

Srinagar  
 Tuesday  
 October 28 | 2025  
 06 Jumada al-Awwal 1447 AH  
 Issue No: 255  
 Volume: 15  
 Pages: 12  
 Price: Rs 02/-

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# PM Modi Invokes Spirit of 'Vande Mataram' as Nation Marks 150 Years

Operation Sindoor has Rekindled Pride and Hope Across the Country ; PM Calls for Celebrating India's Unity and Heritage

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR OCT 27:** In his Mann Ki Baat address on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to commemorate 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram with renewed patriotism. He hailed the success of Operation Sindoor, citizen-driven environmental initiatives, and the revival of indigenous traditions that, he said, reflect the "living soul of New India." The Prime Minister also highlighted inspiring citizen-led initiatives — from mangrove restoration in Gujarat and lake revival in Bengaluru to the innovative 'Garbage Cafes' of Chhattisgarh. He lauded the BSF and CRPF for inducting Indian dog breeds such as Mudhol and Rampur Hounds into their squads, praising their courage and skill. "Last year, during a patrol in a Maoist-affected area of Chhattisgarh, an indigenous CRPF dog detected 8 kg of explosives. Our



Indian breeds have displayed amazing courage," Modi said. He noted that some of these dogs will participate in the parade at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, during the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31. Touching upon the growing coffee culture in India, the Prime Minister cited the example of Koraput in Odisha, where women-led initiatives are transforming lives through coffee cultivation. "Indian coffee — from Coorg to Wayanad — has won global appreciation for its diversity," he said. Modi also hailed the resurgence of Sanskrit among youth through social media, mentioning young creators like Bhai Yash Salunke, who blend ancient language with modern creativity. Extending greetings on Chhath Puja, the Prime Minister said this year's festivities carried a deeper sense of pride due to

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# CM Omar Reaffirms Equitable Relief for 2025 Flood Victims

No politics or regional bias in relief distribution: CM



HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today intervened during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, reiterating his Government's stance on land allotment for the landless and the distribution of relief for recent damages across regions.

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## Gurez emerging as popular off-beat destination: CM

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Tourism

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## CM tables J&K Rent Authority Bill in Assembly

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday introduced

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## NH closure leads to Rs. 209 Cr loss: Javid Dar

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Minister for Agriculture Production department, Javid Ahmad Dar today informed the house that as per preliminary reports



of the department around Rs. 209 Crores loss has been reported due to recent closure of National Highway by landslides and flash floods in agriculture and allied sectors.

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## Govt. schools will lead the future of India's learning reforms: LG Sinha

Lieutenant Governor Inaugurates DREAM School Project in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** "Government schools will lead the future of India's learning reforms," the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha said on Monday. He said the Robotics Lab, STEM innovation centres, smart classrooms, advanced digital infrastructure, professional devel-

opment for teachers, and holistic learning spaces will unlock the potential of every child. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the inauguration of DREAM School Project at the prestigious Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothi Bagh, Srinagar.

The project- Developing Resilient Education and Aspirational Mindsets



(DREAM) is a collaboration between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the Faizal and Shabana Foundation that was initiated through an MoU in March 2023.

As per the MoU, the Faizal and Shabana Foundation has constructed the middle school block with state-of-the-

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## Hostilities can erupt anytime; India must stay prepared for war: Rajnath Singh

HT NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI, OCT 27:** Terming faceoff with Pakistan post Pahalgam terror attack in May this year as a reminder that hostilities can erupt anytime, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that India must be prepared for potential war that can breakout without any prior warning.

Speaking at the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) Annual Session here, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The outcome of Operation Sindoor demonstrated the growing strength of India's indigenous defence ecosystem."

He said indigenous systems such as the Akash missile system,

BrahMos cruise missile, and AkashTeer Air Defence Control System played a key role during the operation. "We all saw how these systems and other home-grown platforms performed during Operation Sindoor. Their success has strengthened India's reputation not only in the region but also globally," Singh said.

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## Govt Allocates Rs. 505 Cr for C&T in J&K for FY 2025-26: Dy CM

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR OCT 27:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today informed that the Government has allocated Rs 50, 556.9 lacs funds under Cities and Towns (C&T) and Rs 3268. 29 lacs under Potholes scheme in J&K during 2025- 26 Financial year.

