time the Constituent Assembly was formally announced on July 14, 1946, Rao had already collected numerous drafts and legal suggestions for the Constitution in his office. Consequently, he prepared the "First Draft" of the Constitution and submitted it to the Constituent Assembly on October 30, 1947. This draft later became the basis of the Indian Constitution.

The Constitution of India is the world's largest and most comprehensive democratic document. It would be an injustice to history to attribute it to a single individual. The journey of Constitution-making, which began in 1919 and stretched until 1949, involved numerous minds, perspectives, and ideological differences. The roles of B.N. Rao, who drafted the Constitution as Constitutional Advisor, and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, who presented it to the Constituent Assembly as Chairman of the Drafting Committee, are two pillars of Indian democracy. This article presents an objective assessment of their contributions.

One of the most significant events in India's history was November 26, 1949, when the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India. This document is not merely a legal framework, but a living philosophy—a symbol of liberty, equality, and justice. But over time, questions have arisen as to who was the true architect of this Constitution? Was it solely the work of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, or did a silent but decisive figure like B.N. Rao play a greater role in it?

The story of Constitution-making doesn't begin with 1947. Its roots go much deeper—from the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 to the Government of India Act of 1935. These reforms first gave birth to the concept of federal government in India. It was during this period that a name emerges—Sir Binod Behari Narayan Rao, later known as B.N. Rao. Serving in high judicial and constitutional positions in the British administration, he developed a profound understanding of the Indian administrative structure.

By the time the Second Round Table Conference was held in the 1930s, the direction of self-government in India had become clear. After 1932, B.N. Rao was formally involved in the preliminary

preparations for the Constitution. The Constitution Drafting Office was established under his leadership in Delhi. In 1944, he was appointed "Constitutional Adviser" and in 1946, "Principal Constitutional Adviser." His task was to compile all the constitutional drafts, British laws, reports of provincial legislatures, and suggestions from Indian leaders and prepare a basic draft.

By the time the Constituent Assembly was formally announced on July 14, 1946, Rao had already collected numerous drafts and legal suggestions for the Constitution in his office. Consequently, he prepared the "First Draft" of the Constitution and submitted it to the Constituent Assembly on October 30, 1947. This draft later became the basis of the Indian Constitution.

Meanwhile, political events were rapidly changing. In 1946, elections were held for the Constituent Assembly. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, by then known as a renowned jurist and champion of Dalit rights, lost the election from Maharashtra. However, at the urging of Lord Wavell and later Mountbatten, Nehru and the Congress leadership recognized the need for a scholar like Ambedkar to be in the Constituent Assembly. Consequently, the Muslim League of Bengal allocated him a seat from its quota, enabling him to enter the Constituent Assembly in July 1947.

On August 29, 1947, the Constituent Assembly formed a "Drafting Committee," with Ambedkar as its chairman. This committee's task was to review and finalize the draft prepared by B.N. Rao. Rao remained associated with the committee as an official advisor. This is where Ambedkar's role becomes crucial.

Dr. Ambedkar's greatest contribution was that he did not allow Rao's draft to remain a mere legal document—he imbued it with the spirit of social justice and human rights. The fundamental

rights of the Constitution, from Articles 12 to 35, are a result of that vision. Provisions such as equality, liberty, the right against exploitation, religious freedom, and constitutional remedies are rooted in Ambedkar's social vision.

Although many fundamental ideas and institutional structures, such as the Supreme Court, High Courts, the federal structure, and the Directive Principles of State Policy, had already been discussed in the Constituent Assembly, Ambedkar adapted them to the practical and Indian social structure. This is why the Constitution is called a "living document."

The roles of B.N. Rao and Ambedkar were complementary. Rao's approach was legal and structural, while Ambedkar's was social and reformist. Rao laid the foundation for the Constitution, while Ambedkar gave it its soul. This balance is what makes the Indian Constitution unique.

It is also true that the Objectives Resolution of the Constitution (later known as the Preamble) had already been passed by the Constituent Assembly in January 1947. It already contained the spirit of declaring India a "sovereign, democratic republic." Similarly, discussions on fundamental rights had begun in June 1947. But the credit for giving practical shape to these principles goes to the Drafting Committee, headed by Ambedkar.

When the Constitution came into effect after independence, the world saw how a diverse, multilingual, and multi-religious nation could remain united within a constitutional framework. This achievement wasn't the work of a single individual—it was the work of all 299 members who deliberated in the Constituent Assembly for 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days. But it's also true that without B.N. Rao, that basic structure would not have existed,

and without Ambedkar, that structure would have been soulless.

It often happens in history that political symbols overshadow intellectual contributions. Ambedkar was a people's leader, so naturally his name became more famous. Rao's contribution was silent, but deeply decisive. It's like an architect planning a building and someone else bringing it to life and decorating it. If either one is removed, the work remains incomplete.

The time has come for Indian society to view the story of the creation of its Constitution not merely through the lens of personality cult, but as an institutional and intellectual process. The Constitution is not the product of any one individual, but of India's collective consciousness—the consciousness that, after slavery, dreamed of democracy and transformed it into reality.

If we are citizens of independent India today, enjoying the rights of equality and freedom, we must pay tribute to all those who made this journey possible. B.N. Rao's profound legal knowledge, Dr. Ambedkar's social vision, Jawaharlal Nehru's political foresight, Sardar Patel's organizational ability—these are the roots of the mighty tree we call the Indian Constitution.

Therefore, the debate about "who is the real architect" is a narrow perspective. The correct question should be, "Who contributed what to our constitutional process?" History does justice when it looks at the whole truth, not just famous figures. Both B.N. Rao and Dr. Ambedkar are indispensable chapters in that history—one drafted the Constitution, the other gave it soul.

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The Charge Within: A Reflection on Human Nature and the Pull of Negativity



■ DR. SHOIB AHMAD BABA

Though our DNA carries a negative charge, and by nature we should be drawn to the positive, we often find ourselves pulled in other directions—perhaps a reflection of the conflict within the human soul. This paradox, both poetic and profound, invites us to examine a deeper truth about ourselves: that despite being wired—at the molecular level—to connect with the positive, we frequently spiral into habits, thoughts, and energies that oppose it.

Our biological blueprint, DNA, is inherently negative in its electrical charge. In science, this property helps it bind with positively charged molecules and proteins, ensuring stability and function in the beautiful complexity of life. It is, quite literally, drawn to the positive. But can this molecular metaphor also offer insight into our emotional, psychological, and even spiritual existence?

On the surface, it may seem absurd to compare the movement of molecules with the movement of minds. Yet, the human experience is nothing if not layered, and the symbolism here is hard to ignore. Just as DNA seeks out the positive to fulfill its purpose, shouldn't we, as beings conscious of our existence, strive toward light, joy, and goodness?

Yet reality tells a different story. Turn on the news, scroll through social media, or sit in quiet observation of your own thoughts, and you may notice a subtle but persistent drift toward the negative. We dwell on insults more than compliments. We fear loss more than we anticipate gain. We are captivated by conflict and often slow to forgive. Why is it that, despite our 'design,' the positive often feels like a discipline rather than a default?

The answer, perhaps, lies not in biology but in the battlefield of the soul.

