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PM Modi Crushed Terrorism, Secured India : Amit Shah

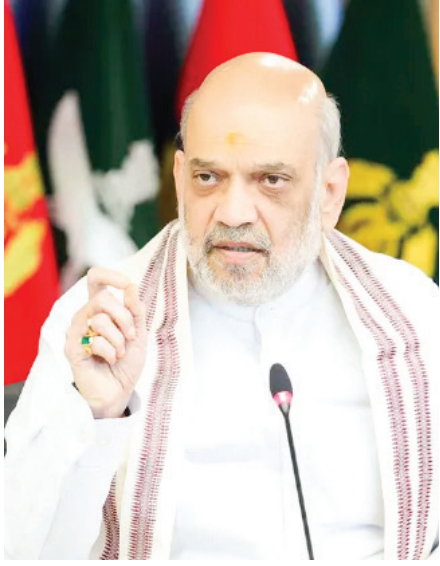
Highlights Article 370 Abrogation, Surgical Strikes, Operation Sindoor, Targets Opposition on Baseless Allegations

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that for seven decades no one dared touch Article 370, but in 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the historic decision to revoke it fully integrating Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country and crushing terrorism like never before.

Addressing a series of public rallies in Bihar, Shah said, "For 70 years, governments hesitated to amend Article 370. It was only in 2019, under PM Modi's decisive leadership, that this constitutional barrier was removed, bringing Jammu and Kashmir into complete unity with India."

The Home Minister hailed Modi's leadership for ensuring India's security and prosperity, asserting that the Prime Min-



ister "has worked to secure India and make it prosperous."

Listing the government's strong security measures, Shah recalled the surgical strikes after the Uri attack, air strikes following Pulwama, and the recent Operation Sindoor launched in response to the Pahalgam attack. "The Modi government has acted decisively to neutralise terrorists in their hideouts," he said, adding that earlier governments lacked the will to act due to political compulsions.

Shah also highlighted India's economic rise, noting that under PM Modi, the country has advanced from being the 11th largest economy to the fourth largest, with ambitions to become the third largest by 2027. "Under Modi ji's leadership, India's global stature has grown — both

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Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood to Redefine Autumn Tourism in the Valley

CM Omar Abdullah Inaugurates Kashmir's First Chrysanthemum Theme Garden at Srinagar



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: In a major boost to Kashmir's tourism and floriculture sector, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday inaugurated Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood, the Union Territory's first-ever Chrysanthemum Theme Gar-

den, at the scenic Botanical Garden in Srinagar.

Developed at a cost of ₹1.869 crore by the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, the new attraction spreads across 100 kanals and showcases a breathtaking array of Chrysanthemum blooms in hues of yellow, pink,

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Over 450 Recruits, Including 209 Women, Join Ladakh Police

HT NEWS NETWORK

LEH, OCT 25: Over 450 recruits including 209 women on Saturday formally joined the Ladakh Police here after completing their training, marking the first passing-out parade of the force after the region was granted Union Territory status in 2019.

Addressing the parade at the Police Training Centre, Stong-Sar, Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta termed the event a historic milestone in the journey of India's youngest police force.

Gupta inspected the parade and took the salute of the marching contingents during the march past. He also felicitated the all-round best recruit constables of the Ladakh Police, recruit-constables Sonam Yangchan (all-round best and indoor best), Jigmet Palkit (outdoor best) and Mohd Sharif (best marksman).

"The day symbolises the growing strength, discipline and self-reliance of the Ladakh Police," Gupta said, noting that since the formation of the Union Territory (UT), the Ladakh Police has faced numerous challenges — from modernising basic infrastructure to building a self-sufficient training ecosystem and ensuring security across

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From 387 to 819 Medical Colleges in 11 Years of Modi Govt : J.P. Nadda

Union Health Minister hails India's medical education expansion, improved health indices at AIIMS Convocation

HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, OCT 25: Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Saturday said India has witnessed an unprecedented expansion in medical education infrastructure under the Modi-led BJP government, with the number of medical colleges rising from 387 in 2014 to 819

in 2025.

Addressing the 50th Annual Convocation Ceremony of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, Nadda said the country has nearly doubled its undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) medical seats during the last 11 years — UG seats have gone up from 51,000 to 1.29 lakh, while PG



seats have surged from 31,000 to 78,000.

He further announced that an additional 75,000 seats are expected to be created across UG and PG levels over the next five years, reinforcing India's commitment to building a robust healthcare workforce.

Commending AIIMS for its

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Clock Tower Shines as 'Know Your Artisan' Attracts Huge Crowds

Lal Chowk Bustles with Colors, Crafts & Cultural Vibrance

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: The iconic Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar) at Lal Chowk here transformed into a lively cultural hotspot on Saturday as the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir hosted "Know Your Artisan" programme, with drawing hundreds of visitors who turned the city centre into a buzzing festive arena.

The event was graced by senior officials from administration. It celebrated the craftsmanship and creativity of Kashmir's traditional artisans.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stalls showcasing papier-mache, copperware, wood carving, sozni embroidery and pashmina weaving lined the open

square, while vibrant drapes and cultural displays turned the Clock Tower into a scene of colour and cheer.

"It feels like Lal Chowk has come alive again," said Nusrat Ahmed, a local visitor from Rajbagh. He said, seeing artisans work live and explain their craft connects us to our roots. It is a beautiful experience.

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&KBOSE), has issued extension-notification for online submission of Annual examination Forms for class 11th and 12th, Regular, 2025 for a period of 3 days beginning on October 27. As per the notification(s) issued by the Joint Secretary,

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J&K BOSE grants final opportunity to apply for 11th, 12th Annual Exams

Extends dates for 3 days

HT NEWS NETWORK

As per the notification(s) issued by the Joint Secretary,

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Terror Recruitment Case CIK Files Chargesheet Against Terror Aide in NIA Court

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: In a major breakthrough against Pakistan-backed terror propaganda and recruitment networks operating through social media, Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) today produced a charge sheet against a terrorist

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We Won Despite Omar Turning RS Polls into Jammu vs Kashmir: Sat Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCT 25: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Sat Sharma said that he won the fourth seat in Rajya Sabha polls in the Union Territory despite attempts by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to "create a division on the basis of Jammu versus Kashmir".

He was speaking to reporters after receiving a warm welcome from party workers and supporters on his return from



Kashmir after winning the election. He called it a historic win for the party.

The BJP also rejected People's Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone's allegation that the Rajya Sabha election was a "fixed match" between the National Conference (NC) and the BJP.

On Friday, the ruling NC won three seats, while the BJP managed one in the first Rajya Sabha elections held in

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Police Hold Route Marches in Poll-Bound Nagrota

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, OCT 25: Two route marches were conducted as part of security measures ahead of the bypolls in Nagrota assembly constituency near here next month, police said.

The marches-cum-briefings of police and paramilitary personnel deployed for election duties in the rural zone of Jammu district were conducted within the jurisdiction of Jhajjar Kotli and Nagrota police stations under the close supervision of Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh, a police spokesman said.

He said the jawans and officers of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) participated in these marches along with the local police.

The route marches are part of the standard security measures undertaken to ensure safety and order during elections, the spokesman said, adding that these exercises help security personnel familiarise themselves with the area and enhance their preparedness to handle any potential law and order situations during the electoral process. They also contribute to effective intelligence gathering.

The visible presence of security forces during such marches acts as a deterrent to anti-social or disruptive elements and instils confidence among the public, thereby encouraging greater participation in the democratic process, the spokesman said.

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MEET SHOPIAN'S PROGRESSIVE FARMER GROWING INDOOR, OUTDOOR SAFFRON

SAYS PRODUCTION, QUALITY IMPROVING EVERY YEAR

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, OCT 25: In an inspiring example of innovation and dedication, a progressive farmer from South Kashmir's Shopian district has successfully cultivated both indoor and outdoor saffron, breaking traditional barriers and setting a new benchmark for sustainable farming practices in the region.

Haroon Rashid, 57, a resident of Vehil village in Shopian, has transformed his passion for farming into a model of agricultural innovation. From growing vege-

tables and fruits on the rooftop of his house to cultivating the world's most precious spice indoors, Haroon's efforts are earning him recognition as a trendsetter among local growers.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Haroon said he began experimenting with rooftop farming a few years ago. "Initially, I started growing different kinds of vegetables, fruits and even medicinal plants on the slab of my two-storey house. The results were encouraging," he said.

"I have been now growing saffron both



indoor and outdoor from last several last few years and with each passing year, the quality of crop and results are getting bet-

ter," he said

He credited the horticulture and agriculture departments for their consistent guidance and technical support. "Whenever I faced any challenge, officials from these departments were always ready to help. Their motivation kept me going," he added.

He learned about indoor saffron farming a few years ago from experts at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Balpora, Shopian and the India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC) Dusoo, Pampore.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi Crushed.....

economically and strategically," he said.

Turning to electoral issues in Bihar, the Home Minister accused opposition parties of obstructing the special revision of voter rolls, alleging that they were attempting to protect "infiltrators" included in the lists. "Should the names of infiltrators remain on the voter list? Form the NDA government again, and we will remove every single infiltrator from Bihar," Shah vowed.

He launched a sharp attack on Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Manmohan Singh, and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, accusing them of staying silent on issues of national security. Shah mocked Rahul Gandhi's political campaigns, calling them "Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra," aimed at protecting infiltrators rather than citizens.

"The upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, Shah said, "will decide whether the state continues on the path of development and security or returns to the days of misgovernance."

He concluded that India's national security doctrine has been fundamentally transformed under Modi's leadership, citing decisive actions from the 2016 surgical strikes to the 2019 Balakot air strikes and the 2025 Operation Sindoor as evidence of a new, assertive India.

Bagh-e-Gul.....

red, and purple — transforming the autumn landscape of the Valley into a riot of colours.

Declaring the garden open to the public after cutting the ceremonial ribbon, the Chief Minister described the project as "a floral celebration that adds a new chapter to Kashmir's tourism story."

Speaking on the occasion, Omar Abdullah lauded the efforts of the Floriculture Department, noting that the initiative would help bridge the off-season tourism gap and enhance visitor experience during autumn.

He recalled that he had laid the foundation stone of Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood in November last year, envisioning it as a complement to the world-famous Tulip Garden. "Just as the Tulip Garden transformed the spring tourist season, the Chrysanthemum Garden will redefine autumn tourism in Kashmir," he said.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated a floral exhibition showcasing ornamental and lavender varieties cultivated by local growers under departmental guidance. He interacted with the floriculturists and appreciated their commitment and craftsmanship, describing them as "the real architects behind Kashmir's blooming beauty."

The inaugural event was attended by MLA Zaidal Tanveer Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture Zubair Ahmed, Secretary Culture, Director Floriculture Kashmir, and other senior officials.

Officials said the Chrysanthemum Garden is expected to emerge as a major tourist attraction, drawing both locals and visitors during the autumn months and extending Kashmir's tourist season beyond summer and spring.

From 387.....

unparalleled contribution to medical education, research, and patient care, Nadda congratulated the graduating students and urged them to serve society with empathy and integrity, upholding the highest standards of ethics and professionalism.

Highlighting improvements in key health indicators, the Union Minister said India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has fallen from 130 to 88, while the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 39 to 27, according to the latest Sample Registration Survey (SRS) data. The Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) and Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) have shown impressive reductions of 42% and 39%, respectively — both better than the global average.

Citing a Lancet report, Nadda said India has also achieved a 17.7% reduction in Tuberculosis incidence, more than twice the global decline rate of 8.3%.

Encouraging the new graduates to remain lifelong learners and innovators, Nadda urged them to carry forward the rich legacy of AIIMS by contributing actively to research, academics, and healthcare innovation.

"Serve with compassion, uphold the dignity of your profession, and work tirelessly to meet the evolving healthcare needs of our nation," he told the young doctors. (Agencies)

Over 450.....

strategically significant areas. He said it was through these chal-

lenges that the resilience and determination of the Ladakh Police were forged.

Highlighting the administration's commitment to strengthening the police force, the Lt Governor said his administration has undertaken major initiatives for modernisation, infrastructure upgradation, training, housing, welfare and digital transformation.

He mentioned that police presence and assistance have been enhanced in key tourist areas, and special focus is being placed on women's participation, improved communication systems and welfare of police personnel and their families.

Gupta said the establishment of the Police Training Centre at Stong-Sar, which began in 2022, represents a new era of training self-reliance for Ladakh.

"This institution will not only train new police personnel locally to meet Ladakh's unique challenges but will also serve the training needs of other UT departments in the future," he said.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to youth empowerment, he announced that 453 recruits, including 209 women constables, have successfully completed their training — a landmark achievement that reflects the government's efforts to create more employment opportunities for Ladakhi youth.

The recruitment process for sub-inspectors, he said, will begin soon to further strengthen the force.

Congratulating the new constables, the Lt Governor urged them to uphold the values of trust, sacrifice and integrity that their uniform represents.

"Law enforcement is not just about authority, it is about compassion, service and earning the confidence of the people you protect," he said, reminding the recruits to always act with courage and kindness.

Calling the induction of over 200 women constables a "powerful symbol of gender equality", Gupta said it will make the Ladakh Police more inclusive, empathetic and effective.

He also paid homage to the brave personnel of the Ladakh Police who laid down their lives in the line of duty, saying their courage will continue to inspire future generations.

Earlier, DGP Ladakh S D Singh Jamwal, in his address, informed that earlier training of new police personnel from Ladakh, along with the passing out parade, was held in Jammu and Kashmir.

He shared his happiness over the conduct of the first passing out parade of the newly recruited constables of the Ladakh Police in Leh, calling it one of the highest training centres in the country.

He also highlighted the Ladakh Police's plans to develop a winter sports centre to provide opportunities to the youth of Ladakh and enhance their sporting skills.

Clock Tower.....

Another visitor, a college student, said he was amazed to see the diversity of art forms on display. "Usually we see these products in shops, but here you meet the actual hands behind them, the real artists," he said.

Moreover, artisans too expressed gratitude for the platform. A papier-machie artisan from Srinagar, said such initiatives help them connect directly with customers. "People are appreciating our work and asking questions about how we make these designs. It motivates us to keep the craft alive," he said— (KNO)

J&K BOSE.....

Examinations JD/ KD, the on-roll eligible students of Kashmir Division including winter zone areas of Jammu Division besides district Kargil can submit their examination forms in online mode from October 27 to 29 on payment of applicable fee of Rs 4230 excluding practical fee.