The Dy. CM was replying to a question raised by Legislator Javid Hassan Baig in the Legislative Assembly today.

While sharing the District wise details, the Dy. CM said that the government will ensure quality work is carried out across Jammu and Kashmir and strict action shall be taken against

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## Ministers should read first, then answer queries: LoP Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Monday held the government, especially ministers, responsible for wrong questions and answers highlighted in the Question Hour Session today.

Speaking to the media persons, the LoP, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), termed it as a "serious issue" saying, "The

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## SKUAST-Kashmir a Symbol of Sustainability and Innovation: Atal Dulloo

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) is hosting a second One Week Capacity Building Programme on "Forest Landscape Rebuild- An Integrated Approach to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation", scheduled from 27th to 31st October, 2025 for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers nominated by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate

Change (Division of Research & Trainings), Government of India from different parts of the country.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo while speaking as Chief guest on the occasion appreciated the restructuring measures taken by the University in agricultural sector that safeguards economy, equity and ecology and declared SKUAST-Kashmir as a symbol of Sustainability & Innovation.

He also sensitised the audience in accepting their responsibility

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## CS Administers Integrity Pledge for Vigilance Awareness Week

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today administered the Integrity Pledge to officers and officials of the Civil

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## Over 19,500 hectares of forest land encroached in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday revealed that over 19,501 hectares of forest land are under illegal occupation across the Union Territory as of September 30, 2025.

The Minister in charge of the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department, Javed Rana, informed that a total of 27,712 cases of encroachment have been identified in the Kashmir region alone, covering 5,891.49 hectares of forest land.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the data shared by the government in response to MLA Dr Narinder Singh Raina's query, shows that the highest number of encroachments were reported from the South Circle, including divisions such as Anantnag, Lidder, Shopian, Kulgam, and Awantipora, with 14,902 cases involving 3,268.05 hectares.

Among these divisions, Anantnag tops the list with 7,060 cases covering 1,535.035 hectares, followed by Shopian with 3,872 cases over 1,011.29 hectares, Lidder with 2,336 cases over 314.13 hectares, Kulgam with 1,096 cases across 279.19 hectares, and Awantipora with 560 cases involving 132.10 hectares.

The North Circle reported 6,492 cases covering 1,452.530 hectares. Specifically, Kehmil recorded 1,785 cases over 445.00 hectares, Kamraj 1,268 cases over 261.42

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## 21,573 structures damaged in Jammu, 980 in Kashmir in recent floods, cloudbursts

152 lives lost, over Rs 5,400 lakh paid as compensation so far: Govt

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday revealed that recent floods, cloudbursts, and heavy rains caused widespread destruction across the Union Territory, resulting in loss of lives and extensive damage to both public and private property.

Responding to a question by MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, the Minister for Disaster Management, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that a total of 21,573 structures were damaged



in Jammu division, while 980 structures were affected in Kashmir division during the recent weather-related disasters.

The government said that 152 people, including 151 in Jammu and one in Kashmir, lost their lives due to rain-related incidents, flash floods, and cloudbursts that affected several districts, especially in hilly and remote areas. Livestock and standing crops also suffered significant losses, it added.

A total compensation of Rs. 5,246.47 lakhs has been paid for damages in Jammu division, while Rs. 1,914.44 lakh has

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**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**PM Modi Invokes.....**

the success of Operation Sindoor and the steps taken to curb Maoist extremism.

“Operation Sindoor” has filled every Indian with pride. This time, lamps of joy were lit even in areas once darkened by Maoist terror,” he said, adding that people now aspire for a future free of violence and fear.

Paying tribute to tribal freedom fighters, Modi recalled the valour of Komaram Bheem, who challenged the Nizam’s oppression in Hyderabad, and urged citizens to read about unsung heroes from tribal communities as the nation prepares to celebrate Janajateeya Gaurav Diwas on November 15, the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

**CM Omar.....**

Responding to a query raised by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta on behalf of MLA Sham Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister said that the Government is not bringing any fresh policy as the existing framework adequately addresses the issue.