Human consciousness is both a gift and a burden. With it comes the power to reflect, imagine, and choose. But this freedom also allows for doubt, resentment, comparison, and self-sabotage. While our cells might follow physical laws with obedient precision, our hearts and minds are swayed by countless invisible forces—memories, traumas, desires, fears, and the ever-competing voices of culture and conscience.

The negativity bias is well documented in psychology. It suggests that humans



are more sensitive to negative stimuli than to positive ones. This bias, rooted in our evolutionary past, once helped us survive by quickly identifying threats. But in the modern world, where the dangers are more abstract—failure, rejection, judgment—this bias often turns inward, sowing seeds of anxiety, envy, and dissatisfaction.

Even in relationships, we see this contradiction unfold. We yearn for connection, for love, for meaning. And yet, how easily are these desires eclipsed by ego, by pride, by the inability to forgive. We hold grudges. We assume the worst. We keep score. The very things we crave—peace, understanding, joy—are pushed away by our own inner resistance.

But all is not lost. If anything, recognizing this contradiction is the first step toward reclaiming the truth of our design. Philosophers and sages across cultures have long taught that the human spirit contains both light and shadow. The purpose of life, then, is not to deny our darker impulses, but to become aware of them—to understand their origins, challenge their control, and choose the higher path. Like DNA seeking out its positive pair, we, too, can orient ourselves toward wholeness.

This is not easy. It requires courage to confront the narratives we've internalized. It takes humility to admit when we are wrong. It takes grace to forgive others and even more to forgive ourselves. But every act of kindness, every moment of self-awareness, every choice to speak truth instead of rumor, or to love instead of judge, brings us closer to alignment with the positive charge within.

In an age of noise and distraction, this work is more vital than ever. The world thrives on polarity. Algorithms favor outrage. Politics profit from division. The pull toward negativity is not just internal—it's systemic. But awareness is power. Just as DNA relies on its negative charge to attract what it needs to thrive, we must lean into our awareness of this paradox to draw near to what truly nourishes us.

Let us then be intentional in how we live. Let us recognize that while we are prone to conflict, we are also capable of compassion. While we may falter, we can rise. And while we may often drift into darkness, we always have the choice to return to the light.

To be human is to live in tension—between what we are and what we could be, between instinct and intention. And perhaps that is where our true beauty lies. Not in being perfect, but in constantly choosing to rise above our defaults. Not in always feeling positive, but in striving to move toward it, again and again.

So, the next time you feel pulled into negativity, remember this: your very code—the essence of your physical being—was designed to reach for the positive. Let that be your metaphor, your mantra, your quiet revolution. For even in a world that often drifts into the dark, there is still within you the quiet pull of something better.

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The Food Addiction



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

The Food addiction has emerged as one of the most common yet underrecognized public health challenges of the 21st century. It is scientifically defined as a compulsive and uncontrollable urge to consume the food despite negative physical and psychological consequences. The food addiction mimics the neurobiological pathways of substance dependence.

In an age of abundance and convenience, the food has transcended its biological purpose of nourishment to become a source of comfort, reward, enjoyment and even escape. While occasional indulgence is normal, the chronic compulsion to eat—especially high-calorie, high-fat and sugary foods can evolve into food addiction, a behavioral disorder with complex physiological and psychological underpinnings. The phenomenon is now being recognized by nutritionists, psychiatrists and neuroscientists as a genuine addiction parallel to drug or alcohol dependence.

SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF FOOD ADDICTION

The Food addiction primarily involves the brain's reward circuitry, particularly the mesolimbic dopamine pathway, which also plays a central role in substance addiction. When palatable foods are consumed, they stimulate the release of dopamine, the pleasure chemical. Repeated exposure to these foods conditions the brain to crave them more intensely. Over time, the brain's reward threshold increases, requiring larger quantities or more frequent intake to achieve the same pleasure—a phenomenon identical to drug tolerance.

Additionally, opioid receptors in the brain are activated by fats and sugars further reinforcing compulsive eating behavior. This neurochemical interplay explains why individuals with food addiction often experience withdrawal-like symptoms such as irritability, anxiety and fatigue when attempting to reduce intake.

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR FOOD ADDICTION

1. Neurochemical Imbalance: Dysregulation of dopamine and serotonin levels can increase vulnerability to addictive eating behaviors.

2. Emotional and Psychological Triggers: Emotional distress, anxiety, loneliness and depression often push individuals toward comfort eating as a coping mechanism.

3. Genetic Predisposition: Genetic studies indicate that certain individuals may have inherited traits that make their reward system more sensitive to food stimuli.

4. Environmental and Social Factors: The omnipresence of fast food outlets, persuasive marketing and social normalization of overeating accelerate the development of food addiction.

5. Childhood Conditioning: Early exposure to sugary or processed foods and using food as a reward during childhood can program lifelong patterns of food dependency.

FACTORS THAT ACCELERATE FOOD ADDICTION

Ultra-Processed Foods: These contain combinations of sugar, salt and fat scientifically engineered to trigger addictive pleasure responses.

Stress and Sleep Deprivation: The chronic stress elevates cortisol levels leading to cravings for high-calorie comfort foods.

Digital Influence: Constant exposure to food imagery through advertisements and social media increases subconscious cravings.

Sedentary Lifestyle: Lack of physical activity reduces natural dopamine release making the brain seek stimulation through eating.

RISK FACTORS AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS Food addiction is associated with numerous medical and psychological risks, including: Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome is caused due to consistent overconsumption of calorie-dense foods.

Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases are caused from insulin resistance and dyslipidemia.

Gastrointestinal Disorders including acid reflux, fatty liver and gut microbiome imbalance. Cases of mental Mental Health Decline are rising with higher rates of anxiety, depression, guilt and low self-esteem are observed in food-addicted individuals.

Reduced Quality of Life – as the addiction interferes with productivity, relationships, and overall well-being.

OVERCOMING FOOD ADDICTION

1. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT): This therapy helps patients to recognize and modify distorted thoughts and emotional triggers related to food.

2. Nutritional Rehabilitation: Adopting balanced diets rich in whole grains, proteins, fruits and vegetables stabilizes blood sugar and reduces cravings.

3. Mindful Eating Practices: This habit encourages awareness of hunger cues, portion control and savoring food slowly to rebuild a healthy relationship with eating.

4. Medical Interventions: In severe cases, anti-craving medications or antidepressants may be prescribed under clinical supervision.

5. Physical Activity: Regular exercise enhances dopamine sensitivity naturally, providing a healthy alternative to food-induced pleasure.

6. Social and Family Support: Peer groups, counseling and family involvement play a crucial role in long-term recovery and relapse prevention.

Food addiction stands at the crossroads of neuroscience, psychology and public health, reflecting both the vulnerabilities of the human brain and the excesses of modern society. Recognizing it as a legitimate disorder is the first step toward effective intervention. Addressing food addiction requires a multi-dimensional strategy encompassing medical treatment, psychological support, policy reform and societal awareness.

In a world where food is omnipresent yet self-control is fleeting, understanding and combating food addiction may be one of humanity's most significant health challenges—and triumphs—of the modern era.

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Devyani Rana Begins Campaign, Pledges Continued Progress for Nagrota



HT NEWS DESK

MATHWAR, OCT 23: BJP candidate for bye-polls to Nagrota assembly seat, Ms. Devyani Rana today pledged to carry forward the mission that her late father Mr Devender Singh Rana had envisioned to transform the constituency by focussing on development, education, women empowerment, and youth engagement.