The Board has directed all concerned institutions to ensure timely submission of forms, advising students to carefully verify their particulars during punching of information on the designated portal in observance of timeline.

The notification(s) indicating fee structure are available on the official J&K BOSE website. www.jkbose.nic.in .

The Board has urged parents and students to complete the process of submission of forms within the stipulated time frame to avail the final chance following which no form will be entertained, whatsoever.

Relevantly, the extension in notification has been granted following declaration of the results of classes 10 and 11.

CIK Files....

aid before the special designated NIA court here.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a CIK spokesman said that the

chargesheet was presented against the Aadil Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Mohammad Khan (@Gull Khan), resident of Drien Qazigund, Anantnag in the court of Special Judge designated under NIA Act, Srinagar in Case FIR No. 07/2023 U/S 153-A, 505, 506 IPC, 13, 18, 18-B, 39 UAPA of Police Station CIK Srinagar.

"The case pertains to a terror recruitment module being clandestinely operated through social media platforms, with the objective of radicalizing and recruiting impressionable youth of Jammu and Kashmir into the ranks of proscribed terrorist organizations, particularly those sponsored and controlled from across the border in Pakistan," the spokesman said.

He said, "The investigation was initiated on the basis of credible information that unscrupulous individuals and entities based in Pakistan, in connivance with terrorist handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and other banned outfits, were using social media to lure Kashmiri youth and instigate them to wage war against the sovereignty and integrity of India."

"During the investigation, three accused persons were earlier found involved and charge sheeted before They are: 1.Waseem Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh of Kandooru Budgam, Junaid Ahmad Mir, son of late Abdul Jabbar Mir, R/o Tikkipora Lolab and

Shabir Ahmad Gajri, son of Abdul Salam, R/o Darbagh Harwan Srinagar."

He said, "Further investigation uncovered the active role of accused Aadil Ahmad Khan, who had been operating a dedicated online recruitment network through Facebook and Twitter, disseminating secessionist, anti-national, and pro-terror content. His online activities were aimed at glorifying terrorism, promoting violent extremism, and motivating youth to join proscribed terrorist organizations."

"The investigation established that Aadil Ahmad Khan was actively aiding and abetting terrorist propaganda by sharing and amplifying digital content aligned with the agenda of Pakistan-based terror groups and their offshoots/ front organizations. His online radicalization efforts were coupled with ground-level facilitation of terror recruitment," the spokesman said.

"The case is registered and being investigated by CIK with a focus on identifying and dismantling the wider online terror ecosystem, including handlers, sympathizers, and digital facilitators operating from within and outside the Union Territory," he said, adding, "More arrests and disclosures are expected as the investigation progresses."

"This action underscores the commitment of Counter Intelligence Kashmir and J&K Police to neutralize both physical and digital terror networks, and to safeguard the youth of the Valley from being exploited by Pakistan-sponsored propaganda machinery," the spokesman said—(KNO)

We Won Despite.....

Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union Territory in 2019. Sharma defeated NC candidate Imran Nabi Dar by securing 32 votes against his opponent's 22 in the third notification. NC's Gurwinder Singh Oberoi also got elected under this notification by securing 31 votes.

"In the third notification, the BJP emerged as the biggest party and it is a historic win for the party. I did not offer anything to anyone but asked the legislators to vote after listening to their conscience. This time we got four votes, next time 40 more people will side with us listening to their conscience," Sharma told reporters at the party headquarters here.

He was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival at Jammu airport and was taken in a procession to Trikuta Nagar party headquarters, amid high-pitch sloganeering in support of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Asked about the statement of People's Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone, accusing the NC of "gifting" seven votes to the BJP to ensure the saffron party's victory on one Rajya Sabha seat, he said, "What he is saying now has no meaning. Why did he not vote? He should have voted, whether for A or B. Staying away from voting is undemocratic." Addressing the party workers, the BJP leader said, "This is a historic victory for the BJP. We have won the seat from the soil of Kashmir, despite attempts by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his party to create a division on the basis of Jammu versus Kashmir. He (Abdullah) asked the legislators to unite against the BJP, which won 29 seats from Jammu in the 2024 Assembly polls.

"I am dedicating my win to the prime minister, party workers. We will con-

tinue to serve the people under 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayas.'" He said despite the cold, a large number of party workers assembled outside the civil secretariat and chanted 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' to celebrate the party's success.

"Kashmir is a changed place where people can move around Lal Chowk without any fear and take pictures anytime," he said, expressing confidence of winning bypolls in both Nagrota and Budgam Assembly segments scheduled for November 11.

Leader of Opposition in J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma said they are thankful to seven legislators who "rejected" the NC and supported the party candidate.

"We do not know them but one thing is clear that they have rejected the NC government and served them a warning. We welcome these seven legislators because the BJP bagged the seat because of them. There may be more like them who are not happy with the government," he said.

He said his party made no contact with any legislators but requested them to vote for the party to reject the current government's "anti-people" policies.

The LoP also rejected Lone's allegation that the Rajya Sabha election was a "fixed match" between the NC and the BJP.

Meanwhile, BJP's disgruntled leader Jahanzaib Sirwal slammed "shameful horse-trading" in the Rajya Sabha elections.

"It is profoundly disheartening to witness a society where the deplorable practices of horse-trading and voting against party whips are not only normalised but glorified as so-called political masterstrokes. This alarming trend signals a severe degradation of our political system, undermining the very principles of democracy," Sirwal said in a statement here.

He said the spectacle of leaders openly boasting about securing each other's votes is a "shameful display of opportunism". (Agencies)

Police Hold.....

He said such route marches also facilitate better coordination and teamwork between different security forces. "They serve as a visible reminder of the importance of maintaining peace and security during elections, ensuring a free, fair and peaceful electoral environment, in line with the democratic ethos of the nation," he said.

Nagrota constituency in Jammu and Budgam segment in Kashmir are

going to bypolls on November 11. While the bypoll in Nagrota was necessitated due to the death of BJP legislator Devender Singh Rana on October 31 last year, Budgam seat fell vacant after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah retained Ganderbal, his family bastion, after winning two assembly seats.

Meet Shopian's.....

With their guidance, he decided to give it a try and the results exceeded expectations and he is further progressing with each year.

Haroon took a step further later and began cultivating outdoor saffron using hydroponic techniques, a method that allows plants to grow without soil by using nutrient-rich water. "Both indoor and outdoor saffron have shown excellent results. This year, the yield and quality have improved even more compared to last year as every year gives you new experience," he said.

"Outdoor saffron, though grown on a smaller scale, has started flowering this year, while the indoor crop is already in full bloom. We are getting better yields with each passing season," Haroon added.

He believes indoor saffron cultivation could revolutionize the sector, especially in the wake of changing climatic conditions that have been affecting traditional saffron fields. "Indoor saffron eliminates all weather-related risks. Even people without land can now grow saffron in their homes. It's a big opportunity for young entrepreneurs and small farmers," he said.

Haroon's success story, he says, is built on hard work, guidance and innovation. "Where there is a will, there is a way. Farmers should take full advantage of government schemes, seek advice from experts, and adopt new technologies. This is how we can become self-reliant and successful," he emphasized.

Agriculture officials also see immense potential in Haroon's approach. "Climate change has started impacting traditional saffron cultivation. Earlier, saffron didn't need irrigation, but now it does. Under such circumstances, indoor saffron can play a vital role in maintaining production and meeting market demand," said an official from the agriculture department.

With every passing year, Haroon's indoor and outdoor saffron fields are yielding better results—demonstrating that innovation, when combined with determination and proper guidance, can truly redefine Kashmir's farming landscape—(KNO)



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Secretary RDD calls for accelerated progress on Panchayat Ghars, CSCs and PLCs in J&K

414 Panchayat Ghars completed; 40 Panchayat Learning Centres being established

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners to review the status of land identification for construction of Panchayat Ghars, establishment of Common Service Centres (CSCs), and operationalization of Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary sought the intervention of the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to resolve pending land-related issues hampering construction of Panchayat Ghars, informing that

414 Panchayat Ghars have been completed so far.

The meeting was attended by District Development Commissioners of various districts, Director General Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra; Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Husain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Shahnaz Akhter; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Deputy Secretary RD&PR, Tahir Ahmad Magray; Superintending Engineers REW Jammu/Kashmir, besides Assistant Commissioners Panchayat, Executive Engineers, and SPRC/DPRC teams.

During the meeting, the Secretary took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of Panchayat Ghar construction for FY 2023-24 and

2024-25. He directed the DCs to expedite land identification for the remaining Panchayats and ensure early resolution of bottlenecks. He further advised exploring relocation options in cases where suitable land was unavailable within the Panchayat jurisdiction.

Emphasizing timely execution, the Secretary directed officers to complete formalities such as land mutation, revenue record updating, and geo-tagging before submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

Expressing concern over slow progress in some districts, the Secretary instructed DCs to treat Panchayat Ghar construction as a top priority, conduct regular district-level reviews,



and closely monitor both physical and financial achievements.

He further directed that Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) and Executive Engineers ensure timely completion of works while proactively addressing land disputes, tendering delays, and administrative approvals. The Secretary emphasized that district-wise performance would be closely monitored.

On the co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs), it was informed that 83% progress has been achieved for FY 2025-26. The Secretary urged field officers to bridge the remaining gap to ensure universal coverage across all Panchayats.

He also announced that 40

Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) are being established during the current year, directing DCs to make these centres fully functional at the earliest. He encouraged showcasing model Panchayat Ghars as Learning Centres to promote innovation and best practices.

Stressing efficient implementation, Aijaz Asad called for regular monitoring, inter-departmental coordination, and proactive problem-solving to ensure timely achievement of RCGSA objectives.

During the meeting, Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, made a detailed presentation on the progress of Panchayat Ghars, Common Service Centres, and Panchayat Learning Centres.

GMC Srinagar Mourns demise of Prof. (Dr.) Peerzada Abdul Rashid

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: The Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar expresses its profound grief and sorrow on the sad demise of Prof. (Dr.) Peerzada Abdul Rashid, a distinguished surgeon, revered teacher, and a mentor.

Prof. Rashid was a towering figure in the field of surgery and medical education at GMC Srinagar. He headed the department of Surgery, leaving an



enduring mark on the institution and the medical fraternity.

Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan, along with HODs, administrative staff, medical superintendents, and medical and paramedical personnel, deeply mourned the loss of Prof. Rashid and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family during this moment of profound sorrow.

Kulgam Police Organize Debate on 'Role of Police in Nation Building'

FAROQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 25: As part of the observance of Police Commemoration Day, Police Flag Day, and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Kulgam Police on Friday organized a debate on the theme "Role of Police in Nation Building" at Government Degree College DH Pora and Government Higher Secondary School Ashmuji, Kulgam.

The event aimed to highlight the vital contribution of the police in maintaining law and order, safeguarding national integrity, and fostering peace, harmony, and public trust—essential pillars of nation-building. Students and faculty members participated enthusiastically, sharing their insightful views on the duties, challenges, and ethical responsibilities of the police in upholding justice and strengthening the democratic framework.

Senior police officers, including DySP DAR Kulgam Shri Mohd Ayub Rather, college faculty, and members of the civil society were present on the occasion. At the conclusion of the



programme, participants were felicitated with certificates and mementoes for their commendable participation and thought-provoking ideas. Kulgam Police reaffirmed its commitment to engaging with the youth

through such interactive initiatives to promote civic awareness, responsibility, and a deeper understanding of the role of law enforcement in building a peaceful and progressive nation.

Absconder Arrested After Years of Evasion

FAROQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 25: In a significant success under its ongoing drive against absconders, Kulgam Police on Friday arrested a long-time absconder identified as Manzoor Ahmad Mahu, son of Sannahullah Mahu,



resident of Mander Bagh, Srinagar.

The accused was wanted in FIR No. 89/2006 under sections 279 and 304-A RPC registered at Police Station Qazigund on April 26, 2006, and had been evading arrest for years.

With this arrest, Kulgam Police reaffirmed its commitment to bringing absconders and offenders to justice and ensuring that the rule of law prevails across the district.

Devyani Rana expresses resolve to sustain momentum of development in Nagrota

HT NEWS DESK

DANSAL, OCT 25: Bharatiya Janata Party candidate for the upcoming by-elections to the Nagrota Assembly seat, Ms. Devyani Rana, while addressing a series of meetings at Kathar Upper, Kathar Lower, Krishanpur and Bhatyari today reiterated her firm resolve to carry forward the vision of a progressive and prosperous Nagrota, saying that the agenda of development and economic growth will not be allowed to get derailed under any circumstances. Emphasizing

the BJP's core philosophy, Ms. Rana reiterated that the party stands for equitable opportunity for all and believes in inclusive governance that uplifts all sections of the society and provides every citizen a fair chance to succeed. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed a people-centric model of development where every individual, regardless of background, is economically and socially empowered.

Recalling her late father Shri Devender Singh Rana's commitment to the constituency, Ms.

Devyani Rana said "My father had a dream to see Nagrota prosper and thrive and I am determined to realize that dream with people's support," she added. In a strong message to those trying to mislead the people, Ms. Rana cautioned disruptive forces not to test the unity and resolve of the people of Nagrota, who, she said, remain steadfast in their approach towards the betterment of the constituency. The people of Nagrota are wise, resilient, and deeply committed to their development and no divisive agenda can weaken

their resolve or derail their progress," she said. Calling upon voters to extend their full support to the BJP for the larger good of the constituency, Ms. Devyani Rana said, "Together, we will build a Viksit Nagrota that will contribute proudly to the vision of a Viksit Jammu and Kashmir and Viksit Bharat".

Sr. BJP Leader and Chairman DDC, Jammu Mr. Bharat Bhushan while speaking at these places appealed to the people of Nagrota to extend their wholehearted support and give a decisive mandate to Ms. Devyani Rana, so that she

can carry forward the unfinished mission of inclusive and holistic development envisioned by her late father, Shri Devender Singh Rana. He emphasized that Ms. Devyani embodies the same spirit of dedication, compassion, and commitment to public service that her father was known for. Reaffirming the BJP's collective resolve, he stated that the entire organization stands firmly united behind Ms. Devyani Rana in her endeavour to usher Nagrota into a new era of progress, prosperity, and people-centric governance.