“The Minister has already given the correct answer. The question is not about the absence of a policy but whether there is a need for a fresh one. We are not introducing a new policy because there is no need for it,” the Chief Minister stated.

Elaborating on the Government’s initiative for the landless, Omar Abdullah said, “We have already announced that five marlas of land will be provided to landless families for construction of houses. The necessary paperwork is underway. For residents, the land will be allotted on a lease basis.”

Addressing concerns over regional parity in relief measures, the Chief Minister strongly refuted any suggestion of discrimination.

“Our policy is not to seek relief for one region while ignoring another. This was never our intention,” he emphasized.

The Chief Minister said that teams from the Government of India, including the Home Minister and Agriculture Minister, visited the affected areas to assess the damage alongside local authorities.

“After a joint assessment, it was observed that Jammu division has suffered comparatively more damage than Kashmir. Accordingly, we have prepared a relief package which is being submitted to the Government of India for approval,” Omar Abdullah informed the House.

He assured that once the package is approved, the distribution of relief funds will begin without any bias or favouritism.

“There will be no politics, no religion, and no regional discrimination in the distribution of relief. Where there is loss, there must be compensation,” the Chief Minister asserted.

Earlier, Minister Social Welfare Department, Sakeena Itoo said that the Government has not formulated any fresh rehabilitation policy for the recent flood victims.

However, a proposal regarding the allotment of State land measuring 05 Marla in favour of each land less family affected due to Natural Calamities (i.e. Floods, Landslide, cloudbursts, earthquakes) on lease basis for residential purposes only is under consideration.

**Gurez emerging.....**

Department has undertaken projects under the Capex Budget for the upgradation and development of Gurez as a tourist destination.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, said that during the current financial year 2025-26, the works are being executed in coordination with the District Administration, Bandipora involving identification and transfer of land for the purpose.

The Chief Minister further confirmed that Gurez Valley was conferred the prestigious “Best Off-Beat Destination in India (Gold)” award in 2022, in recognition of its pristine natural beauty, unique landscape, and sustainable tourism initiatives. He stated that the award highlights Gurez Valley’s immense tourism potential and its growing recognition as one of the country’s most preferred offbeat travel destinations.

Replying to a question by MLA Gurez for an exclusive scheme for the emerging off-beat destinations, CM added that the Tourism Department has already identified Gurez as a potential offbeat destination, and as and when a dedicated scheme is launched by the Government of India, the Department will recommend Gurez for inclusion and development under that programme.

Replying to a supplementary question by MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan, the Chief Minister said, “There is no helicopter service for tourism purposes at present. The existing helicopter service operates primarily for locals and patients as the area remains cut off during the winter season.”

He, however, noted that the administration is open to private participation in tourism-related aviation services.

“If any private player intends to start helicopter services for tourists in Gurez, we will extend full support. Although no such proposal is presently under consideration, the government can examine and explore it if one comes forward,” he added.

Regarding the proposal for a Light and Sound Show in Gurez, the Chief Minister said the idea is being explored.

“It has been suggested to host it on Habba Khatoun Mountain. We will assess its technical and logistical viability, and if possible, we can

do it,” he stated.

**CM tables.....**

the Jammu and Kashmir Rent Authority Bill, 2025 (LA Bill No. 4 of 2025) in the Legislative Assembly.

“I rise to introduce a Bill to establish a Rent Authority to regulate the renting of premises, to protect the interests of landlords and tenants, and to provide a speedy adjudication mechanism for the resolution of disputes and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Bill has already been published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette,” the Chief Minister said while introducing the Bill.

Subsequently, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, placed the Bill before the House for consideration.

**NH closure.....**

The Minister made these remarks while replying a question raised by Legislator Waheed-Ur-Rehman Para in the legislative assembly today.

The Minister informed the house that under the Re-structured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), Apple, Saffron, Mango and Litchi crops have been notified to provide cover. He added that the tendering process for selection of Insurance company (out of the empanelled Insurance companies notified by the GoI) to provide Insurance cover to these Horticulture crops is in process.