"In line with the Honble Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi ji's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Paryas Sabka Vishwas, Mr Devender Singh Rana's vision was of a Nagrota that grows with opportunity, dignity, and togetherness, irrespective of religion or caste. With zeal and commitment, I will continue this mission to ensure that Nagrota emerges as a model and vibrant constituency across Jammu and Kashmir", Ms Devyani Rana said, evoking much enthusiasm and overwhelming support from the people during her door-to-door and nukkad meetings at Mohalla Bhagtan Keri, Kalyar, Chanageral, Mathwar, Dabber Mehra, and

Upper Jandyal in Mathwar Mandal.

Launching the nearly 18-day campaign, Ms. Rana said that with the continued support and patronage of the sagacious people of the constituency, she will strive for transforming Nagrota into a model constituency focused on inclusive and sustainable development. The BJP believes in development that reaches every household and empowers every single person, she added.

Ms. Devyani Rana said that her mission is not merely to contest an election, but to give renewed push to the unfinished and unrealized aspirations that her father had envisioned for Nagrota and had tirelessly dedicated his life for transforming the constituency.

"Sh Devender Rana believed in the power of inclusive development that touches every home, empowers every youth, uplifts every woman, and connects every hamlet. I seek to dedicate myself to that very mission with sincerity, zeal and commitment," she added.

Ms. Rana outlined her priorities

for Nagrota, saying that youth and women engagement besides empowerment of under served populations remain central to the BJP agenda with a focus on promoting self-help groups, startup initiatives, and rural entrepreneurship.

"The people have showered immense affection on Rana Sahib, and it is that revered bond which now inspires me to step forward. As a BJP Karyakarta and also as a daughter of Nagrota, I dedicate this journey to the service of the people of Nagrota", she added.

Referring to the BJP's vision for Jammu and Kashmir based on the principles of balanced regional development, transparent governance, youth empowerment, and grassroots participation in decision-making, she said this vision has translated into improved infrastructure, expanding tourism potential, and enhanced civic amenities, creating a foundation for inclusive and sustainable progress. Nagrota is an equal beneficiary of this vision and will continue to be so, she reiterated.

Aryans Helping Hand Hub Organizes an Exhibition at Aryans Campus

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 23: Aryans Helping Hand Hub of Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh organized a special Donation Exhibition at the Aryans Campus. The initiative aimed to extend support to needy and deserving students and staff by providing them with useful items free of cost.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, appreciated the noble efforts of the Aryans Helping Hand Hub and encouraged more such humanitarian initiatives on campus. He said that these efforts not only help those in need but also instill values of empathy, generosity, and social responsibility among students.

Dr Parveen Kataria, Director General Aryans Group mentioned that the event was open for all, and all items were distributed free of



cost on a first-come, first-serve basis. The overwhelming participation from students and faculty made the exhibition a meaningful success.

The exhibition featured a wide range of donated materials including stationery, books, clothes, footwear, crockery, and other essential items. All contributions were collected from faculty members, students, and well-wishers of the institution, reinforcing the spirit of sharing and compassion within the Aryans family.

Natrang Honours Outstanding Artists for Exceptional Contributions to Theatre



HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 23: In a grand and heartwarming ceremony held at Natrang Studio Theatre, Natrang Jammu honoured some of its most outstanding artists for their exceptional contributions in the fields of acting, production, and allied areas of performance. The glittering event brought together the vibrant community of Natrang artists and well-wishers to celebrate the spirit of creativity, commitment, and excellence that has defined the organization for over four decades.

The highlight of the occasion was the felicitation ceremony, during which Padmashri Balwant Thakur, Director of Natrang, presented souvenirs and mementos to the artists in recognition of their invaluable artistic contributions. In his address, Mr. Thakur spoke passionately about the journey of each honouree, emphasizing how their relentless dedication, discipline, and creative brilliance have enriched Natrang's artistic legacy and helped the institution achieve national and international acclaim.

The artists who were honoured on this special occasion included Suraj Singh, Neeraj Kant Sharma, Anil Tickoo, Sanjeev Gupta, Sumeet Sharma, Suraj Ganjoo, Subhash Jamwal, Mohd. Yaseen, Pawan Verma, Shivam Singh, Meenakshi Bhagat, Parvinder Singh, Kananpreet Kaur, Kushal Bhat, Vandana Thakur, Kartik Kumar, Aryan Sharma, Prerna Sharma, Simran Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra, Krishya Bhatia, Suhani Sareen, Lovish, and Tanisha. Each of them has made significant

contributions to Natrang's diverse range of productions—whether through stellar performances on stage, innovative production work, or consistent support in backstage and creative operations.

Speaking on the occasion, Padmashri Balwant Thakur shared insights into Natrang's 43-year journey, recalling its humble beginnings and its evolution into one of India's foremost theatre and performing arts institutions. With over 7,500 productions, performances, and cultural events to its credit, Natrang has consistently pioneered new creative expressions while nurturing countless artists who have gone on to make a mark in theatre, television, and film.

Balwant Thakur highlighted that the recognition of artists was not just a token of appreciation but a reaffirmation of Natrang's commitment to acknowledging and supporting creative talent. He also shared Natrang's future vision, which includes expanding its training programs, fostering youth participation in theatre, and enhancing international collaborations to showcase Indian theatre on a global platform.

The event concluded with a resounding applause from the audience as the honourees expressed gratitude for the recognition and reiterated their dedication to Natrang's mission of promoting meaningful, socially relevant, and artistically rich theatre. The event truly reflected the spirit of Natrang, a celebration of art, passion, and collective creativity that continues to inspire generations.

Public Notice

I SAJAD AHMAD LONE Father of AHSAN SAJAD LONE R/o kanelwan want to inform general public that my son's date of birth was entered wrongly as 02/02/2014 in school records while his actual date of birth is 02/02/2015. In this regard if any person having any objection can file his objection within seven days in the office of the Principal Green Land P/s chandpora Kanelwan. After that no objection will be entertained.

Public Notice

I want to change the name of my electricity Bill having Consumer ID No 0203010028177 Installations No 5412800293 FA from Afroza R/O Boatman colony Bemina to Abid Nazir koul S/O Nazir Ahmad Koul R/O Rampora Qamarwari .

If any body having any objection in this regard he /she can approach His/Her Objection with the officials of Sub Division Watal Kadal within the period of 7 days after that no objection will be Entertained.

Name :-Abid Nazir koul S/O Nazir Ahmad Koul R/O Rampora Qamarwari

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son's DOB has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing aadhar no 555812997571 as Junaid Manzoor Lone DOB 01/05/2006 instead of Junaid Manzoor Lone DOB 23/02/2009 as for hospital regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of aadhar seva/ concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

JUNAID MANZOOR LONE DOB 23/02/2009 S/O MANZOOR AHMED LONE R/O WAHIPORA LANGATE TEHSIL LANGATE DISTRICT KUPWARA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my daughter Name DOB has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing aadhar no 654501016548 as Tabish Amin DOB 07/09/2008 instead of Tabiya Jan DOB 15/10/2010 as for school regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of aadhar seva/ concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

TABIYA JAN DOB. 15/10/2010 D/O MOHAMMAD AMIN BHAT R/O BADAKOT MACHIPORA TEHSIL HANDWARA DISTRICT KUPWARA

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund

Cancellation

The tenders invited vide this office NIT No: 32 of R&B/ Qazigund/ 2025-26/ e-Tendering/ 3366-80 Dated: 13-10-2025 is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

No: R&B/Qzd/25-26/3534-36 Dated: 22-10-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund

DIPK: 7430/25 | Dated: 23-10-2025

Office of the Assistant Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Command Ganderbal

Fire Advisory for winter Season for district Ganderbal.