Dr. Prakash Jha's Play "Yashomati" Staged at Tagore Hall

"Yashomati is not merely a stage performance but a living tale of humanity, closeness, and the pain of separation" (Principal Secretary, Culture)

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: A captivating theatrical play titled "Yashomati", written by noted playwright Dr. Prakash Jha, was staged today at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The event was organised by Shanti Manas Foundation in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) and drew an appreciative audience for its emotional depth and artistic finesse.

The play, directed by acclaimed theatre artist Anjali Ada, featured stellar performances by Mangat Ram, Ravi Singh,

Swar Kaul, Dr. Mukti Sharma Tiku, Anjali Ada, and Keshav Kakreja, who brought the characters to life with powerful portrayals.

"Yashomati" Play explored the complex emotions of human relationships, separation, and the enduring spirit of humanity. The profound dialogues, realistic performances, and compelling stage design kept the audience deeply engrossed throughout the show.

In her opening remarks, director Anjali Ada welcomed the audience and expressed her gratitude to Ms. Harvinder Kour, Secretary of the Cultural Academy, for her support in making the production possible.



The event was graced by Principal Secretary, Culture, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma as the chief guest, along with Secretary JKAACL Harvinder Kour, Additional Sec-

retary Adeel Saleem, Deputy Secretary Syed Shakeel-ur-Rehman, former Minority Commission Member Neelam Ramla Singh, National Chairperson of

the National Human Rights Council Shahida Parveen, President of the International Human Rights Organization (JK Chapter) Mohammad Altaf Bhat, Media

Incharge Mohammad Yaqoob Donoo, Chairperson of Smile Foundation Musarrat Bano, and Tariq Sheera of the Sheher-e-Khaas Literary and Cultural Foundation.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary Brij Mohan Sharma described the play as a profound reflection on human emotions and cultural continuity: "Yashomati is not merely a stage performance but a living tale of humanity, closeness, and the pain of separation. It reminds us that art and culture play a vital role in maintaining the emotional and intellectual balance of society."

He further added that the

Jammu & Kashmir Cultural Academy has consistently supported artistic works that promote peace, harmony, and human values. Commending the creative team, he said the play represents our shared cultural heritage and expressed hope that such meaningful and high-quality theatrical productions will continue to inspire the younger generation toward art and humanistic values.

The event saw an enthusiastic presence of theatre lovers, cultural activists, and members of various social organizations. The proceedings were conducted by Salim Salik, Editor, Sheeraza Urdu.

Javed Rana visits Bandipora, interacts with public delegations

Also inspects G&BB Hostel Bandipora

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 25: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today visited Bandipora and interacted with dozens of delegations at Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys (G&BB) Hostel here.

The Minister was accompanied by legislators Nazir Ahmad Khan, Nizamuddin Bhat and Hilal Akbar Lone along with senior officers of district administration during the visit.

The aim of the visit was to get a first hand account of the developmental concerns in the region so as to align government policies with the actual needs and priorities of the region.

The deputations representing local residents, students and community leaders raised key issues pertaining to the region like youth unemployment, poor infrastructure & daily hardships.

During the meeting, delega-



tions expressed the urgent need to upgrade the region's infrastructure and address other essential requirements. The representatives highlighted the importance of improving roads, transportation networks, health-care services, educational insti-

tutions and communication systems.

They also stressed the need for better water supply, power distribution and sanitation facilities to enhance the overall quality of life and promote sustainable economic growth in the

region.

Discussions also focused on Forest Rights Act implementation, cultural preservation and holistic upliftment in education and infrastructure.

Minister Rana gave a patient hearing to the grievances and

assured the delegations a dedicated review of their grievances, pledging comprehensive and time-bound measures for accelerated and inclusive development of the area.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to balanc-

ing environmental conservation with sustainable development, ensuring that all proposals and measures align with broader ecological and social objectives.

This outreach by the Forest Minister underscores a holistic

and responsive governance approach, making it clear that infrastructure development, upgradation of facilities, tribal needs and employment will be central themes in Bandipora's development agenda moving forward.

Earlier, Minister conducted a thorough inspection of the Gujjar and Bakerwal Boys Hostel and called upon the concerned for improving hostel infrastructure, with particular attention to the urgent requirement for enhanced facilities, increased accommodation capacity and upgraded amenities for Gujjar and Bakerwal youth pursuing higher studies.

He maintained that the provision of all modern facilities is essential to address the existing gaps and to foster a conducive environment that supports both the academic and personal growth of students.

He underscored the government's commitment to improving the living conditions and educational environment of tribal students.

DC Kupwara chairs NCORD meeting to review measures for curbing drug abuse in district Kupwara

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 25: The Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review various measures put in place by different departments for curbing the drug abuse in the district.

ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, SDM Lolab, ACP Kupwara, Dy. SPs of Kupwara/Handwara, MS GMC, Dy. CMO, DPEO, and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the agenda points and the officers presented detailed progress on the work done as per task assigned in previous meetings.

The Deputy Commissioner impressed upon all officers to work in close coordination and intensify their efforts towards eradicating the drug menace from the district.

He directed the concerned officers for amplifying the anti drug awareness campaigns in all panchayats, schools and colleges.

It was decided that a list of government employees will be prepared who shall undergo training on anti-drug awareness and counselling, enabling them to act as counsellors in Primary Health Centres, schools, and rural communities to effectively combat substance abuse.

The Assistant Drug Controller was directed to ensure regular inspections of all medical shops in all tehsils of the district in coordination with Police and revenue authorities.

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

Besides, detailed discussion was held on regular monitoring of hotspots, action taken in NDPS cases as well as functioning of Drug De-Addiction Centres.

It was further impressed upon the concerned officers to fast-track the process of declaring "Nasha Mukta Panchayats" to promote healthy competition and collective efforts among Panchayats in achieving the goal of a drug-free Kupwara district.

DC Srinagar visits Shrine of Makhdoom Sahib and Sharika Devi Temple

Upgradation & developmental works to be undertaken at both sites under multiple schemes

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday undertook a visit to the shrine of Hazrat Sheikh Hamza Makhoom(RA) and Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat to assess the plan of developmental and beautification works in and around these historic sites.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Executive Engineers from R&B, Water Works Division, City Roads

Division, and KPDC, Tehsildar Khanyar and other concerned officers.

At the Makhdoom Sahib Shrine, the DC took note of the plan of development and beautification works aimed at improving public amenities and facilities for devotees.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely submission of the plan for upgradation and developmental works while maintaining the sanctity and heritage of the site.

The DC emphasized coordinated efforts among departments



for smooth execution.

Later, the DC visited the Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat and reviewed the plan of beautification and upgradation, planned to be carried out at the site. He instructed the executing agencies to expedite the submission of the plan and ensure that quality standards are maintained, keeping in view the significance of the temple for devotees and visitors.

The DC further directed the Officers to carry out necessary landscaping and renovation works at both the religious places, besides improving basic facilities.

DLSA Srinagar organizes Special Lok Adalat to resolve Cheque Bounce & Bank Cases

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: In accordance with the 2025 calendar of the J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar today.

The Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Cheque Bounce and Bank cases which was held under the direction of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum and under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arif.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, 03 benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat, wherein first bench was presided over by the Additional District Judge (Bank Cases), Kusoom Pandita and 1st Additional District & Sessions Judge Srinagar, Anjum Ara. The second bench was presided over by For-



est Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Ishtiyaq Alam Baba and PT & E Magistrate Srinagar, Massarat Jabeen and the 3rd Bench was presided over by City Munsiff, Srinagar, Shayesta Nazir and 1st Adl. Munsiff Srinagar, Zirgham Hamid.

Overall 101 number of cases were taken up for settlement out of which

33 number of cases were amicably settled and Rs. 2,64,10,457 was awarded as settlement amount.

The Special Lok Adalat reflects the commitment of the DLSA Srinagar and J&K Legal Services Authority to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and ensure timely justice delivery.

VC JKLCA Conducts Extensive Inspection of Dal-Nigeen Lake, Reviews ongoing conservation measures

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: Vice Chairman J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Manzoor Ahmad Qadri conducted an extensive inspection of Dal-Nigeen Lake, its navigational channels, and the internal hamlets to evaluate the various conservation measures being implemented by the Authority.

He was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer, Technical Officer to VC and



other senior officers of the Authority.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected the dewatering operations and other conservation efforts, including houseboat connectivity enhancements, ensuring that these interventions uphold both quality standards and the site's modern-day usability.

The Vice Chairman also directed that the acquired land be clearly demarcated and developed into eco-friendly recreational spots.

Special emphasis was placed on controlling the sewage inflow from nearby hamlets to protect the lake's water quality. Additionally, he instructed that cleaning of navigational channels be prioritized to ensure smooth and safe movement through the waterways.

Such visits reflect the Authority's commitment to balancing heritage preservation, environmental conservation, and sustainable development, ensuring that Dal-Nigeen Lake continues to thrive as both an ecological treasure and a hub of responsible tourism.

DLIC approves 202 cases under Mission YUVA at Shopian

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 25: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA today held a crucial meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, to review, evaluate, and approve cases aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress under Mission YUVA – a flagship initiative of the government aimed at providing financial support, capacity-building, and handholding to young aspirants willing to establish their own income-generating ventures.

A total of 202 applications, thoroughly verified by the Skill and Business Development Unit

(SBDU), were placed before the committee for consideration. After an in-depth evaluation of each proposal based on eligibility criteria, project feasibility, sustainability, and socio-economic impact, all 202 applications were approved for financial assistance, mentoring, and linkage with relevant departments and financial institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC lauded the efforts of the line departments and emphasized that Mission YUVA serves as a catalyst for channelizing the potential of the district's youth towards productive avenues. He instructed all concerned officers to ensure time-bound processing of financial support, effective monitoring of each sanctioned case, and continuous mentorship to help the beneficiaries establish vi-



able business units.

Highlighting the importance of awareness and outreach, the DC directed the departments

to intensify information, education and communication (IEC) activities, hold interactive workshops and mobile registration camps, and involve panchayati raj institutions to extend the reach of the scheme to every block and panchayat.

He further added that Mission YUVA will not only contribute to employment generation but also foster innovation, self-reliance and entrepreneurship-driven growth, helping to reduce dependence on government jobs and ushering in a new era of socio-economic empowerment.

"Mission YUVA is not just a scheme; it is a movement to promote innovation, self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods," the DC said, reiterating the administration's commitment to handholding every youth

who aspires to become a job creator rather than a job seeker.

The DC also reviewed the progress of previously approved cases and called for periodic review meetings to track implementation, identify challenges, and ensure convergence with other employment-oriented schemes such as PMEGP, NRLM, and JKREGP for maximum impact.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; General Manager DIC, Shurjeel Naikoo; Assistant Director Employment; Lead District Manager; DDM NABARD; Advance Manager Cluster Office J&K Bank; District Officer JKEDI; Executive Officer and other concerned officers.

Forest personnel are frontline defenders of our biodiversity: Javed Rana

Presides passing-out parade of newly trained Forest Guards at FTS Bandipora

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 25: Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana today presided over passing-out parade of 152 newly trained forest guards from the 71st and 73rd batches of the Forest Training School (FTS) Bandipora.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam-uddin Bhat; MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan; MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta; Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani; Conservator of Forests, North Circle Irfan Ali Shah; along with other Senior officers of the Forest and other allied Departments were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Rana commended the dedication, discipline and endurance demonstrated by the recruits during their training period. He exhorted upon them to dedicate themselves towards protection of forest resources of Jammu & Kashmir.

He lauded the frontline staff

for their dedication towards conserving forest resources and urged the new recruits to stay alert against fires and encroachments to safeguard J&K's green wealth.

He lauded the unwavering commitment of the forest personnel, describing them as the "frontline defenders" of Jammu and Kashmir's invaluable forest wealth and biodiversity. "Our forests are not merely natural resources, they are lifelines that support water, climate stability, livelihoods and cultural identity. Safeguarding them is our moral and environmental responsibility," he remarked.

Reaffirming the Omar Abdullah Government's steadfast commitment to sustainable and people-centric governance, Rana highlighted a series of policy measures aimed at ensuring ecological security alongside social equity. He underscored ongoing reforms to empower tribal and forest-dependent communities through community forestry programs, green job initiatives and eco-friendly livelihood opportunities. "True



conservation is achieved when the people living closest to nature are active participants in its protection and beneficiaries of its prosperity," he added.

Minister Rana also appreciated the officers and trainers of the Forest Training School for maintaining high standards of

instruction and instilling professionalism among the recruits. He assured that the government remains committed to strengthening human resource capacity in the Forest Department through enhanced training, technology adoption and infrastructure improvements.

The Minister also felicitated the best-performing trainees of the 71st, 72nd and 73rd Forest Guard Training Courses, appreciating their dedication, discipline and commitment to protecting the region's rich forest resources.

Speaking on the occasion,

Suresh Kumar Gupta said that the forest frontline staff plays an important role in forest protection and their sustainable management.

Later, Javed Rana also inaugurated a newly developed Forest Park and Eco-Restoration Site at Chandaji, Bandipora, an initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and revitalizing degraded land through eco-friendly restoration practices.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam-uddin Bhat; MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; PCCF, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other district officers were present at the inaugural event.

After inaugurating the Eco-park, Minister Rana highlighted the innovative transformation of a former dumping ground into a vibrant green space, terming it a 'win-win initiative in the fight against environmental degradation and climate change'.

He noted that the project exemplifies the government's commitment to responsible land management and circular use of natural resources.

The Minister emphasized that such initiatives not only contribute to ecological balance but also enhance the aesthetic and recreational value of the region.

He further observed that the new Forest Park is expected to emerge as a major tourist attraction for visitors en-route scenic Gurez Valley, providing much-needed boost to eco-tourism and local livelihoods.

The Minister also appreciated the efforts of Forest Department officials, local stakeholders and community volunteers whose contributions made the project possible.

He urged citizens to take collective responsibility in preserving natural resources and supporting green initiatives that build climate resilience and long-term environmental health.

Pertinently, the eco-restoration site, created by repurposing soil from the erstwhile dumping area, now serves as a thriving green zone featuring native tree species, walking trails, way-side car parking facility and eco-awareness installations.

DC Baramulla Flags off Rally under Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today flagged off a rally from the Old Hospital complex Baramulla (CMO Office) under the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0, an initiative aimed at creating awareness against



tobacco use among youth.