Regarding CA storage, the Minister said that the department is providing assistance for establishment of C.A. Storage units in the JKUT and the estimated requirement for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage is 6.00 LMT, (30% of annual production fruit crops). He added that currently, Jammu and Kashmir has 2.92 LMT of capacity and the Department is contemplating to increase the C.A. Storage capacity in next five years through Centrally Sponsored Scheme Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) besides J&K Government is also providing top-up subsidy from UT Capex

The Minister also informed that various initiatives are undertaken by Government to support this expansion like Awareness/seminars are being conducted in each District to aware the youth about the incentives available for establishment of C.A. infrastructure and other post-harvest related activities. He added that as most CA stores are located in the Industrial Growth Centre at Lassipora, Pulwama, and the Industrial Estate at Aglar, Shopian, efforts are underway with the Industries and Commerce Department to establish sector-specific industrial estates for horticulture and post-harvest management in other districts.

Regarding the steps being taken for upgradation and improvement of Fruit Mandi at Pulwama and Rajpora, the Minister said that the Department has established two fruit and vegetable Markets in Pulwama district at Pichoo Pulwama and Pachhar Rajpora Pulwama, which have been made functional. He added that the basic infrastructure is available in these mandis, however, up-gradation and improvement of the mandis is a continuous process for which funds to the tune of Rs 1.28 Cr and Rs 3.68 Cr respectively have been earmarked for up-gradation under NABARD for the Year 2025-26.

With respect to measures being taken to revive the Market Intervention Scheme and to use NAFED model to support apple growers, the Minister informed that the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) was announced by the Government of J&K in the year 2019 for procurement of Apple fruit crop through Government of India’s authorized Enterprise, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) to provide benefit to the farmers by facilitating the timely marketing of farm produce during Covid-19 pandemic.

He also added that possibility of establishing in CA storage units in other districts apart from Pulwama is being explored to cater growing demands of horticulturists.

Legislators, M.Y Tarigami; Gulam Mohidin Mir and Javid Riyaz Bedar raised supplementary questions on the subject.

**Govt. schools.....**

art facilities such as Robotics and STEM Lab, ACs for all the rooms and a dedicated lunchroom with separate kitchen and a storeroom. The DREAM School Project was committed by Mr. Faizal Kottikollon, Chairman of the UAE India Business Council-UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC), during a high-level UIBC-UC delegation visit to Srinagar in 2023. The project aimed to transform public education in Jammu Kashmir, builds on the success of the Nadakkavu School model in Kerala, which has been ranked among the top 3 best Government Day schools in India for the past five years.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the project is a testament to our commitment to ensure global standard education to every child and a progressive environment for them to aspire and dream big. He further stated that his goal is to ensure that every school in Jammu Kashmir becomes a hub of innovation, inclusion, and inspiration - nurturing the youth who will shape the nation’s future.

“We are committed to foster a nurturing and empowering atmosphere that propels each student towards growth and excellence in the school, which will guarantee holistic development encompassing social, emotional, and intellectual growth for every student, mould-

ing them into exemplary citizens of the future,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the key initiatives taken by the UT Administration, under the guidance of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, aimed at equal access to education, promoting inclusivity, enhancing infrastructure, empowering youth, and aligning education with modern skill requirements and technological advancements.

“Our youth are our greatest strength, and their talent and potential will drive our vision for the future. Over the past few years, we have invested deeply in transforming our education ecosystem to make Jammu Kashmir an ‘Oasis of Talent,’” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor gave five mantras to the students: first, find inspiration; secondly, think big; thirdly, dream big; fourthly, take risks during the educational journey with courage; and fifth, act with compassion and sensitivity.

He also called upon the educational institutions and the teaching community to develop the education system that rewards creativity, curiosity, innovation, and critical thinking. He stressed that this system must balance creativity with competition, where classroom tests are based on learning, originality, and experimentation, where creativity and individuality are valued more than marks and gold medals.

Shri Faizal E. Kottikollon, Founder, Faizal and Shabana Foundation and Chairman, UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC); Ms Shabana Faizal, Co-Founder, Faizal and Shabana Foundation; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary School Education Department; Dr. Aman Puri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Maj. Gen. Sharafuddin Sharaf (Retd.), Vice-Chairman, UIBC-UC; Shri Sunjay Sudhir, former Indian Ambassador to UAE; Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo; Director General, School Education, Kashmir; office bearers of Faizal and Shabana Foundation; Principal of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, teachers and students in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

**Hostilities can.....**

The Defence Minister said that while the soldiers executed the mission on the frontlines, it was equally the result of the efforts of engineers, scientists, and industry professionals working behind the scenes.