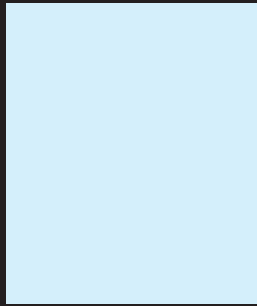
With the onset of winter and plummeting temperatures across District Ganderbal, the risk of fire incidents increases significantly due to extensive use of heating appliances, electric gadgets and traditional fire/ heating sources. Given the district's unique topography, the residents of District Ganderbal are advised to follow the following Fire Safety precautions to prevent fire accidents and ensure quick emergency response.

1. Ensure Chimneys and Bukharis are cleaned and maintained before use because accumulated soot and ash can ignite fires.
2. Avoid drying clothes directly over bukhari or heating appliances.
3. Avoid storage of dry grass, rejection wood etc. in residential houses. Store this combustible material in isolated places away from residential houses.
4. Check LPG hose pipes and regulators for cracks or leaks regularly.
5. Do not store spare LPG cylinders indoors.
6. Never leave cooking unattended. Properly Switch the LPG Stove knob and Cylinder Regulator after completing the cooking.
7. Keep kitchen exhaust ventilated even in cold weather to avoid gas accumulation.
8. Avoid using coal-based kangris or bukhari in poorly ventilated rooms to prevent Carbon Monoxide buildup.
9. Avoid overloading of electric sockets used for heating rods, blowers or radiators.
10. Ensure that all heating gadgets are unplugged and Stoves, Bukharis, LPG Cooking Gas Stoves are switched off properly, before going to bed or leaving the room/ home.
11. Use Kangris with utmost care. Keep Kangris at safe places during nights to avoid its toppling.
12. Ensure electrical wiring and switches are properly insulated and checked by licensed electricians before the onset of winter.
13. Unplug all electrical appliances when not in use, especially at night.
14. Use certified and ISI-marked electrical equipment only.
15. Markets, religious places, government offices, and schools using electric or gas heating systems must conduct a fire safety check and ensure availability of functional extinguishers.
16. Ensure escape routes are clear and not blocked by snow, merchandise, or furniture.
17. Do not leave heating lamps or electrical devices on near parked vehicles or fuel storage areas.
18. Avoid smoking or open flames in garages or near diesel/gasoline storage.
19. Do not through live cigarette butts carelessly.
20. Maintain fire lines and clearance around wooden huts, dhabas, and tourist lodges.
21. Keep access routes for fire tenders and emergency vehicles free from snow or obstruction.
22. Remote areas should identify local volunteers for initial fire response and liaison with nearest Fire & Emergency Station.
23. In case of any fire incident, please contact the department through Toll Free No. 101, Fire Control Room Ganderbal (0194-2416390).

ADGBLF&ES/FP-127/2025/ Dated: 22.10.2025

DIPK: 7416/25 | Dated: 23-10-2025

SAD DEMISE



With heavy heart it is informed that Syed Mushtaq Ahmad Naqash (Kashani) son of Late. Syed Mohammad Amin Naqash (Kashani) resident of Gankhan, Zaina Kadal, Srinagar passed away on Thursday, 23rd October 2025 after a brief illness..

The congregational Fateh Khawani shall be held on Sunday, 26th October 2025 at 10:30 AM at their ancestral graveyard Bahaudin Sahib, Nowhatta, Srinagar.

Bereaved

**Syed Wamiq Kashani
Syed Mohammad Haziq Kashani
Mohammad Aslam Nowsheri
Aijaz Ahmad Kakroo
Manzoor Ahmad Shah
Contact number: 7006373363, 9596003363**

انتقال پر ملال



یہ خبر نہایت ہی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ
افتخار احمد کاک ولد مرحوم غلام محی الدین کاک
ساکنہ رعناواری کلاوال محلہ 32 اکتوبر
2025 بروز جمعرات اس دار فانی سے
رحلت کر گئے۔ اس سلسلے میں تعزیت صرف
تین دن تک رہے گی۔ اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی
25 اکتوبر 2025 بروز سنیچر صبح 10.30 بجے اسکے آبائی مقبرہ واقع کاکہ محلہ
نزدیک نوہنہ پولیس اسٹیشن سرینگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگوار خاندان

ارشاد احمد کاک، منظور احمد کاک (فرزند ان)

فون نمبر: 9541685183



Div Com Kashmir reviews Arrangements for 2nd Edition of Kashmir Marathon

Directs beautification of route with potted plants, seamless facilities for participants

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the 2nd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled to be held on November 2.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Director Tourism, Vice Chairman LCMA, ADC Srinagar, SSP Traffic, Director Health, and officers from departments including Information, KPDC, R&B, PHE, Youth Services & Sports, and other concerned agencies.

During the meeting, Div Com emphasized ensuring comprehensive arrangements

at the flag-off cum finishing spot, including electricity, sanitation, first-aid, and toilet facilities.

He directed the Director Tourism to share the detailed Marathon route plan with all concerned departments for effective coordination of responsibilities and arrangements.

The Director Tourism and SSP Traffic were instructed to arrange an adequate number of barricades for smooth traffic management on the event day.

To strengthen emergency response, the Div Com directed the Health Department to deploy a water ambulance in Dal Lake and instructed the SDRF to keep their boats ready to assist the Tourism Department in case of



exigencies. He also directed the Health Department to establish a field hospital at Polo View for post-Marathon recovery of participants and to set up seventeen aid stations along the route, adequately staffed to assist runners.

Commissioner SMC was directed to beautify the Marathon route with potted flower plants in collaboration with SKUAST-K, and to ensure sanitation along the entire stretch as well as dog-catching measures for the safety of participants.

The R&B Department was instructed to ensure a pothole-free track, while arrangements for bottled drinking water and refreshments were also reviewed.

The Div Com stressed the

importance of training and sensitizing volunteers regarding their roles and responsibilities during the event.

The meeting also discussed organizing a joint medal ceremony for the Full Marathon (seven hours) and Half Marathon (three hours) at SKICC.

It also discussed arrangements for three-day exhibition showcasing local products by departments including Handicrafts & Handloom, Horticulture, and Agriculture.

To ensure real-time coordination among departments, the Div Com directed the establishment of a Command & Control Centre for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

Secretary Health reviews Operational Efficiency and Procurement Processes of JKMSCL

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: Secretary Health and Medical Education Department, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, chaired a review meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) to assess its operational efficiency and procurement processes.



The meeting focused on strengthening the operational efficiency of JKMSCL, particularly through the Drug & Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) portal, and ensuring strict adherence to procurement guidelines and Rate Contracts (RCs). The Chair underscored the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability, and timely procurement through established processes.

The Secretary directed JKMSCL to implement DVDMS at all healthcare facilities, from GMCs to sub-centers, to track drug requirements and consumption. He also emphasized the need to execute tenders for Machinery & Equipment in a time-bound manner and formulate an Essential Equipment List (EEL) for scientific planning of future procurements to align procurements strictly Dir patient care and public welfare.