The campaign, being organized by the Chief Medical Officer Baramulla under the aegis of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and National Health Mission, seeks to prevent initiation of tobacco use among youth, promote cessation among users, and strengthen enforcement of tobacco control laws.

Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, Dr. A.G. Raina, District Health Officer, Dr. Bhajan Kour and other officials were present on the occasion.

Students of ANMT School and officials participated enthusiastically in the rally, raising slogans and holding placards to spread the message of a tobacco-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for collective efforts to discourage tobacco consumption and protect youth from its harmful effects. He appreciated the Health Department for organizing such awareness activities and urged continued community participation in the campaign.

CBDM CAPACITY BUILDING, IRS TRAINING PROGRAMMES HELD AT ANANTNAG

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG, OCTOBER 25: A Capacity Building Programme on Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) was organised by the District Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with Rural Development Department and State Disaster Response Force, Anantnag at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The event witnessed active participation from officers including Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), and DySP SDRF and officials of various departments including Health, Youth Services & Sports, Fire & Emergency Services, Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Power Development, Revenue, and Flood Control and volunteers.

The session focussed on enhancing community awareness and preparedness for effective

disaster risk reduction and fostering response mechanisms at grass-roots level.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Development highlighted the importance of CBDM in empowering local communities to play a proactive role in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response.

During the program, the significance of CBDM for micro planning based on community knowledge and available resources besides involving community members directly for faster response, better coordination with government agencies, self reliance and minimization of losses during disasters was elaborated.

The programme concluded with an interactive session and demonstrations about basic disaster response techniques, aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge for efficient



action during emergencies.

Later, an Incident Response System (IRS) Training Programme was also organised for strengthening the district's disaster response

and coordination mechanisms. It focused on familiarizing officers with the operational structure, planning process, and response protocols of IRS, preparing them

to manage real-time disaster situations more efficiently.

Deputy Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, J&K, Snober Jamil joined the session virtually and briefed the participants about the Incident Response System framework.

She highlighted the importance of IRS mechanism as a structured approach for effective disaster response and coordination among different departments.

Deputy Secretary emphasized that IRS enables clear roles, responsibilities, and communication channels during emergencies, ensuring swift and efficient action across all levels of administration.

ACD in his remarks underlined the significance of inter-departmental coordination and timely decision-making in disaster situations.

OSC conducts Awareness Programme at Shopian

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER, 25: The One Stop Centre (OSC) Shopian, under the Department of Social Welfare, today organized an awareness programme at the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Girls' Library, Old DC Office, Shopian.

The initiative was aimed at sensitizing the girls regarding the range of

services and assistance provided by the OSC and to enhance awareness about the Women Helpline 181.

During the session, the girls were apprised of various problems concerning blackmailing, women trafficking, domestic violence and other forms of harassment. They were further briefed on the functioning of the Women Helpline 181 Control

Room, including its role in providing immediate assistance and facilitating timely intervention in distress situations.

During the programme, the girls were encouraged to approach the One Stop Centre or contact the helpline in case of any such incidents requiring support, protection, or counselling.

DHSJ reviews healthcare scenario in District Rajouri

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, OCTOBER 25: Director Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar today visited Rajouri where he chaired a meeting to discuss healthcare related issues of the border District.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Medical Superintendents, Block Medical Officers (BMOs) and other senior health officials of the district. The discussion focused on assessing the overall functioning of health institutions, infrastructure status, human resource position and progress under the health programmes in the border district.

Dr. Zargar took a detailed review of NTEP, 102 108 referral audit, NCD, Maternal and Child Health



(MCH) indicators, National Health Mission (NHM) schemes, Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY and other flagship health initiatives. He directed the officers to ensure quality patient care, timely availability

of medicines and strict adherence to standard treatment protocols.

The Director expressed concern over certain operational and logistic issues and instructed the

concerned officers to resolve the same on priority. He emphasized the need for close monitoring, community outreach activities and better coordination among district and block-level teams to

improve service delivery, especially in remote and hard-to-reach areas of Rajouri.

Dr. Zargar also reviewed the status of infrastructure development works, staff strength and public health preparedness. He stressed the importance of maintaining proper sanitation in health facilities and ensuring a patient-friendly environment.

The Director appreciated the dedicated efforts of the health officials of District Rajouri and urged them to continue their commitment towards strengthening the healthcare system and achieving the goals of equitable and accessible healthcare for all.

The meeting concluded with actionable directions to address district-specific challenges and enhance overall health service performance in Rajouri.

DC Kupwara inspects functioning of Fruit Mandi Handwara, Assures Resolution of Trader's Issues

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

HANDWARA, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, visited the Fruit Mandi Handwara to review its functioning and to take stock of issues faced by the traders operating in the Mandi. During the visit, the DC held an interaction with members of the Fruit Mandi Association, led by its President Mohammad Amin, who apprised him of several concerns including the construction of a Kisan shed, a separate passage from the Bypass to the Mandi, and issues related to the hotline electricity supply. He assured the traders that the administration is committed to addressing their grievances and will take necessary steps to upgrade infrastructure and facilities at the Fruit Mandi. Suse emphasized that the Horticulture sector forms the backbone of Kupwara's economy, and district administration is focused on strengthening the horticulture sector and ensuring better support to fruit growers and traders.



The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi and Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan.

HT EDITORIAL

Complete fencing of all bridges in Kashmir

Few years back when there was a spree of suicide incidents across the valley the authorities swung into action and carried out fencing of various bridges. This step was necessitated since the people would take a plunge into the various water bodies especially river Jhelum and end their lives. Although the fencing was carried out on most of the bridges there were others that were left out of this exercise.

Last week a man ended his life by jumping into river Jhelum from Zaina Kadal in downtown Srinagar. The body of the man is yet to be recovered and efforts are on to retrieve the same. Zaina Kadal is one of the bridges left out of the exercise of fencing and this step has not gone well with the locals. They say that had the bridge been fenced this unfortunate incident could have been avoided and a precious life would have been saved.

It is imperative that the authorities pull up their socks and take the corrective measures at the earliest. Instructions should be issued to the executing agency to carry out the fencing of the bridges that are yet to be fenced. This should be done at the earliest so that precious lives are saved and there is an end to the incidents of suicide. The step would go a long way in satiating the aspirations and emotions of the common masses.

It is an established fact that the suicide incidents have come down drastically across the valley ever since the bridges have been fenced. If all the bridges are fenced then one can pray and hope that there is an end to the suicides and it would be good news for one and all. As such it is important that immediate steps are taken in this regard and the whole process is taken with seriousness. Any delay in this regard would not go well with the people and the masses would feel betrayed.

It must be kept in mind by one and all that suicide is the extreme step taken by a person and as such steps should be taken so that this extreme step is not taken by anybody. Carrying out proper fencing of the bridges is an important step in this regard. Once a person wanting to end his or her life does not find any place for the same it is quite possible that the person would give up on the same.

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Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali (RA) – Nund Reshi (Sheikh-ul-Alam)



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali (RA), also popularly known as Nund Reshi or Sheikh-ul-Alam, was a towering spiritual and mystic Sufi saint of the Kashmir Valley. He is regarded as the patron saint of Kashmiris, embodying the essence of peace, spirituality, and unity.

It is said that Nund Reshi spent over twelve years meditating in a cave, renouncing worldly pursuits and adopting an ascetic life – a path reminiscent of Buddhist enlightenment. During his lifetime, Kashmir witnessed a major transition from Hinduism to Islam, and he played a vital role in spreading the message and knowledge of the new faith through his teachings and poetry.

Despite being a Muslim saint, his syncretic background and universal message made him equally revered among followers of all religions in the valley. To this day, his shrine in Charar-e-Sharif continues to attract devotees from diverse backgrounds who come to pay their respects.

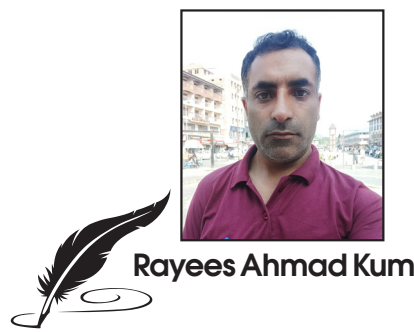
His Poetry – The Shruks In keeping with the poetic tradition of his time, Sheikh-ul-Alam composed "Shruks" – philosophical and spiritual poetic couplets, usually containing four or eight verses. The word Shruk translates to "knot" in Kashmiri, implying that his verses must be "untied" or deeply reflected upon to grasp their full meaning.

Below are some of his profound Shruks: "Yus chu yeti, Sui chu tati,

Suei chu prath jaaye ratith makaan, Suei chu pyade, Suei chu Rathi, Suei chu soruiy, Gapith paan." He who is here, is also there; For it is He who holds a home everywhere. He is the pawn, He is the chariot; He is everything, unseen and unknown. "Malla vuchum moshi khywan Haakas dapan chui kacch Baekir khyavan daekir travaan Mashidiyan dapan yi chuy yacch." I saw a preacher eat beef today, Complaining all greens were weed; Eating sweet breads, burping away, Telling the mosque it was the ogre's greed. "Yus kari gongul, Sui kari kraw." He who sows, Shall be the one to harvest too. "Kartal phtrem ta garimas drati." I broke the sword and molded sickles out of it. "An poshi teli, Yeli vanan poshi." Food will last only as long as the forests last.

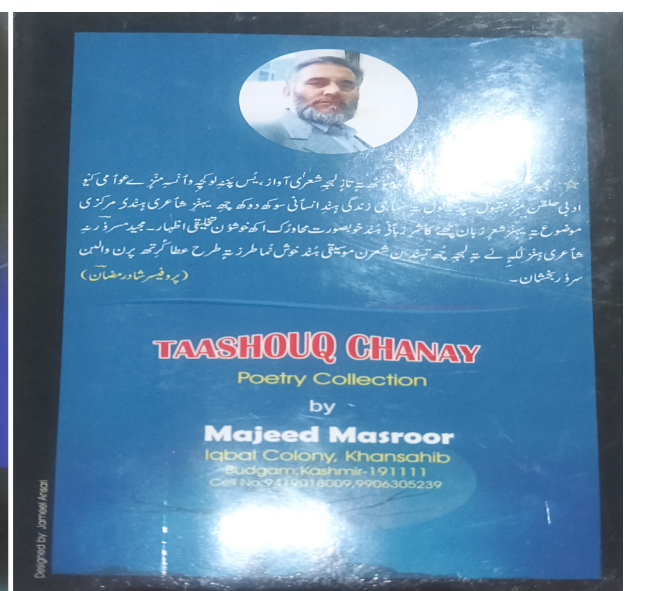
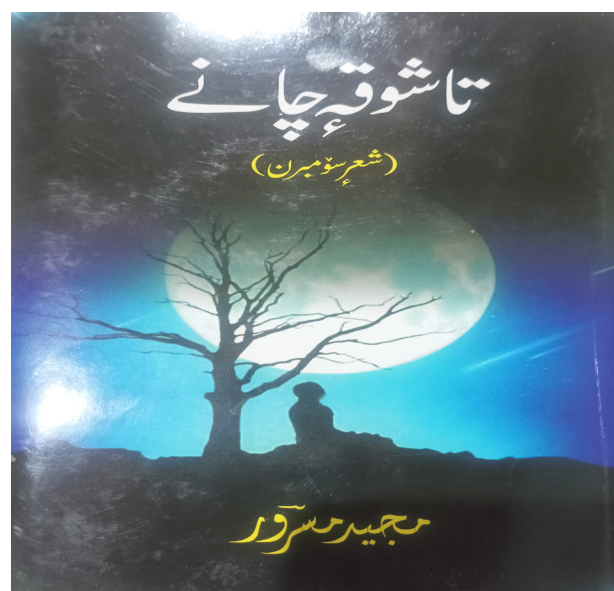
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Taashouq Chanay poetry collection by Majeed Masroor



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

These are naatya verses, through which the author expresses his profound love and devotion for the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). His choice of words and their graceful composition reflect the depth of his reverence and admiration. He even writes about the revered shrine of Dargah Hazratbal, where the sacred relic of the beloved Prophet is preserved. Thousands of devotees gather there on special occasions to catch a blessed glimpse of this holy relic, a moment of deep spiritual fulfillment and collective devotion. For some revered saints such as Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani, Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom, Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani, and Khan Sahab, the author has composed devotional poems expressing his deep love and profound reverence for them



Majeed Masroor stands as a beacon of hope, love, and inspiration in the picturesque valley of Kashmir. He is not just a name; he is an institution of inspiration, a man of substance, and a true son of Kashmir who has made his people proud. He has authored about half a dozen books, among which Taashouq Chanay stands out as a masterpiece of poetry. Spanning 201 pages and dedicated to his parents, this remarkable collection was published by Taj Printing Service, New Delhi. In its foreword, Majeed Masroor shares how he was encouraged by friends and well-wishers to compile his poetic works and resume writing—something he had given up earlier for certain known reasons. Ishfaq Gowher, while commenting on the author's literary brilliance, describes Majeed Masroor as a true soldier of Kashmiri language and literature. He also reflects on his personal association with the author, recalling the days when Majeed Masroor used to organize poetic symposiums on Gulistan Channel, where he was later appointed as the honorary literary coordinator. The opening poem in this book is a heartfelt prayer in which the author seeks enduring blessings from the Almighty.

"Chus bi amut dedtal darith halam az ya Rasool, Akh nazar bas akh nazar nazre karam az ya Rasool. Be kasan baed satha Mohammad aaw, Ashqan hund mudaa Mohammad aaw. Wala waen wasye lol baegrawo, Dargah dil shehlawo az."

These are naatya verses, through which the author expresses his profound love and devotion for the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). His choice of words and their graceful composition reflect the depth of his reverence and admiration. He even writes about the revered shrine of Dargah Hazratbal, where the sacred relic of the beloved Prophet is preserved. Thousands of

devotees gather there on special occasions to catch a blessed glimpse of this holy relic, a moment of deep spiritual fulfillment and collective devotion. For some revered saints such as Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani, Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom, Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani, and Khan Sahab, the author has composed devotional poems expressing his deep love and profound reverence for them. It appears that he seeks to adopt them as his spiritual guides and mentors in life. This book is also a collection of 68 mesmerizing ghazals, meticulously composed, each reflecting the poetic brilliance of Majeed Masroor through its varied themes. Shehlowtha myoni jigar zaanh akh pahar Wuchzihea myoni machar zaanh akh pahar

The choice of words and the depth of thought woven into this composition are truly extraordinary. The poet has succeeded in giving it a beautiful and graceful poetic form.