“The success of Operation Sindoor belongs not just to the soldiers who fought, but also to those who designed, developed, and produced the technology that made it possible,” he said. “People working in research, innovation, and manufacturing are silent contributors to national defence.”

Referring to the tensions that followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Singh said India’s response showed that the armed forces were prepared for any eventuality. However, he cautioned that the evolving global situation called for constant vigilance and self-reliance.

“After the Pahalgam attack, when Operation Sindoor was launched, a situation arose where war was knocking at our doors,” Singh said. “Our forces are fully prepared to defend the nation in any circumstance, but the level of uncertainty in the world has increased. We must therefore move forward carefully, assessing every situation before taking action.”

He said the nature of modern warfare is changing rapidly, with technology, drones, and cyber capabilities becoming central to national security. “To deal with these changes effectively, indigenisation is the only path forward,” he said.

Pertinently, ‘Operation Sindoor’ was launched in May this year as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. The operation involved precision strikes by the Indian Armed Forces on multiple terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir—(KNO)

**Govt Allocates.....**

the concerned if quality is compromised. He said that the formulation of plans and allocation of funds in respect of Roads and Buildings are undertaken by the Government in accordance with established norms and approved procedures.

He said that the process is guided by the assessed requirements received from the field divisions and finalized keeping in view the availability of resources as well as the recommendations of the MLAs and District Development Council (DDC) Members.

He said that the objective is to ensure judicious and need-based allocation of funds for the execution of developmental works and maintenance activities under various schemes of the Department, so as to achieve balanced infrastructure development across all areas.

Supplementary were raised by Legislators including, R. S Pathania, S.S Slathia, Arvind Gupta and Pawan Kumar Gupta.

**Ministers should.....**

government is at the fault.” “The Ministers should have read what they have been served. They wake up in the morning and read these answers in the Assembly,” he said.

He also said that the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah couldn’t understand the question raised by one of the BJP MLAs regarding the flood-hit families. “The Chief Minister mentioned the PMAY scheme which was launched

by the Lieutenant Governor. The question, however, was whether there is any scheme for the flood-affected people,” he said.

Sharma also said that during the question hour session, the MLAs get a chance to raise their grievances regarding their constituencies and expect that the government will listen to their pleas—(KNO)

**SKUAST-Kashmir.....**

towards nature which will play instrumental role in mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that execution of any plan needs passion among executive class for sustainable and secured future.

He impressed upon the coordination between agricultural researchers and Indian Forest Officers for rebuild of Forest landscape, biodiversity conservation and various climate change mitigation measures towards restoring harmony between people and planet.

Atal Dulloo highlighted that IFS officers are no longer only tree protectors but are custodians of biodiversity conservation, landscape management, climate mitigation, watershed management and livelihood measures in forest biome.

Prof. Prof. (Dr) Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, valued the efforts of Shri Atal Dulloo in reforming the agriculture sector in Jammu & Kashmir through HADP implementation.

The inaugural programme was attended by Directors, Deans, Registrar, HoDs and resource persons. While briefing about the program, Course Director, Prof. Javed Iqbal Ahmad Bhat, Head, Division of Basic Sciences & Humanities gave an overview of technical sessions that include interactions and collaborative work plans between agricultural intelligentsia and Executive leadership of Indian Forest Services to coherent agricultural minds and forest guardians for Forest Landscape Rebuild.

Field visit to various biodiversity reserves and protected forest landscapes of Kashmir also forms the part of the programme.

**CS Administrators.....**

Secretariat as part of the observance of National Vigilance Awareness Week (NVAW), 2025.

The nationwide campaign, announced by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), is being observed from 27th October to 2nd November 2025, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This year’s theme, “Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility”, underscores the importance of collective efforts in fostering integrity, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

The observance officially commenced today at 11:00 AM with the administration of the Integrity Pledge by all public servants across government departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), autonomous bodies, and other organizations throughout the country.