Dr. Shah stressed the importance of implementing penal clauses for any delays in executing supplies and taking strict disciplinary action against defaulters. He also emphasized the need for statutory audits and quality testing of drugs, and the operationalization of the modern testing laboratory at Kathua.

"All officers must gear up for improved performance, clear all legal pendency without delay, and ensure timely and effective implementation of projects and contracts. JKMSCL must maintain the highest standards of transparency and efficiency in its operations," said Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah.

Director Agriculture Kashmir kick-starts onion seedling sale at Kitchen Garden Srinagar

Department striving to bring maximum area under cultivation during Rabi season: Sartaj Shah

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 23: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today kick started sale of onion seedling at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi, Srinagar.

During interaction with the farmers and kitchen garden lovers Director Agriculture said that Department is vigorously enduring to attract more and more farmers and kitchen garden lovers towards the vegetable sector.

He further said that department is producing seedlings of different vegetable crops in hi-tech poly houses under controlled conditions in all the districts of Kashmir division and the seedlings would be distributed among the farming



community of the region in a phased manner so that the produce reaches market in a way where it could

fetch the farmer maximum possible returns.

He expressed satisfaction and

said that Department has already met with the target of providing seedlings of different vegetable

crops to the farming community of the region.

Highlighting the ongoing Rabi season activities, the Director said the department is working to bring maximum area under cultivation of different crops, while also linking agricultural produce with the market chain through a well-devised strategy to safeguard farmers' interests.

"The Department is committed to producing and providing quality vegetable seedlings, as quality planting material plays a pivotal role in the overall success of agricultural enterprises," he added.

On the occasion, Joint Director agriculture extension kashmir, seed production officer kashmir and some senior officers of the department were also present.

NC Intensifies Campaign in Nagrota and give tough and befitting reply to BJP; Sadhotra, Gupta Promise Inclusive Growth, Slams BJP's '11 Years of Misrule'

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCTOBER 23: Leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) held a series of public meetings at Jandiyaal in Mathwar Block and Baran in Bhalwal Block in the Nagrota constituency, seeking support for the party's candidate, Shamim Begum, in the upcoming Nagrota bye-elections.

Addressing the gatherings, NC Additional General Secretary Ajay Sadhotra urged party workers to give a tough fight to the "divisive forces" attempting to polarize people on the basis of caste, creed, religion, and region. He appealed to the electorate to support and vote the party's candidate, Shamim Begum, lauding her previous tenure as DDC Dhansal as "impeccable and inclusive." "She is a respected leader who works for everyone, irrespective of caste, creed, region, or religion. Her work speaks for itself. I am confident that if she is given a chance, she will take Nagrota to new heights of development," Sadhotra said.

Speaking on the occasion, NC Provincial President (Jammu) Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the development works undertaken during the previous

Omar Abdullah-led government (2009-2014) in Nagrota Constituency gave tehsils, Naib tehsils, blocks, bridges, colleges, higher secondary schools, key road projects, and healthcare facilities. In contrast, during the BJP's eleven years in power, people received only rhetoric and empty promises. No tangible development took place," Gupta said, adding that the visible infrastructure in Nagrota stands as testimony to the NC's governance.

He further said that people had suffered from development deficits, unemployment, and a lack of basic civic amenities under the BJP's rule, and were now determined "not to fall prey to hollow slogans." "People want development and peace, not division," he emphasized.

In her address, Shameem Begum expressed gratitude to the party leadership for their trust and assured that, if elected, she would work to translate Omar Abdullah's vision and mission into reality on the ground.

"The NC's vision of development is inclusive, unlike the BJP, which lacks even a coherent development agenda. The BJP thrives on division and misinformation. People have witnessed how their leaders went missing during

recent calamities—it was the NC leadership, our provincial leaders, and our ministers who stood with the people," she said.

She further asserted that the National Conference restored Jammu's pride by reinstating the Darbar Move, which had been discontinued by the BJP. "The NC is committed to undoing the injustices inflicted during the BJP's eleven years of misrule. We are dedicated to empowering small traders, generating employment, restoring people's rights, and preserving Jammu's rich cultural heritage," she added.

Among those who were present in the meeting included: Babu Ramalpal former minister and Central Zone President, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Raghu Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Joginder Singh Kaku DDC Nagrota, Vijay Laxmi Datta senior leader, Dilshad Malik Vice President Central Zone, Ch. Rehmat Ali former BDC Chairman, Thoru Ram Block President, Balwant Singh Block President, Ashok Singh, Devinder Singh, Ajay Singh and others.

Self-Help Groups, start ups are engine of rural development, community upliftment: Rekha Mahajan

■ HT NEWS DESK

SAMBA, OCTOBER 23 : Reinforcing the vision of self-reliant India, BJP Jammu & Kashmir Vice President and Prabhari District Samba Advocate Rekha Mahajan, emphasized the vital role of women in nation-building in a programme held in Ghagwal Mandal of district Samba.

District President Samba and DDC Asha Rani, State Vice President Rashpal Verma, State Secretary Arun Sharma, Sarpanch Geetanjali also spoke on the occasion.

District General Secretaries Rakesh Sambyal, Amit Dubey, BJP Karyakartas and a large number of Mahila Shakti were present in the programme.

The event brought together women entrepreneurs, self-help groups, and youth to discuss opportunities for empowerment, innovation, and economic self-sufficiency.

Addressing the gathering, Rekha Mahajan said that empowering women is central to the idea of a truly Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India).

"No nation can progress unless its women are empowered to contribute equally to its economic and social development," she stated. She urged women to take full advantage of various government schemes and initiatives such as PMEGP, Mudra Yojana, NRLM, and Stand-Up India, which provide financial and technical support to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Rekha highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several transformative initiatives have been launched to uplift women across sectors—from financial inclusion and digital literacy to skill development and entrepreneurship. "The vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat is incomplete without Atmanirbhar Nari. Women today are not just homemakers but nation-makers," she remarked, encouraging participants to take pride in their talents and contribute to India's economic growth.

She also appreciated the growing number of women-led start-ups and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that they have become engines of rural development and community upliftment.

Rekha called upon educated women and youth to explore avenues in agriculture, handicrafts, food processing, and e-commerce, where government support and market potential are immense.

The workshop featured interactive sessions and success stories of local women entrepreneurs who shared how government schemes helped them start small ventures and achieve financial independence. Rekha assured them of the BJP's continued commitment to supporting women's empowerment at every level.

Concluding her address, she said, "The strength of our society lies in the empowerment of women. When women stand strong, the nation stands stronger." The event ended with a vote of thanks and a renewed pledge to work collectively towards realizing the dream of an Atmanirbhar Bharat through women-led development.

India - The Global Investment Magnet under PM Modi's Leadership: Gaurav

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 23: Acknowledging India's unprecedented economic rise, Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson, J&K UT, has said that the recent remarks by Blackstone President and COO Jon Gray, describing India as "the fastest-growing country in the G10" and "one of the most attractive investment destinations in the world," are a resounding endorsement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary and reform-driven governance that has placed India

firmly on the global investment map.