Balyaran ma sa sumblou myoun dil Rayi tehnze az fi tumblou myoun dil

Using simple and familiar words of the native language, the poet has tried to convey his message to enthusiastic readers through this ghazal. Indeed, it is commendable how he carries his thoughts forward in such a clear and comprehensible manner.

Dorer chouni kotha chalai Yoti soun salai lalo az Ba wai dilki sarie awhalie Yifi soun salai lalo az

Using simple and heartfelt words, the poet beautifully expresses his deep anxiety and restlessness for his beloved. He cannot endure the pain of separation and longs intensely for his presence and companionship.

Az khasni dekas drih tas chu yun Tula narik paith waih tas chu yun In these poetic couplets, the poet's excitement and joy are clearly evident, as he is confident that his beloved will

meet and embrace him – the one for whom he has made every preparation with utmost care.

Dag mei koran chum dilas preath dawa gou be asar Ha tabibu near sa ami daadi nish chukh be khabar

The poet seems to be in unbearable pain. While going through these verses, it becomes evident that no herbal or homemade remedy can heal the agony of a heartache. Only the presence of his beloved can bring him relief from this devastating sorrow.

Kuni jayi hargah wuchnekh niganar dapizes dilasa duen Nindrei mai zaejmich temi sind amaran dapizes dilasa duen

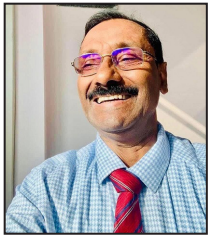
The poet's brilliance radiates through these couplets, reflecting his tireless effort to shape them into something extraordinary and captivate readers with their melodious charm.

Ba wolmut azlai chani maye waesye Chei rous ma zindagi hasi zayi waesye

These verses reflect the poet's deep attachment to his beloved. He believes that without him, his existence—whether in life or death—holds no meaning. His life derives its worth and vibrancy solely from his presence; without him, it remains colourless and void of purpose. Majeed Masroor, apart from being an ace poet and accomplished writer, is also a powerful orator. He frequently hosts symposiums and debates on popular television channels, where his eloquence and intellect captivate audiences. A well-known and respected name across Kashmir, he continues to inspire many through his multi-faceted talent. I would especially urge the youth to read his works—particularly the poetry in this book—to experience the enchantment of his thought and expression.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir.

Saifi Sopori: The Mystic Voice of Kashmir Can Never Be Silent (AN OBITUARY)



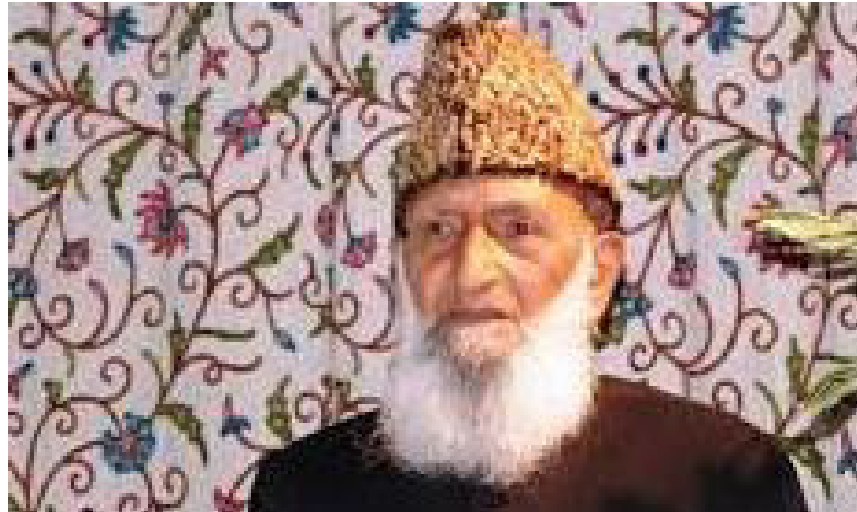
Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

Like many classical poets, Sopori wrote extensively on love—both earthly and divine. His ghazals often dwell on the pain of separation, the ecstasy of union, and the paradoxes of desire. Love, in his poetry, is a transformative force that leads to self-realization. His romantic verses are tender yet philosophical, drawing parallels between the beloved and the divine. The beloved is often elusive, symbolic of the unattainable truth that the seeker yearns for. Sopori's poetry is deeply humanistic. He writes about the plight of the poor, the suffering of children, the dignity of labor, and the need for compassion in a fractured world. His verses reflect a moral conscience, urging readers to rise above hatred and embrace empathy. Sopori's poetry is rich in symbolism. He uses traditional Sufi symbols—wine, tavern, mirror, flame—to convey metaphysical ideas. The mirror often represents self-reflection, the flame symbolizes divine love, and the tavern becomes a place of spiritual intoxication.

In his collection *Sehra Sehra*, Sopori once wrote the famous line "Har zarre mein hai roshni ka paighaam, /Khud ko paana hai toh khud se guzar jaa." ("Every particle carries the message of light, /To find oneself, one must transcend oneself.") This couplet encapsulates the Sufi ideal of annihilation of the ego (fana) and the discovery of divine truth through inner purification. Saifuddin Masoodi in Sopore, popularly known as Saifi Sopori, was a towering figure in Kashmiri literature. A poet, educationist, translator, and philosopher, Sopori wrote in multiple languages—Kashmiri, Urdu, Persian, Arabic, and English—and left behind a rich legacy of lyrical and philosophical poetry. His first Urdu poem, published in 1942 in *Daily Khidmat*, marked the beginning of a literary journey that spanned over seven decades. In the eyes of his admirers, Saifi Sopori was not just a poet—he was a mystic, a mentor, and a messenger of light. His poetry is remembered not only for its literary merit but for its ability to touch hearts and elevate minds. As Kashmir continues to navigate its complex identity, Sopori's verses remain a beacon of wisdom and hope.

Unlike many poets who focus on surface emotions, Sopori delves into existential questions. What is the purpose of life? What lies beyond death? How does one attain truth? His poetry does not offer easy answers but invites contemplation. Saifi Sopori's poetry must be understood within the socio-political context of Kashmir. Saifi Sopori was born into a culturally rich environment in Sopore, a town known for its intellectual vibrancy. His early education was steeped in classical languages, and he later graduated from the University of the Punjab, Lahore. This academic foundation enabled him to explore diverse literary traditions, from Persian mysticism to modern Urdu ghazals. His multilingual proficiency allowed him to write and translate across languages, enriching Kashmiri literature with global influences. Writing during a time of increasing unrest and identity crisis, his verses often reflect the pain of displacement, the longing for peace, and the resilience of the Kashmiri spirit. While he rarely wrote overtly political poems, his humanistic and spiritual themes served as subtle resistance to violence and division. His emphasis on unity, compassion, and inner truth challenged the narratives of hatred and conflict. In this sense, Sopori was not just a poet but a cultural custodian, preserving the soul of Kashmir through his words.

His work was deeply rooted in the cultural soil of Kashmir, yet it transcends geographical boundaries through its universal themes of love, mysticism, humanism, and spiritual longing. Often referred to as "Peer Saifuddin Sopori," he was not only a literary figure but also a reformer in education, introducing innovative pedagogical methods in Jammu and Kashmir. His poetry, however, remains his most enduring contribution, reflecting the soul of a region torn between beauty and conflict. One of the most remarkable aspects of Saifi Sopori's poetry is his linguistic dexterity. He wrote fluently in Kashmiri, Urdu, Persian, and Arabic, and even translated works from English into these languages. This multilingualism allowed him to draw from diverse literary traditions—Sufi poetry, Persian ghazals, Urdu nazms, and Kashmiri folk verse—creating a unique poetic idiom that was both rooted and expansive. His collection *Sehra Sehra*, released in 2012, was celebrated by scholars and critics for its philosophical depth and lyrical beauty. The event, held at the University of Kashmir's Allama Iqbal Library, featured tributes from eminent



literary figures who acknowledged Sopori's role in shaping Kashmiri poetic thought.

His Kashmiri verses are marked by simplicity and emotional resonance, often drawing on local imagery and idioms. In contrast, his Urdu and Persian poetry tends to be more philosophical and ornate, reflecting the influence of classical poets like Rumi, Hafiz, Ghalib, and Iqbal. At the heart of Sopori's poetry lies a deep spiritual yearning. Influenced by Sufi philosophy, his verses often explore the relationship between the self and the divine. The soul's journey toward union with the eternal is a recurring motif, expressed through metaphors of light, water, wind, and silence. Sopori's poetry is suffused with the imagery of Kashmir's natural beauty—its rivers, mountains, chinar, and valleys. Nature is not merely a backdrop but a living presence, often symbolizing divine grace or emotional states. His verses evoke the serenity of Dal Lake, the whisper of pine forests, and the melancholy of snow-covered fields. In doing so, he not only celebrates Kashmir's aesthetic charm but also mourns its political suffering.

Like many classical poets, Sopori wrote extensively on love—both earthly and divine. His ghazals often dwell on the pain of separation, the ecstasy of union, and the paradoxes of desire. Love, in his poetry, is a transformative force that leads to self-realization. His romantic verses are tender yet philosophical, drawing parallels between the beloved and the divine. The beloved is often elusive, symbolic of the unattainable truth that the seeker yearns for. Sopori's poetry is deeply humanistic. He writes about the plight of the poor, the suffering of children, the dignity of labor, and the need for compassion in a fractured world. His verses reflect a moral conscience, urging readers to rise above hatred and embrace empathy. Sopori's poetry is rich in symbolism. He uses traditional Sufi symbols—wine, tavern, mirror, flame—to convey metaphysical ideas. The mirror often represents self-reflection, the flame symbolizes divine love, and the tavern becomes a place of spiritual intoxication. In one of his Urdu poems, he writes: "Insaaniyat ka noor hai har dil mein chhupa, Nafrat ke andheron se usse roshan karna hai." ("The light of humanity lies hidden in every heart, We must illuminate it from the darkness of hatred.") His use of metaphor is subtle and layered. A river may represent time, a bird may symbolize the soul, and snowfall may evoke silence or loss. These metaphors allow his poetry to operate on multiple levels—personal, philosophical, and political.

His mystic voice is revered by scholars. At a panel discourse held at the University of Kashmir's Allama Iqbal Library during the release of his poetic collection *Sehra Sehra*, Sopori was celebrated as a "nonagenarian mystic poet." Eminent scholars such as Professor Bashir Ahmed Nehvi, Professor Mohammad Aslam, and

Zareef Ahmad Zareef praised his philosophical depth and lyrical mastery. Dr. Aziz Hajini, then Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), described Sopori as a "towering poet of Urdu language" whose contributions enriched both literature and education in Kashmir. Critics have highlighted Sopori's rare ability to write fluently in Kashmiri, Urdu, Persian, Arabic, and English. His poetry is often noted for its diverse themes. Drawing from Sufi traditions, his verses explore themes of self-realization, divine love, and existential inquiry. Sopori's use of metaphors—light, mirror, flame—echoes classical Persian and Urdu poetry. His ghazals and nazms are praised for their rhythmic elegance and emotional resonance. Sopori's verses are melodious, often employing traditional meters and rhyme schemes. His ghazals follow the classical structure, while his nazms are more free-flowing. The musicality of his poetry enhances its emotional impact and makes it suitable for recitation.

Beyond poetry, Sopori was recognized as an educationist who introduced progressive teaching methods in Jammu and Kashmir. His dual legacy—as a poet and reformer—has been acknowledged by both literary and academic communities. Justice (Rtd.) Bashir Ahmad Kirmani, who presided over Sopori's first death anniversary event, emphasized the poet's role in shaping the intellectual fabric of Kashmir. Readers and admirers often describe Sopori's poetry as a bridge between tradition and modernity. His verses resonate with those seeking spiritual solace, cultural identity, and poetic beauty. His ability to write in multiple languages made his work accessible to a wide audience, and his themes of unity, compassion, and introspection continue to inspire.

Saifi Sopori's influence on Kashmiri literature is profound. He mentored young poets, contributed to educational reforms, and enriched the literary landscape with his multilingual writings. His poetry continues to be studied in universities, recited in mushairas, and cherished by readers across generations. Sopori's poetry can be compared with that of other mystic poets like Rumi, Kabir, and Iqbal. Like Rumi, he explores divine love; like Kabir, he questions ritualism; and like Iqbal, he emphasizes self-realization and spiritual awakening. His work resonates with the teachings of Rumi, Hafiz, and Iqbal, yet retains a distinct Kashmiri flavor. Saifi Sopori inspired many contemporary poets and writers in Kashmir and beyond. His emphasis on cultural rootedness and philosophical inquiry continues to shape literary discourse. Writers like Dr. Rafiq Masoodi and Dr. Shafaq Sopori have acknowledged his influence in their own works.

He often used metaphors like rivers, gardens, and birds to symbolize inner states and spiritual journeys. Yet, Sopori remains distinct in his Kashmiri sensibility. His verses carry the fragrance of

chinar leaves, the rhythm of Kashmiri folk songs, and the melancholy of a valley caught between beauty and tragedy. Saifi Sopori's poetry is a journey—through valleys of longing, rivers of thought, and skies of silence. He invites readers to pause, reflect, and listen—not just to his words but to their own inner voice. In a world increasingly fragmented by noise and conflict, Sopori's verses offer a sanctuary of stillness and wisdom. He reminds us that poetry is not just an art form but a way of being—a path to truth, a mirror to the soul, and a bridge between hearts. As Kashmir continues to search for peace and identity, the voice of Saifi Sopori echoes like a prayer in the wind—gentle, persistent, and eternal.

Saifi Sopori was also a prolific translator. He rendered works from Persian and Arabic into Kashmiri and Urdu, making classical texts accessible to a wider audience. His translations were not mere linguistic exercises but creative reinterpretations that preserved the essence while adapting to local sensibilities. Beyond poetry, Sopori wrote essays on education, philosophy, and literary criticism. His writings advocated for a holistic and culturally rooted education system in Jammu and Kashmir. He introduced innovative teaching techniques and emphasized the role of literature in shaping moral and intellectual character. Saifi Sopori's contributions to education were as significant as his literary achievements. He served as a teacher and administrator, influencing generations of students. He believed in the transformative power of education and worked tirelessly to modernize the curriculum while preserving cultural heritage.