By taking the pledge, officers and officials reaffirmed their commitment to

uphold ethical standards and promote a corruption-free environment in public service. The week-long activities under the Vigilance Awareness campaign aim to sensitize employees and citizens alike to the significance of honesty and integrity in governance.

As part of the observance, various awareness programmes, workshops, seminars, and debates on ethical governance and preventive vigilance are scheduled to be organized across government departments and public institutions during the week.

These initiatives are intended to encourage proactive participation of all stakeholders in building a culture of transparency and accountability in the administration all over the country.

**Over 19,500.....**

hectares, Langate 2,042 cases over 434.70 hectares, and JV Division 1,397 cases covering 311.41 hectares.

In the Srinagar Circle, 6,318 encroachment cases were reported on 1,170.9134 hectares. Pir Panjal recorded 2,959 cases over 623.0939 hectares, Sindh 2,065 cases covering 377.8145 hectares, Bandipora 943 cases over 135.2125 hectares, and Tangmarg 351 cases over 34.7925 hectares. The Urban Division reported no encroachments.

Eviction drives conducted so far have reclaimed about 44.82 hectares of land from 230 cases across several divisions.

The government said that multiple measures have been initiated to recover the encroached land, including detailed boundary surveys, issuance of eviction notices under Section 79(A) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and regular eviction operations. Once recovered, the land is fenced, restored with indigenous species, and returned to its forest status to prevent re-encroachment.

The department has also intensified vigilance through joint operations by the Forest Protection Force and local territorial staff, the minister said.

He added that modern technologies such as GPS and drone-based monitoring are being employed for better protection and mapping of forest land—(KNO)

**21,573 structures.....**

been disbursed in Kashmir so far, the government said.

Relief efforts included organising relief and medical camps across the affected areas, providing shelter, food, and household essentials to flood-affected families, the minister said. He said immediate restoration work was undertaken to restore power, water supply, and road connectivity to support rehabilitation.

The minister said that relief was provided to affected individuals and families as per the guidelines of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

He said rehabilitation and restoration of public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, have been initiated in accordance with SDRF norms—(KNO)

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# Div Com Kashmir assess operation of Heli-services for snowbound areas of Bandipora, Kupwara

Stresses on online registration of requests, streamlining of services

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to assess arrangements for the operations of Heli-services during the winter months for the people of snowbound areas of Bandipora and Kupwara districts.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Additional Secretary Civil Aviation, Director Finance Civil Aviation, Additional SIO NIC, Assistant Commissioner Central, representative of Jet Serve and other officers.

Addressing the meeting, the Div Com directed appointment of Nodal Officers at Divisional



Level and District offices to assist smooth operation of Heli-services. He stressed on initiation of online registrations alongwith offline registration to streamline the entire process.

He emphasized on freezing of timelines before departure time to ensure take-off of scheduled sorties.

He also called for filtration of requests for preference based

on urgency and necessity.

Meanwhile, the Div Com enjoined SIO, NIC to create a mobile Application for processing requests to provide single window system to the concerned people.

Further, he instructed DCs to widely publicize contact numbers of control rooms so that people can avail Heli-service.

## Integrity Pledge Administered Across Police Establishments in Kulgam

FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, OCT 27:** As part of the observance of "Vigilance Awareness Week-2025," pledge ceremonies were organized across all police establishments in district Kulgam, where officers and jawans reaffirmed their commitment to maintain zero tolerance towards corruption.

At the District Police Headquarters Kulgam, DySP Headquarters Shri Nisar Ahmad (JKPS) administered the Integrity Pledge to officers and jawans. During the ceremony,



participants pledged to promote ethical practices, foster a culture of honesty and integrity, reject bribery, and uphold transparency, accountability, and fairness in all professional dealings.

The pledge also emphasized adherence to laws and regulations, adoption of ethical codes, sensitization of employees to integrity-related responsibilities, establishment of grievance redressal and whistleblower mechanisms, and protection of the rights and interests of stakeholders and society at large.

Similar ceremonies were held at all Police Stations and Police Posts across the district, where SHOs and DOs administered the Integrity Pledge to their respective subordinates.

A police spokesperson stated that the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week and the administration of the Integrity Pledge reflects a firm commitment of the police force to uphold the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and transparency, and to strengthen the collective resolve in the fight against corruption.