Gupta stated that this recognition from one of the world's largest investment firms reflects the global faith in India's transformation story—a story powered by infrastructure expansion, technological advancement, economic resilience, and a rapidly growing middle class. He emphasized that India's emergence as an investment magnet is not incidental but the outcome of consistent policy reforms, decisive leadership, and a clear roadmap for 'Viksit Bharat'.

He further highlighted that Jon Gray's praise of India's strong economic fundamentals and robust infrastructure push underscores the confidence global investors have in India's long-term prospects. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has witnessed record-breaking growth across sectors—be it highways, railways, renewable energy, smart cities, or manufacturing. The nation's economic stability and expanding consumer base make it the world's most compelling investment destination today," Gupta remarked.

Citing the IMF's upward revision of India's GDP growth forecast to 6.6%, Gupta said this acknowledgment further strengthens India's position as a driver of global growth, especially when many advanced economies are grappling with stagnation. "India's success lies in its balance—strong domestic demand, robust governance, and visionary leadership," he added.

He pointed out that initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India, and Gati Shakti have created an ecosystem that promotes innovation, entrepreneur-

ship, and ease of doing business. "The rapidly expanding middle class is not just a consumer base—it represents aspiration, confidence, and a new wave of national progress," Gupta said.

He asserted that Blackstone's recognition is a tribute to India's remarkable transformation under PM Modi's leadership, proving that the world now looks at India not just as a market, but as a partner in global growth. "This is the New India—Atmanirbhar, ambitious, and unstoppable," Gupta concluded.

DAC clears landmark acquisition of LPDs, NAMIS and CLRTS/DS systems to enhance tri-service capabilities

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 23: In a major boost to enhance the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces, the Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved various proposals of the Services amounting to a total of about Rs 79,000 crore, during a meeting in South Block, today.

In a statement issued here, the Minister of Defence while providing the breakup of the contract stated that the for the Indian Army, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was accorded for the procurement of Nag Missile System (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), Ground Based Mobile ELINT System (GBMES) and High Mobility Vehicles (HMs) with Material Handling Crane. The procurement of NAMIS (Tracked) will enhance the Indian Army's capability of neutralising ene-



my's combat vehicles, bunkers and other field fortifications, whereas GBMES will provide round-the-clock Electronic Intelligence of enemy emitters. The induction of HMs will significantly improve logistic sup-

port to the forces in diverse geographical terrains.

For the Indian Navy, AoN was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPD), 30mm Naval Surface Gun (NSG), Advanced Light Weight Torpe-

does (ALWT), Electro Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount. The procurement of LPDs will help the Indian Navy to undertake amphibious operations along

with Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

The integrated sea capability provided by LPD will also help the Indian Navy to undertake peacekeeping operations, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief etc. The induction of ALWT, which is indigenously developed by Naval Science & Technological Laboratory, DRDO is capable of targeting conventional, nuclear and midget submarines. The procurement of 30mm NSG will enhance the capability of Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to conduct Low Intensity Maritime Operations and anti-piracy roles.

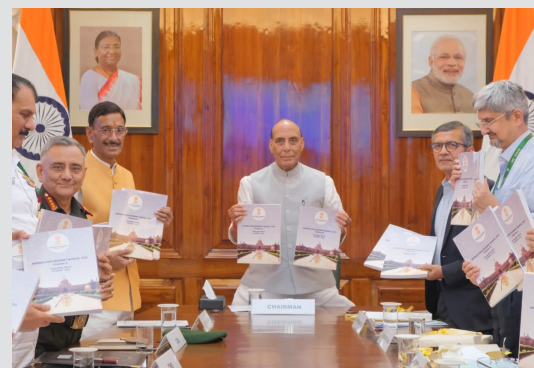
For the Indian Air Force, AoN was accorded for Collaborative Long Range Target Saturation/ Destruction System (CLRTS/DS) and other proposals. The CLRTS/DS has the capability of autonomous take-off, landing, navigating, detecting and delivering payload in the mission area. UNI

Rajnath releases Defence Procurement Manual 2025

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 23: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today released the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 at a function in South Block here.

Effective from November 1, the new procurement manual will facilitate the revenue procurement amounting to approximately Rs one lakh crore by the three Services and other establishments under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), a Defence Ministry statement said.



Appreciating the efforts of MoD and HQ Integrated Defence Staff for the revision of the manual, Singh expressed confidence that the new manual will simplify the procedures, bring uniformity in functioning and will be helpful in providing goods and services required by the Armed Forces for operational preparedness. It will also provide more opportunities to MSMEs and start-ups in the field of defence manufacturing and technology duly ensuring fairness, transparency and accountability in procurement.

Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Mayank Sharma gave a brief overview of DPM 2025 and highlighted the way the manual has been prepared in close consultation with the services and other stakeholders.

Some key provisions have been altered to expedite decision making and promote ease of doing business. Liquidated damages (LD) which is levied on delayed delivery of stores and services, has been relaxed and maximum LD to the extent of 10 percent will be levied only in cases of inordinate delay.

In addition, there are provisions for assured order ranging upto five years and beyond for the items developed by the public or private players under indigenisation. As per the revised provisions, Limited Tender enquiry can be resorted to for value upto Rs 50 lakh and beyond that in exceptional cases.

In this revised manual, condition to obtain 'No Objection Certificate' from erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board before going for procurement from other sources, has been dispensed with.

All Request For Proposals (RFPs), to be issued after November 01, 2025, will be governed by the provisions of DPM 2025.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of the Naval Staff, Chief of the Army Staff, Defence Secretary, Secretary Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman DRDO, Secretary (Defence Production) and other officials. UNI

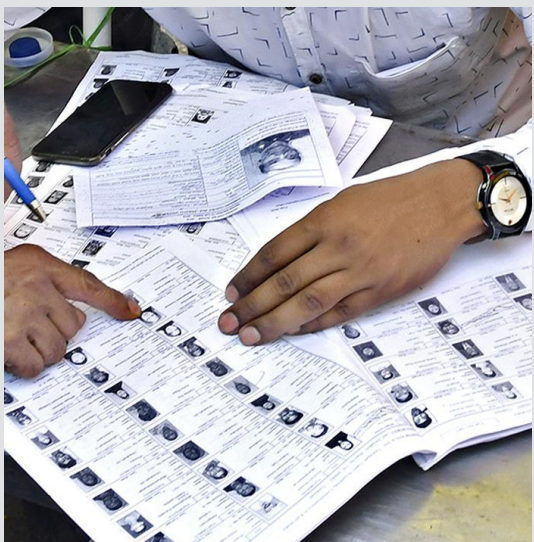
ECI ramps up preparations for nationwide voter roll revision

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 23: The Election Commission of India today concluded a crucial two-day Conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) at the India International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi.

The event marked a significant milestone in gearing up for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls ahead of the 2026 State Assembly elections. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, led the proceedings, bringing together CEOs from all States and union Territories to finalize preparations ensuring voter lists are comprehensive, accurate, and inclusive.

CEC Kumar emphasized the importance of the conference, stating, "This is not merely a routine exercise but a recommitment to strengthening the very foundation of our democracy through meticulous management of electoral rolls. Accuracy and



inclusiveness are paramount, and we expect full preparedness from every State and UT."

Building on detailed reviews conducted in September, the conference closely examined progress in reconciling current voter data with the last SIR, focusing on data integrity and minimizing discrepancies.