He took initiative for Curriculum reform by integrating literature and philosophy into mainstream education. He focused on Teacher training to promote pedagogical excellence and ethical teaching. He wanted Cultural education to encourage students to engage with Kashmiri language and traditions. This dual identity as a poet and educator earned him the title of educationist, and he is remembered for bridging the gap between academic rigor and artistic sensibility. His Urdu ghazals are particularly admired for their balance of form and feeling. He avoided ornate language, preferring clarity and emotional resonance. Saifi Sopori's legacy is deeply embedded in Kashmiri culture. He is celebrated not only for his literary brilliance but also for his role in preserving and promoting Kashmiri identity. His works are studied in schools, recited in mushairas, and cherished by readers across generations.

Saifi Sopori passed away on October 19, 2017, at the age of 95. His death marked the end of an era in Kashmiri literature, but his spirit lives on through his writings and the institutions he nurtured. His life is a testament to the power of words to heal, inspire, and transform. He remains a beacon for those who seek to blend art, education, and spirituality in service of humanity. His poetic lines which are deeply influenced by Sufi philosophy still resonate in the air and sky of Kashmir. "Sehra sehra phirta raha, ek saaya tha saath mere / Har manzil pe ruk kar poocha, kya tu bhi hai raah mein?" ("I wandered through deserts, a shadow beside me / At every stop I asked, are you too on this path?") These lines reflect his existential quest and poetic solitude.

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Why Does Everyone Feel Time-Pressed?



Surinderpal Singh

The 21st century is characterized as the age of science and technology. The modern era is defined by technological advancements and an increasing pace of life. A significant change has occurred in the perception of time among ordinary people. Today, the modern materialistic world claims unparalleled efficiency in completing tasks and managing jobs, yet many individuals still complain about a lack of time.

Pace of Work

In recent decades, technological innovations have transformed the way we work. From the advent of personal computers to the rise of smartphones, tools designed to enhance productivity are now ubiquitous. For instance, email has replaced traditional handwritten mail, and this advancement in modern science allows for instant communication worldwide. This change has significantly reduced the time required for sending and receiving information, enabling businesses to operate at a much faster pace.

Moreover, the rapid economy has redefined employment. The acceleration in the economy has created flexible job opportunities for various tasks and functions. Platforms like Uber, Upwork, and TaskRabbit allow individuals to take on multiple jobs simultaneously, enhancing their potential for economic growth and reducing the time spent on traditional

job searches.

Illusion of Time Savings

Despite these advancements, many people now feel an even greater shortage of time than before. Several surveys conducted by psychological institutions have shown that 58% of individuals feel overwhelmed by their daily responsibilities, leading to dissatisfaction with their work-life balance. These figures are surprising, given that the processes for completing tasks have become faster and easier, yet humans continue to experience a lack of time.

This phenomenon can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, technology creates a "always-on" culture where individuals are expected to remain available even during nighttime. The convenience of smartphones and social media means that work-related communication can intrude into personal time, blurring the lines between professional and personal life. Modern studies have shown that 46% of working adults check work emails during non-work hours, leading to feelings of fatigue and pressure.

Additionally, the abundance of choices available today can contribute to decision fatigue. With numerous options for entertainment, dining, and shopping, individuals may spend more time deciding rather than engaging in their preferred activities. These experiences indicate that individuals feel mentally exhausted without accomplishing any tasks, resulting in a perceived shortage of time.

The Cultures of Being Busy

In today's age, the social notion of being busy has also evolved. In many cultures, being busy is associated with success and productivity. This mindset compels many individuals in society to fill their schedules with activities and responsibilities.

Moreover, social media plays a significant

role in creating this cycle. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter showcase a lifestyle filled with busyness. As users scroll through images of colleagues working late at night or friends managing multiple projects at once, they often feel a sense of falling behind, which creates an endless cycle that drives them to do more without any meaningful rest.

Finding Balance in a Fast-Paced World

Experts in various fields around the world suggest that prioritizing self-care and setting boundaries at work is essential for regaining a sense of leisure. Mindfulness practices such as meditation and yoga have become effective tools for reducing stress and increasing focus.

Additionally, many organizations around the globe have begun to recognize the importance of employee well-being. Companies like Microsoft have implemented four-day workweeks and unlimited vacation policies to encourage a worry-free work-life balance. These initiatives not only improve employee satisfaction but also enhance overall productivity.

The diminishing notion of time in our physical world presents both challenges and opportunities. It is undoubtedly a harsh reality that technological advancements have certainly increased efficiency and speed in completing tasks, however, it has also fostered a sense of busyness in every individual leading many to feel fatigued. People and organizations today are trying to adapt to this fast-paced environment. Therefore, it is crucial that we prioritize well-being and redefine our relationship with time—transforming it from a source of stress into a pathway for happiness and joy.

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



Health Benefits of Egg

SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

A whitish, oval shaped, gentle, shell protecting the inner part known as albumin and yolk. Eggs have good and very effective health benefits. It includes eggs containing calcium, vitamins, minerals etc. Eggs have been used for health benefits for a long time so eggs are having great health benefits and are easily available. Doctors Recommend eggs to those patients who complain of different ailments related to their health.

Today let's start to explore a few health benefits of eggs in our day to day life. Eggs are very beneficial for our sharp eye sight and maintain our eye sight. Eggs contain vitamin A (retinol chemical name for vitamin A). Egg yolk is packed with lutein and zeaxanthin are helpful antioxidants that reduce the risk of cataracts and macular generation in the eyes.

Eating two eggs a day for six weeks increased HDL levels by 10%. Regular eating of eggs leads to elevated levels of high-density lipoprotein, also known as the good cholesterol.

As mentioned earlier in this article eggs are packed with protein, minerals and vitamins. Most of us know the importance of proteins in our body. Proteins maintain

weight, increase muscle mass, lowers the blood pressure and are beneficial for our bones.

Recent studies suggest that the eating of one egg for breakfast will not cause any heart disease. People who follow a low-carbohydrate diet and eat less of a chance of developing heart disease.

As we know some people are getting allergic in their intestines, some are having other problems as well, they should avoid such food stuff which makes them uncomfortable, with having some other health issues. Nowadays we all are very much concerned about our health and want to keep our health fit and fine by engaging in different games like in gym centres, football, cricket, jogging and are fond of experiencing other effective ways but one thing is true that our dietary discipline decides our good health and keep us happy and healthy.

Today junk food is trending and new varieties are being kept ready on streets, restaurants, hotels etc., but we should not forget that healthy food is always cooked at home, we need balanced and hygienic food for the body.

Sahilmanzoora411900@gmail.com

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SMVDSB Expedites Restoration Works of Schools under Social Support Mandate

HT NEWS DESK

KATRA, OCT 25: As part of its ongoing Social Support Initiative, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) today conducted a comprehensive review of restoration works at several Government Schools in Reasi and Udhampur district that were severely impacted by recent natural calamities. These efforts were undertaken in accordance with the directions of the Board's Chairman, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K UT, Shri Manoj Sinha, reaffirming the Board's steadfast commitment to repair and renovate government schools in the region and strengthen the educational infrastructure. The schools under restoration include Government High School at Sirla Bhaga; Government Middle Schools at Chack Bhagtha, Parthal, Manoon,



and Kun Kanyala; and Government Primary Schools at Hansali, Kalara Chanjute, Upper Sirla, Geeta Nagar, Purana Daroor, and Banganga in Reasi district. Additionally, restoration works are also underway at Government Primary School, Dhanno in Udhampur district.

These institutions suffered extensive damage to classrooms, boundary walls and sanitation facilities due to heavy rains and subsequent landslides.

A team, as per the directions of Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, conducted an on-site assessment of the restoration works and instructions were issued to the concerned quarters to ensure prompt deployment of adequate manpower, machinery and requisite materials at the identified restoration sites to expedite the execution of works. It was further exhorted to furnish progress reports at regular intervals to facilitate close monitoring and ensure accountability so that all restoration works are completed within the stipulated timeframe, in alignment with the Board's commitment to educational welfare.

The visiting team also interacted with school staff and local stakeholders to ensure that the restoration efforts are responsive to the educational and safety needs of the students.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of BILQEESA AKHTER D/O FAYAZ AHMAD MIR R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 25/03/2008 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate
1st Class Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of DILSHADA BEGUM D/O PEER HABIBULLA SHAH R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 22/03/1973 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate
1st Class Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SALIB ZAHOR LONE S/O ZAHOR AHMAD LONE R/O NOWPORA JAGIR Tehsil BARAMULLA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 03/01/2014 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate
1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

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

Name....HADIYA MEHJOOR
D/O ...MEHJOOR AHMAD RATHER
SHIRPOPRA GAVEGARIN

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

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

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

Public Notice

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ZUBIDHA AKHTER D/O BASHIR AHMAD MIR R/O PUSNAG Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 02/03/1986 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

آزاد احمد ڈار آف ٹیکنی چل بسے فاتحہ خوانی سوموار کو ہوگی

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ آزاد احمد ڈار ساکنہ نگین باغ 23 اکتوبر جمعرات 2025ء کو مختصر علالت کے بعد اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ ان اللہ وانا الیہ راجعون مرحوم کی فاتحہ خوانی 27 اکتوبر بروز سوموار 2025ء صبح 10.30 بجے آبائی مقبرہ واقع جبک نزدیکی بس اسٹاپ میں انجام دی جائے گی اس کے بعد ان کی رہائش گاہ واقع نگین باغ نزدیکی باغ شگوفہ میں دعائے مجلس ہوگی۔ اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ مرحوم کو کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب فرمائے۔ آمین

پسماندگان
اقارب و احباب
ساکنہ نگین حضرت بل سربنگر

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)

Muthi Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar

www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Cancellation of candidature and Debarment of candidate on account of resorting to unfair means - regarding.

Order No: 320-SSB of 2025

Dated: 22-10-2025

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted OMR Based Examination for the post of J.E (Electrical), Power Development Department, advertised vide Notification No. 02 of 2025 Dated 27.02.2025 on 24.08.2025; and Whereas, a candidate namely Mr. Suhail Ameen Mir, S/o Mohammad Amin Mir R/o 211 Aapri Bagh Khag Budgam, appeared in the said examination under Roll No. 2110225 at S. P. Higher Secondary School, M.A Road Srinagar;

Whereas, the said candidate has been in possession of mobile phone and using it during the course of examination at S. P. Higher Secondary School, M.A Road Srinagar, as per the report of the Centre Superintendent and concerned Invigilator based on the CCTV footage;

Whereas, notwithstanding the above, vide No. JKSSB-COEExam(UT)/101/2023-03(7363646) Dated 07.10.2025, a show cause notice was issued to the said candidate to explain his position;

Whereas, the case was placed before the Unfair Means Committee constituted in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022 under part XXX (67), and the committee, after considering the nature of the offence and evidence brought on record as well as the reply of the show cause notice submitted by the candidate, recommended as under:

"The committee observed that the candidate has committed offence under section 64 (b) of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022. Therefore, the committee recommends cancellation of the candidature for the said post, besides debarment for a period of 05 years for all examinations and selections conducted by JKSSB with effect from the date of incident."

Whereas, the recommendations of the Unfair Means Committee were placed before the Board in its 324th Meeting held on 14-10-2025, which accepted the recommendations of the Unfair Means Committee with some modification and decided as under: "To cancel the candidature of candidate i.e. Mr. Suhail Ameen Mir, S/o Mohammad Amin Mir R/o 211 Aapri Bagh Khag Budgam, for the post of JE (Electrical) advertised vide notification No. 02 of 2025 dated 27.02.2025.

To debar the candidate for a period of two (02) years from all examinations and selections conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) with effect from the date of incident".

Therefore, in view of the above and as per section 69 of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (Conduct of Examinations) Regulations, 2022, the candidature of candidate Mr. Suhail Ameen Mir, S/o Mohammad Amin Mir R/o 211 Aapri Bagh Khag Budgam, for the post of JE (Electrical) advertised vide notification No. 02 of 2025 dated 27.02.2025 is hereby cancelled. The candidate is further debarred from appearing in all the examinations and selections conducted by the Board (JKSSB) for a period of two (02) years from the date of examination to the said post i.e. 24.08.2025.

By Order.

No: JKSSB/COEEXAM(UT)/101/2023-03(7363646)

Dated: 22-10-2025

Sd/- (Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK: 7503/25 | Dated: 25-10-2025

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER KELLER National Health Mission (NHM)

Sub: Dasti Quotation Notice for Gas Cylinders (19Kg) Commercial.

For and on behalf of the Government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, sealed quotations are hereby invited from the Registered Dealers/Suppliers in line for supply of Commercial Gas Cylinders (19 Kg Refill) for heating purpose at Medical Block Keller with the following Terms & conditions:

- The Supplier should have a valid GST/PAN Number.
- The Supplier shall clearly mention the Rebate/Discount in Rupees to be provided on each Cylinder (19Kg) on the rates prescribed by the Government from time to time.
- The Supplies are for Medical Block Keller and shall be delivered at the site within three days from the issuance of Supply order.
- The list of Prescribed Rates by the Government, must be provided to this office as and when required duly authenticated by the competent authority.
- 100% payment will be made after Verification of the supply by the Verifying Committee in place.
- The approved rates of successful supplier shall remain in force for a period of 04 Months from the date of approval and it shall be binding upon the successful supplier to supply the material without fail as and when orders are placed with them.
- The Quotations should reach to the office of undersigned within 10 (Ten) Days positively from the date of issuance of Quotation in the Print Media.
- The CDR of Rs 5000/= (Five Thousands Only) in shape of Bank draft pledged to Block Medical Officer should be accompanied with the rate quotation.

No: BMOK/Tender/Heating/2025/1828-31
Dated: 22-10-2025

Sd/- Block Medical Officer Keller

DIPK: 7512/25 | Dated: 25-10-2025

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

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7006083461

Satish Sharma interacts with BCCI President

Discusses promotion, development of cricket infrastructure across J&K

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma and BCCI President, Mithun Manhas held an extensive discussion on promotion and development of cricket infrastructure and associated activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, the Minister highlighted the Government's commitment to nurturing sporting talent and

strengthening grassroots cricket across Union Territory. He emphasized the need for modern training facilities, youth engagement programs, and structured tournaments to identify and support emerging players. He also called for giving special emphasis on Border areas as well as remote and far flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also discussed the possibilities of hosting inter-district and national-level tournaments, enhancing coaching support, and upgrading existing



cricket infrastructure to meet national standards.