## KU begins five-day workshop on hydrological modelling

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** A five-day workshop on Hydrological Modelling commenced at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir (KU) today, aimed at enhancing the technical skills of students and research scholars in understanding hydrological processes under changing climatic conditions.

Organised by the varsity's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, the workshop features expert sessions by Dr. A.K. Lohani, former Scientist-G and Head, Surface Water Hydrology Division, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee.



Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message said, "Workshops like these bridge the gap between academic learning

and field-based applications, equipping our scholars with the necessary technical expertise to address the challenges of water

resource management in a changing climate."

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said

that the University encourages such skill-based training programmes that integrate scientific research with practical problem-solving to support sustainable development goals.

Dr. Lohani will deliver a series of lectures and hands-on training sessions on advanced hydrological models and analytical tools used for simulating water flow, predicting floods, and managing catchment hydrology.

The workshop is being attended by faculty members and scholars from various departments, and is expected to strengthen interdisciplinary research and build capacity in hydrological analysis and modelling for the region.

## Prompt Indian Army Intervention Averts Disaster in Remote Mawer Village Blaze

DR. AB. QAYOOM

**LANGATE, OCT 27:** A cowshed was partially damaged after a fire broke out late Sunday evening at around 9:30 PM in the remote village of Chack Sanzipora, located in the Mawer Qalamabad area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. According to local sources, the fire erupted in the cowshed belonging to Mohammad Saleem Mir, son of Habibullah Mir, engulfing the structure in flames before residents could raise an alarm. Responding swiftly, personnel from the Indian Army's Qalamabad (Kalamchakla) camp (30RR) rushed to the spot and immediately initiated fire-fighting efforts alongside the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) and local villagers. Their prompt and coordinated action successfully contained the blaze, preventing it from spreading to nearby residential houses.

Fortunately, no loss of life or injury was reported in the incident. Chack



Sanzipora, being a remote village with limited road access and unreliable telecommunication connectivity, faced challenges in communicating the emergency to authorities, causing a brief delay in response time. However, villagers lauded the Major of the Qalamabad camp and his team for their timely intervention and

dedicated efforts in bringing the fire under control.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Local residents expressed gratitude toward the Army and the Fire & Emergency Services Department for their quick and efficient response, which helped avert a major tragedy in the isolated hilly area.

## Renovation and Beautification of CEO Office Kokernag Nearing Completion

FAROOQ RATHER

**KOKERNAG, OCT 27:** The renovation and beautification work of the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Kokernag Development Authority (KDA), is being finalized ahead of the onset of winter and anticipated snowfall. Under the supervision of CEO Mohammad Rouf Rehman (JKAS), the initiative aims to enhance the overall aesthetics and functionality of the office premises, ensuring a welcoming and efficient work environment.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Rehman said that the beautification drive reflects KDA's commitment to maintaining and improving public infrastructure in Kokernag. He added that the authority will continue its efforts to upgrade and beautify all KDA assets across the region, ensuring they remain functional, attractive, and visitor-friendly even during harsh winter conditions.

The ongoing drive is part of KDA's broader mission to promote sustainable development and enhance the visual appeal of Kokernag as a key tourism destination in South Kashmir.

## Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari Pays Glowing Tribute to Its Literary Ancestors

Prof. Naseem Shafai Conferred with "Khil'at-e-Hajini 2025" Award

HT NEWS DESK

**HAJIN, OCT 27:** In a dignified and soulful ceremony held at Town Hall Hajin, Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari paid a remarkable tribute to its literary ancestors. The event was dedicated to the eminent poet and fiction writer, late Ghulam Hassan Taskeen, whose contribution to Kashmiri literature continues to inspire generations. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (SAW). Yaseen Qadri led special prayers for the departed souls. The first session was presided over by Prof. Sheikh Mohammad Aijaz, Dean of Arts, University of Kashmir, with Dr. Rafiq Masoodi (Patron, Adbee Markaz Kamraz) as the guest of honour. Noted personalities including Fayaz Tilgami and Alhaj Ghulam Nabi Dar also graced the event. Delivering the welcome



address, Alhaj Ghulam Nabi Dar highlighted the literary journey of the organization, while Noted Writer, Majeed Majazi presented the annual report of the Halqa. Dr. Riyaz-ul-Hassan delivered a detailed paper on the theme "Saani Aslaaf" (Our Great Ancestors).