Senior Commission officials clarified procedural queries raised by CEOs, aiming to streamline the revision process. Training and deployment of crucial election personnel—District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant EROs, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and Booth Level Assistants (BLAs)—were evaluated, recognizing their vital role in ensuring the smooth conduct of SIR. Election Commissioner Sukhbir Singh Sandhu highlighted, "The dedication and competence of our electoral workforce are essential to maintaining the credibility of elections. Proper training and deployment bolster public trust in the democratic process."

Beyond group discussions, the ECI held focused one-on-one meetings with CEOs from poll-bound states, including Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal, providing tailored guidance to meet region-specific challenges.

As India approaches critical electoral phases, the Commission's unwavering focus on transparency, coordination, and exhaustive preparation promises to safeguard the right to vote for every eligible citizen. This conference underscores the ECI's steadfast commitment to electoral integrity, reinforcing its role as the vigilant guardian of India's vibrant democracy. UNI

India, Bhutan hold 14th border management & security meeting in Thimphu

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 23: India and Bhutan have reaffirmed their close cooperation on border management and security during the 14th India-Bhutan Meeting on Border Management and Security, held in Thimphu.

The meeting was held from October 16-17. The Indian delegation was led by Rajendra Kumar, Secretary, Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, while the Bhutanese side was headed by Sonam Wangyel, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, a Home Ministry statement said here today.

Both sides reviewed bilateral security cooperation and border management issues, including mobile signal spill over, future roadmap for Integrated Check Posts, maintenance of boundary pillars and cross-border movement.

Discussions also covered capacity building for Bhutan's police. Both



delegations expressed satisfaction at the cordial and constructive discussions and reiterated their resolve to work together towards ensuring a safe, secure and prosperous border region.

Reaffirming their strong friendship, India and Bhutan committed to deepening cooperation across traditional and emerging areas. Their enduring partnership, rooted in shared geography, culture and peo-

ple-to-people ties, continues to serve as a model for regional cooperation. The last such meeting was held in the year 2019.

The Indian delegation included officials from the Sashastra Seema Bal, Land Ports Authority of India, Department of Telecommunications, Narcotics Control Bureau, Survey of India, Customs and representatives from Assam, West Bengal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. UNI

PM Modi to join 22nd ASEAN-India Summit virtually, reinforcing India's strategic ties with Southeast Asia

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to virtually participate in the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit on October 26, responding to an invitation from Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the Ministry of External Affairs announced today.

This summit represents a significant step forward in strengthening India's relationship with Southeast Asia, in line with the government's Act East Policy and broader Indo-Pacific vision.

The MEA statement highlighted that, "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the ASEAN leaders will jointly review the progress in ASEAN-India relations and discuss initiatives for strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." India's engagement with ASEAN continues to be a vital element of its foreign policy, focused on promoting regional peace, economic resilience, and inclusive development.

Earlier today, PM Modi took to his official X handle to share warm sentiments about his conversation with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. "Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of the upcoming Summit," Modi wrote.

"I look forward to joining the ASEAN-India Summit virtually, and to further deepening of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." The leaders also discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, technology, education, and security,



reflecting the robust ties between India and Malaysia. Following the ASEAN-India Summit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur on October 27.

This platform will provide an opportunity to discuss pressing issues related to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, along with broader regional and global developments.

The ASEAN Summit, taking place from October 26 to 28, will also feature the ceremonial handover of the ASEAN Chairmanship from Malaysia to the Philippines.

Malaysia's leadership this year has been marked by concerted efforts to boost regional cooperation and economic growth.

India's steadily deepening partnership with ASEAN is a cornerstone of its strategic outreach in Southeast Asia. By expanding collaboration across multiple sectors, India and ASEAN are working towards a shared vision of economic progress and security amid a fast-changing geopolitical environment. PM Modi's virtual participation underscores India's unwavering commitment to fostering regional harmony and collective advancement in the Indo-Pacific, solidifying its role as a key partner in shaping the future of the region. UNI

Legendary space scientist Eknath Vasant Chitnis passes away at 100



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 23: Renowned Indian space scientist Eknath Vasant Chitnis passed away peacefully at his home in Pune yesterday due to a heart attack. He was 100 years old.

A towering figure in India's space saga, Chitnis was instrumental in laying the foundations of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), which later blossomed into the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh paid tribute on X, calling Chitnis "one of the icons of our space odyssey." Ramesh fondly recalled the historic meeting on February 10, 1962, when Chitnis accompanied Vikram Sarabhai to meet then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru at the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad, a moment that shaped India's space ambitions.

Chitnis's legacy is rich and multifaceted. He played a key role in selecting Thumba, Kerala, as the launch site for India's first rocket, a decision that was pivotal in kick-starting the nation's space journey. As Director of ISRO's Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad from

1981 to 1985, he advanced critical projects in remote sensing, satellite communication, and the landmark INSAT programme.

Among his notable feats was spearheading the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE), an innovative project that utilised satellite technology to deliver educational programming to rural India. SITE illustrated how space technology could break barriers, enhance education, and improve healthcare access for the underserved.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Chitnis was a mentor par excellence. He notably nurtured the early career of APJ Abdul Kalam, who went on to become India's beloved President and a global icon of scientific excellence.

Chitnis is survived by his son, Chetan Chitnis, a distinguished molecular biologist and Padma Shri awardee, along with his daughter-in-law and granddaughters. His passing signals the close of a remarkable chapter in India's space exploration history, but his vision and inspiration will continue to guide future generations.

As India mourns this pioneer, his contributions remain etched in the stars that once guided his dreams and those of an entire nation. UNI

Syed Farakh Bukhari Memorial Football League Concludes

■ AASHIQ HUSSAIN

KREERI: The first edition of Syed Farakh Bukhari Memorial (SFBM) Football League 7v7 concludes on Wednesday at Muradiya Mini football field Kreeri Baramulla.

Final match was played between Al Murad Sports Club Kreeri and AL Qaswa FC Kreeri in which Al Murad Sports Club Kreeri Defeated AL Qaswa Kreeri by 2-1 goals

SHO Kreeri Arif Hameed was chief Guest while as PC Spokesperson Salman Bukhari was guest of Honor.

Among others Wood peckers CEO Murtaza Qadri, Syed Tajamul Bukhari, Syed Wajahat Qadri, respectable citizens of Kreeri area Students and Sports lovers were present on the occasion.

At last Guests distributed prizes, Momentos and other individual awards among participants. Media persons also awarded.



Bradman Kashmir Beat Kandi Sultans by 26 Runs in NKPL 2025

Sameer Aku Ji Named Player of the Match

■ ZEESHAN PERVAIZ

BARAMULLA: Sameer Akuji, Nasir, Shahid Bashir and Mujeeb's brilliant performances helped Bradman Kashmir beat Kandi Sultan by 26 runs in the North Kashmir Premiere League (NKPL) 2025 on Thursday.

Sameer Akuji Scored brilliant 79 runs while Nasir Played a Splendid knock of 55 runs Jehangir Mir and Sajad added 23 and 21 runs respectively for the Bradman Kashmir. Bradman Kashmir set a decent total of 209 runs on the board for the loss of Six wickets.

In reply Kandi Sultans felt a shot of 26 runs to achieve the target and lose the match. Tahzeeb remained the top scorer with 51 runs and Musab 42 runs.