Satish Sharma reaffirmed the government's resolve to make Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sporting excellence, particularly in cricket, through collaborative efforts between Jammu and Kashmir administration and National sporting bodies.

Mithun Manhas appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and assured full co-operation from BCCI in developing cricket at all levels in Jammu and Kashmir.

Power Shutdown by KPDCCL

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 25: According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution KPDCCL, power shutdown of 33 KV Pampore Pulwama line will be observed due to which Newa, Kakapora, LIS Marvel Stage I, II, III & IV, receiving Stations shall remain off while power supply to Kakapora, Pahoo, Nehama, Kakapora Railway, Newa, Gadoora, Zadoora, Parigam, Narbal and adjoining areas will be affected from 10.00 AM to 03.30 PM on 30 October, 02, 06 & 10 November, 2025.

Similarly, power shutdown of 132 KV Grid Substation Rawalpura will be observed due to which Rawalpura, Chanapora, Peerbagh, Bones & Joint Hospital, Bagh-i-Mehtab, B.K Pora, Khandra, Wanbal, Doodganga, Rangreth, JKLAI, BEACON, FIL Industries, RASU and Airforce receiving stations shall remain off while power supply to Rawalpura, Chanapora, Peerbagh, Bones & Joint Hospital, Bagh-i-Mehtab, B.K Pora, Khandra, Wanbal, Doodganga, Rangreth, JKLAI, BEACON, Airforce and adjoining areas will be affected from 09.00 AM to 03.00 PM on 29 October, 2025.

Likewise, shutdown of 132/33 KV Grid Station Shopian shall be observed due to which power supply to Keller, Pinjura, Batpura, Agalar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09.00 AM to 03.00 PM on 2nd November, 2025

Furthermore, shutdown of 122 KV D/C Pattan-Delina/ Amargarh-Sheeri Transmission line, 132 KV D/C Pattan-Magam Transmission line and 132/33 KV Grid Substation Magam will be observed due to which Magam, Mazhama, Kongamdara, Ahmedpora, Dhobiwan, Kunzar, Aripanthan, Khag, Beerwah and Arizal receiving stations shall remain off while power supply to Dhobiwan, Kunzar, Aripanthan, Khag, Beerwah, Arizal, Magam, Mazhama, Kongamdara, Ahmedpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09.00 AM to 03.00 PM on 27 October, 2025.

Similarly, shutdown of 132 KV D/C Amargarh-Arampora Transmission Line Circuit-I & Circuit-II will be observed due to which DIC, Sangrama, Sopore-II, Railway, Delina, Juice Factory, Jetty, Sopore-I, Sopore-II, Sidiq Colony, Ladoora LIS, Chakloo, MID Tragpora, Rohama, Hadipora, Watergam, Hachipora, Safalpora, Ganapora, Nowpora, Achabal, Sellu, Behrampora, Bomai, Nutnussa, Chogal, Army Camp, Mill, Handwara Hotline, Kupwara Hotline, Handwara Town, Handwara Old, MES, Pohrupeth, Tikker, Galizoo, Dragmulla, DC residence, Khumriyal, Lolab, Krusen, Lassipora Sogam, Divar, Z-Gali and Machil receiving stations shall remain off while power supply to Chogal, Army Camp, Mill, Handwara Hotline, Kupwara Hotline, Handwara Town, Handwara Old, MES, Pohrupeth, Tikker, Galizoo, Dragmulla, DC residence, Khumriyal, Lolab, Krusen, Lassipora Sogam, Divar, Z-Gali, Machil, DIC, Sangrama, Sopore-II, Railway, Delina, Juice Factory, Jetty, Sopore-I, Sopore-II, Sidiq Colony, Ladoora LIS, Chakloo, MID Tragpora, Rohama, Hadipora, Watergam, Hachipora, Safalpora, Ganapora, Nowpora, Achabal, Sellu, Behrampora, Bomai, Nutnussa and adjoining areas will be affected from 09.00 AM to 03.00 PM on 2nd November, 2025.

Likewise, shutdown of 132 KV D/C Arampora-Vilgam Transmission Line, 132/ 33 KV Grid Substation Vilgam and 132/33 KV Grid Substation Arampora shall be observed due to which Nutnussa, Chogal, Army Camp, Mill, Handwara Hotline, Kupwara Hotline, Handwara Town, Handwara Old, MES, Pohrupeth, Tikker, Galizoo, Dragmulla, DC residence, Khumriyal, Lolab, Krusen, Lassipora Sogam, Divar, Z-Gali, Machil, Dolipora, Magam Handwara, Karihama, Trehgam, Hyhama, Kralpora, Patru, Kundiyan, Kerran, Panzgam, Tarathpora, Tangdar, and Teetwal receiving stations shall remain off while power supply to Dragmulla, DC residence, Khumriyal, Lolab, Krusen, Lassipora Sogam, Divar, Z-Gali, Machil, Dolipora, Magam Handwara, Karihama, Trehgam, Hyhama, Kralpora, Patru, Kundiyan, Kerran, Panzgam, Tarathpora, Tangdar, Teetwal, Nutnussa, Chogal, Army Camp, Mill, Handwara Hotline, Kupwara Hotline, Handwara Town, Handwara Old, MES, Pohrupeth, Tikker, Galizoo and adjoining areas will be affected from 09.00 AM to 03.00 PM on 2nd November 2025.

DHJ inspects ongoing operations at Mega Fruit Plant Nursery Chakroi

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 25: Director Horticulture Jammu (DHJ) Gul Sayed today visited the Mega Fruit Plant Nursery Chakroi to review the ongoing developmental works & nursery management operations. He was accompanied by Farm Manager, Assistant Director, District Horticulture Officer & other officers.

During the visit, he took a detailed tour of various sections of the nursery and directed the staff to prominently display signboards on each block, indicating its complete details, so as to enhance transparency and awareness among visitors and farmers. While addressing a large gathering of farmers, Gul Sayed elaborated in detail the Central and UT government schemes of the department aimed to enhance the farmers' income. He urged the farming community to adopt modern and scientific Horticultural techniques, which would signifi-



cantly enhance production of Horticulture and allied sectors. He advised the farmers to frequently interact with the field functionaries of the department regarding the new technologies and the problems being faced by them in the fields. Earlier, the Director distributed offer letters to newly appointed employees for the posts of Steno typist and under SRO MTS post.

DC Kathua reviews ground level impact of outreach activities

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting with stakeholder departments to review the implementation of the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan in the district.

The DC emphasized the need to intensify ongoing efforts to curb the menace of drug abuse by roping in civil society, community leaders, and the youth. He directed the stakeholder departments to design activities that specifically target young people to spread awareness and promote a drug-free lifestyle.

While reviewing the outreach measures, the DC instructed the departments to ensure quality content dissemination of awareness activities along with timely uploading of data and reports on official portals.

The DC also stressed engaging Self

Help Groups in awareness campaign to sensitize communities about the ill effects of substance abuse. He called for organizing awareness programmes at panchayat and village levels, as well as in schools and colleges to ensure maximum public participation and reach.

Highlighting the importance of mass awareness, the DC asked the officers to ensure proper publicity of all activities through different media platforms. He also directed Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to organize sports events to engage youth and channelize their energies in constructive pursuits.

The DC further suggested conducting marathons and other outdoor activities as part of the campaign to promote fitness and a healthy lifestyle among the younger generation.

The meeting was attended by officers from Social Welfare, Municipalities and other line departments.

DC Kishtwar reviews formulation of 6-Year Action Plan under PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Vikas Yojana

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of Agriculture and Allied Departments to review the formulation of a comprehensive Six-Year Action Plan under the Pradhan Man-



tri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMDDKY). Kishtwar is among the 100 districts of the country selected as an Aspirational Agriculture District under the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMDDKY) based on key indicators such as low crop productivity, low cropping intensity and limited short-term agricultural credit disbursement.

Discussing the roadmap, the DC emphasized stakeholder departments to adopt a coordinated, integrated and outcome-oriented approach in the plan formulation to ensure sustainable agricultural growth, enhanced productivity and improved livelihoods.

The concerned departments presented their respective proposals and shared insights for an integrated development strategy.

The departments were directed to identify key interventions and flagship projects aligned with local agro-climatic conditions that can deliver tangible benefits to farmers and rural communities over the next six years.

The DC called for the inclusion of innovative and climate-resilient initiatives such as the promotion of high-yield and climate-resilient crops, adoption of efficient irrigation and water management practices, strengthening of livestock and fisheries development and value addition through cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs).

The heads of the concerned departments were asked to finalize and submit detailed action plans by November 1, 2025, enabling the district to forward a consolidated 6-Year Comprehensive Plan to higher authorities for approval.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pankaj Kotwal; PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma; CPO Akhil Thakur; DFO Marwah Vishal Chaudhary; DFO Kishtwar; CAO Kushal Chandel; CHO Sajid Mustafa; ExEn Jal Shakti Sanjeev Kumar Gupta; LDM Harsh Rawal; Dy. CMO Masood Ahmed Qazi, DSHO among other concerned officials.

Divisional Level-Northern India Science Drama Contest 2025-26 held at Baba Jitto Auditorium

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 25: Director School Education Jammu Dr. Naseem Javed Choudhary on Saturday inaugurated the Divisional Level-Northern India Science Drama Contest 2025-26 hosted by SCERT Divisional Office, Jammu at Baba Jitto Auditorium, Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo.

Students from ten districts of Jammu Division presented original science-based plays judged on presentation, scientific content and communication.

Government High School Suchani-Samba secured the first position while GGHSS Nowabad Jammu and GHS Panyalag Kathua bagged second and third position. Sheetal from GHS Suchani won Best Director and Best Script awards, Jeewan Lal from HS Panyalag was adjudged Best Actor

and Ms. Lakshita Bhagat from GGHSS Nowabad received Best Actress award.

The jury included Ravinder Sharma Smooh, Director Reflection Theatre Group Jammu; Suraj Singh Jamwal, HOD Vocal (Retd.), Music and Fine Arts College Jammu; and Dr. Amarjeet Singh, Assistant Professor, Music and Fine Arts College Jammu.

The winning team will now represent the Jammu Division at the Northern India Science Drama Contest to be held at the National Science Centre, Delhi on December 1-2, 2025.

The event was held under the aegis of the National Science Centre, Delhi, a unit of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, with the theme "Science & Technology for the Benefit of Mankind" and

sub-themes including Women in Science, Smart Agriculture, Digital India, Hygiene for All and Green Technologies.

Earlier, the event commenced with the lighting of traditional lamp followed by the formal inauguration by the Chief Guest.

In his address, Dr. Choudhary urged students to explore and communicate scientific ideas through creativity and performance, highlighting that such contests nurture confidence, teamwork and scientific temper among learners.

The occasion was graced by Gurdev Kumar, Joint Director and Manisha, Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education Jammu as Guests of Honour, along with Principals of DIETs. Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor welcomed the dignitaries and participants.

From LoC to Limelight: Mankote Block shines at NITI Aayog's Regional Best Practices Seminar

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

POONCH, OCTOBER 25: The Aspirational Block Mankote of District Poonch (Jammu & Kashmir) has earned special recognition at the Regional Best Practices Seminar (North) organized by NITI Aayog under the Aspirational Districts & Blocks Programme (ADP/ABP) held at Varanasi.

Representing the District, Pankaj Magotra (Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch) and Ijaz Ahmed (Block Development Officer Mankote) presented the Nutrition Use Case titled "A Jan Andolan for Nutrition and Community Well-Being" - a model that has achieved remarkable improvement in community health outcomes despite the block's remote border location.

The initiative was further strengthened by the guidance, encouragement and unwavering support of Ashok Kumar Sharma, District Development Commissioner Poonch. His proactive leadership, strategic direction and focus on fostering



inter-departmental collaboration were crucial in enabling Mankote Block to achieve its ambitious health and nutrition objectives. The Deputy Commissioner's commitment to nurturing innovation, empowering field-level officers, and prioritizing community well-being played a pivotal role in making the Nutrition Use Case a resounding success and a model worthy of national recognition.

The Nutrition use case was jointly conceptualized and prepared by Aspirational Block Programme Fellow (ABPF) Ajaz Ahmed and ICDS Supervisor Nahima Kouser. Their tireless efforts in community mobilization, field-level convergence and innovative program design were instrumental in making Mankote's initiative a replicable model of excellence under the ABP.

The key achievements of the Block Mankote Nutrition Model include Institutionalized Health & Nutrition Camps across villages near the Line of Control (LoC); timely detection and management of high-

risk pregnancies, ensuring safe motherhood; Mass NCD screening and lifestyle awareness drives, promoting preventive healthcare and Community-led nutrition education, empowering women and families towards better dietary practices.

The initiative has significantly improved maternal and child health indicators, strengthened inter-departmental convergence, and enhanced community awareness on nutrition and well-being.

The model was featured in the ADP/ABP Best Practices Compendium - Northern Region, launched during the seminar inaugurated by Rohit Kumar, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, ADP/ABP, NITI Aayog.

The seminar brought together officers and development partners from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting field-level innovations driving India's transformation journey.

US imposes sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON/BOGOTÁ, OCT 25

The Trump administration has imposed sanctions on Colombia's President Gustavo Petro, accusing him of failing to curb drug trafficking and allowing cartels to "flourish," deepening an already tense diplomatic standoff between the Latin American nation's first left-wing leader and US President Donald Trump.

In an official statement, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) said it had designated Gustavo Francisco Petro Urrego (Gustavo Petro) under Executive Order 14059, which targets foreign individuals involved in the global illicit drug trade. Several of Petro's close associates — including his wife Veronica Alcocer, his son Nicolas Petro, and Interior Minister Armando Benedetti — were also sanctioned.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said cocaine production in Colombia had "exploded to the highest rate in

decades, flooding the United States and poisoning Americans."

"President Petro has allowed drug cartels to flourish and refused to stop their activities," Bessent said. "Today, President Trump is taking strong action to protect our nation and make clear that we will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs into our country."