Shahid Bashir and Mujeeb took 2 wickets each while Rayees and Jehangir took one wicket each for Bradman Kashmir. Sameer Akuji was adjudged player of the match for his brilliant 79 run Innings.



Affarwat-XI Sports Club honored FCC Thindima Captain Mr. Bilal Ahmad Lone on his marriage, recognizing his significant contribution to sports, having spearheaded his team for a decade, providing opportunities to young cricketers, shouldering the responsibility himself.

SLC postpones 2025 edition of LPL

■ ESPNCRICINFO

COLOMBO: The 2025 edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) will not take place this year as was originally planned, SLC has announced. In a press release, SLC said that the decision was taken "after careful consideration of the broader requirement of preparing well in advance" for next year's T20 World Cup, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. The 2025 LPL was originally slated to be held



between November 27 and December 23 across three venues - Colombo, Kandy and Dambulla. SLC, however, has now decided to move the tournament to another window, in order to allow "full focus on ensuring comprehensive venue readiness ahead of the World Cup." As per ICC guidelines, all venues for the upcoming 20-team World Cup are meant to be in perfect condition to meet the demands of hosting a major international tournament. Accordingly, SLC said they needed the time to upgrade and enhance the infrastructure in and around the grounds.

The R Premadasa International Stadium in Colombo, which is one of three venues in Sri Lanka, had temporarily paused its renovation work to host 11 matches in the ongoing Women's World Cup. SLC confirmed that the ground will resume development work immediately upon the completion of its scheduled games. The last two seasons of the LPL took place during July and August, however this year, with the 2026 T20 World Cup set to begin in February, SLC had initially felt the later window better suited their needs. ESPNcricinfo had also learnt that talks are underway to incorporate a sixth team into the LPL. The first five editions saw five teams representing Colombo, Galle, Kandy, Dambulla and Jaffna compete. Earlier this year, Jaffna Kings - formerly the longest-standing franchise, having joined in the tournament's second edition - and Colombo Strikers were terminated by SLC for "failure to uphold contractual obligations." As a result, the LPL currently has no franchise owners with a history stretching back beyond 2024.

Ngarava and Curran lead Zimbabwe to first home Test win in 12 years

Ngarava's maiden Test five-wicket haul handed the hosts their first innings win since 2001

■ SRESHTH SHAH

HARARE: It took Zimbabwe less than three hours on the third day to claim their first home Test win since 2013, their first innings win since 2001 and their biggest Test win. Richard Ngarava was the star, where in overcast conditions he took his first five-wicket haul in Tests. His movement through the air and off the pitch never looked exaggerated, but it was relentless enough to break the game open and leave Zimbabwe with a win by an innings and 73 runs against a listless Afghanistan batting unit.

The day began with Zimbabwe's Test squad lining up for a group photo, a clear suggestion they were keen to finish the contest on Wednesday itself. And they started with a surprise by giving the ball to Tanaka Chivanga ahead of Blessing Muzarabani.

It turned out to be a good decision as Chivanga's third over of the morning saw Rahmanullah Gurbaz flicking one down the leg side, and Tafadzwa Tsiga, alert behind the stumps, did the rest. Three overs later, Ngarava

produced almost the same dismissal when Ibrahim Zadran, who had reached 42 with measured strokes, flicked another ball going down leg, and Tsiga took his second of the morning.

Hashmatullah Shahidi lasted briefly. A full delivery from Ngarava drew a hard-handed push that went to Craig Ervine at slip. Bahir Shah and Afsar Zazai then gave the innings some momentum. Bahir found six boundaries but his counter-attack ended after Muzarabani cramped him with a short ball. The fend popped up and Ben Curran swooped in from short leg. Zazai followed soon after, easing a half-hearted drive to backward point to end the morning session at 127 for 6.

The sun broke through after lunch but offered little relief to Afghanistan. Chivanga thought he had Ismat Alam caught, only for a front-foot no-ball to intervene. Ngarava corrected it soon after with a length ball outside off that induced a cut from Alam. Tsiga flung himself to his right and pulled off a one-handed catch that drew gasps even from the slips. Two overs later Sharafud-



din Ashraf edged to second slip, giving Ngarava his fifth.

Muzarabani, quiet through much of the innings, finished it off with precision. First he flattened Khalil Gurbaz's leg stump, then beat Ziaur Rahman with a yorker that split middle stump. Those wickets gave him six for the match and ended a game Zimbabwe had controlled from the second hour of the first day.

Ngarava's five, Chivanga's pace, and Muzarabani's closing spell combined for a win that was both rare and easily earned. Curran's day-two performance of 121, which earned him a

Player-of-the-Match award, and Sikandar Raza's 65 were the other highlights of their comfortable win.

After the game, Zimbabwe captain Ervine said a win in their final Test match of the year was satisfying. "I'm ecstatic. A lot of credit to the boys for fighting and winning to end a tough year of Test cricket," Ervine said. "The way we started, in the first hour of day one wasn't good, but the way the boys pulled things back was excellent. Then with the bat, Curran's innings - full of composure and discipline - was outstanding.

"The wicket offered something throughout, so the boys did well to put on some good partnerships. The boys have learnt with the Test cricket they've played in the last six-seven months to find their game. Brad [Evans] with the five-for in the first innings and Richie [Ngarava] stepped up in the second innings. TK [Chivanga] was superb and Bless [Muzarabani] was unlucky not to take a few more wickets."

Shahidi, the Afghanistan captain, rued the batting collapse on the first day when Afghanistan slid from 77 for 1 to 127 all out.

"They played really good cricket, it was supporting the fast bowlers," Shahidi said. "Ball was seaming around but overall, we didn't play good cricket. We started the Test well with 80 for 1 [77 for 1] in the first innings, but that collapse let us down. I feel the lack of our Test-playing experience cost us since we kept losing back-to-back wickets. In Test cricket, winning the first day is very important."

The two teams now meet for the three-match T20I series starting October 29.

ESPNcricinfo

La Liga cancel plan to hold Villarreal vs Barcelona match in Miami

■ ASSOCIATED PRESS

BARCELONA: La Liga's plan to hold a Barcelona match in Miami in December has been called off because of "uncertainty" about the game within

Spain, the Spanish top flight said in a statement Tuesday. Champions Barca were set to face Villarreal in the United States on December 20, which would have been the first European league fixture to be played abroad.

La Liga said their promoter for the match decided to cancel the organisation of the event because of "uncertainty generated in Spain in recent weeks". The Spanish top flight said they "deeply regret that the project, which represented a historic and unparalleled opportunity to take Spanish football to the international stage, cannot go ahead".

Tickets for the game at the Hard



Rock Stadium were due to become available on Tuesday, but organisers said the presale was "delayed" before the plan was scrapped. The match will now be held at Villarreal's Estadio de la Ceramica home as normal.

"Barcelona respects and accepts the decision to cancel the match against

Villarreal in Miami... just as we respected and accepted the decision to play when it was made at the time," said Barca in a statement. The Catalan giants said they regret "the lost opportunity to expand the image of the competition in a strategic market with growth potential" and that US-based fans "will be deprived of witnessing" the game in the flesh. La Liga published its statement during Villarreal's 2-0 Champions League defeat by Manchester City.

"It seems to me an absolute lack of respect to put out a statement at half-time of a game about something that was planned but will not happen," said Villarreal coach Marcelino Garcia Toral.