According to OFAC, the designations block all property and interests in property of the listed individuals within U.S. jurisdiction, or in the possession or control of U.S. persons, and require that such assets be reported to OFAC.

"Gustavo Petro is being designated today pursuant to Executive Order 14059 for having engaged in, or attempted to engage in, activities or transactions that have materially contributed to the international proliferation of illicit drugs or their means of production," the Treasury statement said.

Petro confirmed the sanctions in a post on X, saying US attorney Daniel Kovalik would represent him. "Fighting



drug trafficking effectively for decades brings me this measure from the government of a society we have helped so much to stop cocaine consumption," Petro wrote. "It's quite a paradox — but not a step back, and never on our knees."

The sanctions mark a dramatic escalation in the diplomatic rift between Bogotá and Washington. Petro and Trump have repeatedly clashed, most recently over US airstrikes on

boats allegedly used for drug smuggling that killed several Colombians. Trump defended the strikes, saying other nations had "failed to stop the boats," while Petro condemned them as "murder."

Among those designated, Nicolas Fernando Petro Burgos, the president's eldest son and considered his political heir, previously served as his campaign manager in Barranquilla. In 2023,

Nicolas was arrested for money laundering and illicit enrichment, accused of channeling funds from drug traffickers into Petro's "total peace" initiative and his election campaign. He later admitted to receiving money from an individual linked to narcotics trafficking and a contractor tried for financing paramilitary groups.

First Lady Veronica del Socorro Alcocer Garcia was previously appointed by Petro as an ambassador "on a special mission", a move later annulled by a Colombian court for violating Article 126 of the Constitution, which bars the president from appointing his spouse or partner to public office.

Armando Alberto Benedetti Villaneda, Colombia's Interior Minister, has held multiple senior roles under Petro and is accused by OFAC of providing financial and material support to the president.

US President Donald Trump has taken action to protect the United States, Bessent said, further noting that Washington would not tolerate

narcotics to be trafficked into the country. "As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated or blocked persons described above that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked and must be reported to OFAC," the Treasury added.

The sanctions, OFAC said, extend to all three — Nicolas Petro, Veronica Alcocer, and Armando Benedetti — for "providing or attempting to provide financial, material, or technological support, or goods and services, in support of Gustavo Petro."

Colombia was once a key US ally in the decades-long war on drugs, receiving hundreds of millions of dollars annually in military aid. The latest sanctions, however, underscore a major rupture in relations under Petro's administration.

Violations of US sanctions can carry severe civil or criminal penalties for both US and foreign individuals, with OFAC authorized to impose fines on a strict liability basis. UNI

1 killed, 3 seriously injured in bear attack in northeastern Japan

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TOKYO, OCT. 25 : An apparent bear attack near a village office in northeastern Japan has left one man dead and three others seriously injured, local police said.

Police said the municipal office of Higashinaruse



Village in Akita Prefecture made an emergency call at around 11:10 a.m. local time on Friday that several people had been injured in a bear attack.

Officers who arrived at the scene found three men and a woman collapsed on the ground about 200 meters from the village office, bleeding and sustaining wounds, including injuries to the face, according to police.

Police said all four people were taken to hospital, and the 38-year-old man was confirmed dead.

The attack occurred when a couple in their 70s was working outdoors, with the two other victims, both male, having come to their rescue, village officials said.

A bear that appeared near the scene was shot dead shortly after 1:10 p.m. local time the same day. The adult female, roughly 1.2 meters in length and with bloodstains on its claws, is believed to have attacked the four people.

The latest attack comes amid a recent surge in bear-related incidents across the country. UNI

Severe flooding affects over 960,000 in South Sudan: UN

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS, OCT 25 : Severe flooding affected more than 960,000 people in six states in South Sudan and displaced some 335,000 people, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

Since last month, the floods have affected more than 140 health facilities, disrupting access to essential health services for thousands of people at a time when South Sudan grapples with disease outbreaks, including cholera and malaria, the office said yesterday.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported more than 104,000 malaria cases, including 16 deaths, across the country in the past week, marking a 15 percent increase in cases from the previous week, mainly due to the ongoing flooding.

OCHA said the flooding is com-



pounding an already dire humanitarian situation in the country, which faces ongoing conflict and acute food insecurity.

The office said the United Nations and its humanitarian partners continue to reach flood-affected people with life-saving aid and

conduct needs assessments despite significant access challenges in the states of Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile.

The World Food Programme said it is delivering food and nutrition assistance. Meanwhile, the WHO and its partners have delivered more than 50 metric tonnes of medical supplies in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. Assistance in the pipeline includes tents, cholera kits and emergency health kits.

OCHA said that earlier this week, the International Organization for Migration signed an agreement with South Sudanese officials that will see 8.5 million U.S. dollars invested to build flood-resilient infrastructure and rehabilitate drainage channels to protect Bor town of Jonglei state.

The UN Population Fund and its partners continue to support the response to gender-based violence through the distribution of dignity kits to women and girls in flood-affected areas and access to essential sexual and reproductive health services, said the office. UNI

916-year-old juniper tree discovered in NW China

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

XINING, OCT. 25 : A 916-year-old Juniperus przewalskii -- commonly known as the Qilian juniper -- has been identified during a scientific survey in northwest China's Qinghai Province, local forestry authorities announced on Friday.

The tree, located in Baishushan within the Qaidam Basin, is now the oldest known specimen of its species.

The survey, conducted by the forestry and grassland bureau of Delingha City in the Mongolian-Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Haixi, focused on two key aspects: field inspections and laboratory analysis of sam-



ples. By examining 87 tree cores and disc samples, researchers determined the age structure of the Qilian juniper population in Baishushan.

Their findings revealed that approximately 2.3 percent of the surveyed junipers are at least 500 years old, 13.8 percent are between 300 and 499 years

old, and 83.9 percent are between 100 and 299 years old. Prior to this discovery, the oldest recorded Qilian juniper in the surveyed area was 769 years old.

Bureau head Sun Dengfu said that the survey developed a multidimensional growth prediction model for local trees, offering data to support research on native plants, climate and geological changes, and ecological tourism in the Qaidam Basin.

Endemic to China, Juniperus przewalskii thrives on sunny slopes at altitudes of 2,600 to 4,000 meters on the northeastern Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and exhibits strong drought tolerance. UNI

Vietnam hosts signing ceremony for UN Convention against Cybercrime

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HANOI, OCT. 25 : Vietnam on Saturday hosted the signing ceremony and high-level conference of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, also known as the Hanoi Convention, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Held under the theme "Countering Cybercrime - Sharing Responsibility - Securing Our Future," the event brought together UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, along with leaders and senior representatives from about 110 countries and numerous international organizations.



Addressing the high-level opening ceremony, Vietnamese President Luong Cuong said that Vietnam's hosting of the signing ceremony and its position as the first country to sign the Hanoi Convention demonstrate its strong commitment to the rule of law and the full implementation of international obligations, contributing to strengthening the global legal order in cyberspace.

Representatives from 60 countries and regions took part in the signing of the convention at an official ceremony organized by the UN Office of Legal Affairs.

The UN Secretary-General said the true power of the convention would lie in turning signatures into tangible action.

Through the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Secretariat of the convention and the UN Office of Legal Affairs, he said the UN would help countries bring the treaty into force, build capacity, strengthen investigations and deepen cooperation across borders. UNI

U.S. stocks close higher after cooling inflation data

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW YORK, OCT. 25 : U.S. stocks ended higher on Friday after the release of slightly cooler-than-expected September inflation data.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 472.51 points, or 1.01 percent, to 47,207.12, marking its first-ever close above 47,000. The S&P 500 added 53.25 points, or 0.79 percent, to 6,791.69. The Nasdaq Composite Index increased 263.07 points, or 1.15 percent, to 23,204.87. All three major averages finished at record highs.

Six of the 11 primary S&P 500 sectors advanced, with technology and communication services leading the gainers by rising 1.58 percent and 1.27 percent, respectively. Energy and materials led



the laggards by declining 1.01 percent and 0.61 percent, respectively. The September consumer

price index (CPI) report, which was delayed due to U.S. federal government shutdown, rose 0.3 percent on the month, bring-

ing the annual inflation rate to 3 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Both readings came in slightly below economists' expectations of 0.4 percent monthly and 3.1 percent annually, based on a Dow Jones survey. Excluding food and energy, core CPI rose 0.2 percent last month and 3 percent over the past 12 months, also lighter than forecasts of 0.3 percent and 3.1 percent.

Following the CPI release, traders increased their bets that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates at both of its remaining meetings this year. The probability of a December cut jumped to 98.5 percent from about 91 percent before the data, according to the CME FedWatch tool. Odds

for a cut next week remained above 95 percent.

"There was little in today's benign CPI report to 'spook' the Fed and we continue to expect further easing at next week's Fed meeting," said Lindsay Rosner, head of multi-sector fixed income investing at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. "A December rate cut also remains likely with the current data drought providing the Fed with little reason to deviate from the path set out in the dot plot."

In corporate news, Intel shares rose 0.31 percent after the chipmaker reported third-quarter revenue that exceeded Wall Street estimates. "We believe we are well-positioned to play a more significant role in AI," said John Pitzer, Intel's head of investor relations. UNI

Chief Secy reviews arrangements for 2nd edition of Kashmir Marathon

Tourism Deptt gears up to make this marquee event a grand success

HT SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming 2nd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, being organized by the Tourism Department on November 2, 2025, in Srinagar.

The meeting besides Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism was attended by Secretary, Health; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; DIG, Traffic; MD, JKTC; Director, Tourism, Kashmir; SSP, Traffic, Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC, and other senior officers of concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary described the marquee event as a valuable opportunity to promote tourism and sports culture in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that the inaugural edition had received overwhelming response and set new benchmarks for sporting events in the region.

He observed that participation from runners across the

nation and abroad would further reinforce Kashmir's image as a premier destination for leisure, adventure and sports tourism.

Emphasizing seamless coordination among all departments, Dulloo directed the concerned to ensure foolproof arrangements for visiting athletes and participants, covering aspects such as transportation, accommodation, medical care, security, sanitation, and event management.

The Chief Secretary urged the Traffic Department to take all necessary measures to secure the marathon routes on the day of the event. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive traffic management plan, including appropriate diversions and issuance of advance travel advisories to ensure the safety and convenience of commuters.

He underscored the need to provide a memorable experience to all participants that reflects Kashmir's hospitality and growing capability in hosting large-scale international



events.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chander Verma informed that several renowned national and international athletes are expected to participate in this year's edition.

He further noted that the event would also act as a platform to showcase local art, craft,

and culture, with dedicated stalls promoting Handicrafts and Handloom products from Jammu and Kashmir.

Director, Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob, presented a detailed overview of the operational plan, covering aspects of participant registration, route management, volunteer deployment, and publicity campaigns.

He elaborated that the marathon will feature two main race categories the Full Marathon (42 km) and Half Marathon (21 km) are open to both men and women like the first edition of this game here.

The routes will traverse Srinagar's most iconic and picturesque locations, including Dal Lake, Mughal Gardens, and

Chinar-lined boulevards, offering runners an inspiring blend of athletic challenge and scenic beauty.

The meeting was apprised that the Full Marathon (42 km) will take participants through a captivating circuit showcasing the natural and cultural splendor of Srinagar, while the Half Marathon (21 km) will provide runners an equally enriching experience that combines endurance with the Valley's breathtaking vistas.

Adding to the event's grandeur, the Kashmir Marathon 2025 features an impressive prize pool, with substantial rewards for winners in both Full and Half Marathon categories.

For the Full Marathon, the overall category prizes include Rs25,00,000 for 1st place, Rs20,00,000 for 2nd, Rs18,00,000 for 3rd, Rs15,00,000 for 4th, and Rs12,00,000 for 5th place. In the respective age-group categories (18-35 years, 36-50 years, and 50+ veterans), cash prizes of Rs1,00,000, Rs75,000, and Rs50,000 will be

awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively.

For the Half Marathon, the overall category winners will receive Rs15,00,000, Rs12,00,000, Rs9,00,000, Rs6,00,000, and Rs3,00,000 respectively for the top five positions, while age-group winners will receive Rs75,000, Rs50,000, and Rs25,000 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively for both men and women participants.

With its generous rewards, stunning routes, and vibrant community participation, the Kashmir Marathon 2025 is poised to emerge as a flagship sporting event showcasing the region's spirit, hospitality, and tourism potential.

Expressing optimism about the event, the Chief Secretary remarked that the Kashmir Marathon would not only promote fitness and sportsmanship among youth but also serve as a major tourism promotion event, attracting visitors from across the world to experience the Valley's natural beauty and cultural richness.

Shreyas Iyer begins new chapter with old stance in Australia

ESPNCRICINFO

NEW DELHI: Shreyas Iyer believes that going back to a more upright stance has helped him counter extra bounce. He has used this "new" stance - adapted from one he used in the past - in domestic cricket, against Australia A, and now, in the ODI series in Australia. While India scratched around on a seaming pitch in the second ODI in Adelaide, Iyer negotiated the tough spells, scoring 61 off 77.

Iyer's game against short-pitched bowling at high pace has always been a talking point. Not part of India's Test or T20I sides, Iyer spent the time off working on his game to counter extra bounce. "Since last year, I wanted to have an upright stance [for conditions] where the bounce is a little bit more than expected," he said.

"And based on that, I worked with my coach and we developed this new technique, and it was kind of suiting me pretty well. And the way I grew up playing, it was very much that I predominantly had an upright stance, and I just was like, 'Let's go back to my old technique and see how it, you know, [holds] up.'"

"So, yeah, I backed myself and then, from there on, I started [trying the technique] in the domestic [games]... Till now, I've been continuing with the same stance."



Enayat Malik Famous Cricketer of Anantnag Dies, Condolences Pour In From Around The Kashmir Valley

ZEESHAN

BARAMULLA, OCT 25: Affarwat-XI Sports Club Baramulla management, FCC Andergam, Rehman Sports Association Andergam, Bradman Kashmir management expressed its grief and sorrow on the sad and heart wrenching demise of its Cricketer Enayat Malik from South Kashmir Anantnag district. Several Sports Associations and the well known cricketers all over the valley expressed their condolences to the young and known cricketer and also prayed to the Almighty Allah for the highest place in Jannah and gave strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable and big loss. It is also to mention here that the deceased was working in the police department of J&K.



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