In his presidential address, Prof. Sheikh Mohammad Aijaz lauded Hajin as a land with literary and intellectual heritage. He raised thought provoking questions regarding the preservation and promotion of the Kashmiri language and paid tribute to the cultural legacy of Hajin. During

the session, Prof. Naseem Shafai celebrated poet and scholar was honoured with the prestigious "Khil'at-e-Hajini 2025" award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Kashmiri literature. The second session was presided over by Prof. Shad Ramzan and attended by



Mohammad Amin Bhat (President, Adbee Markaz Kamraz), Dr. G.N. Haleem, and Prof. Ismail Ashna. The session began with a keynote address by Shakir Shafi followed by a thought-provoking paper presented by Abdul Khaliq Shams on the life and literary contribution of

Ghulam Hassan Taskeen. Syed Abid Gowhar shared his heartfelt impressions about Taskeen Sahib and his literary journal Gulistan i Saidi.

On this occasion, Irshad-ul-Hameed was felicitated with a certificate of appreciation for his contribution to literary

events. Participants described Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari as a historic and visionary institution shaping the literary landscape of the valley. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Shad Ramzan emphasized the significance of the Halqa's literary mission and its continued relevance in contemporary times. Prominent poets including Shameem Rasheed, Saleem Yousuf, Mehtab Manzoor, and Ghulam Nabi Manzoor recited poetic tributes during the event. Nazeer Javed presented the vote of thanks, while Me'raj bin Saif conducted the proceedings in an elegant manner. The event was sponsored by Amazing Collection Hajin and held under the patronage of Adbee Markaz Kamraz. The ceremony witnessed the participation of writers, poets, academicians, civil society members, teachers, and students from across the Valley.

# MLAs highlight several issues of public importance during Zero Hour today

Speaker clarifies rules for accepting adjournment motions by members

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27:** During the Zero Hour of the ongoing session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today, Members from across party lines raised a range of public interest issues concerning their constituencies and the UT at large, seeking urgent attention and redressal from the Government.

Earlier Sajad Gani Lone, MLA Handwara, raised a procedural point over rejection of his adjournment motion regarding rationalization of reservations through a cabinet sub-committee. Responding, the Speaker clarified that Assembly Rules allow adjournment motions only on matters of recent occurrence and not on issues pending adjudication in courts.

Sajad Shaheen, MLA Banihal, demanded a one-hour discussion in the House over the arrest of MLA Doda, Mehraj Malik. In this regard, Nazir Ahmad Khan suggested constitution of a committee to examine the legality of the PSA invoked against Malik. Supporting procedural clarity, RS Pathania, MLA Udhampur East, observed that imposition

of PSA is the prerogative of the District Magistrate and subject to judicial scrutiny.

Raising infrastructure-related issues, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East, sought immediate restoration of the Bhagwati Nagar Bridge damaged during recent floods. Shakti Parihar, MLA Doda West, requested rehabilitation of families affected by land sinking in Kastigarh and restoration of the Ramgarh road. Pyarelal Sharma, MLA Inderwal, and Dr Rameshwar Singh, MLA Bani, also urged rehabilitation of flood-affected families and restoration of damaged roads and infrastructure.

S.S. Salathia, MLA Samba, highlighted the agitation of PHE Department daily wagers demanding regularization, noting that the ongoing strike was disrupting regular water supply. He further sought release of long-pending public deposits from the Jammu & Kashmir State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Ltd. (formerly CLDB). Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Pampore, requested deployment of water tankers in Pampore and Kakapora to ensure safe drinking water supply.



Several MLAs raised issues related to connectivity and road projects. Nizamuddin Bhat, MLA Bandipora, sought early completion of the Sumbal-Bandipora-Gurez road. Sheikh Khursheed Ahmad, MLA Langate, flagged delays in CRF-funded road projects. Choudhary Mohammad

Akram, MLA Surankot, urged completion of the Bafliar road, while Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir, MLA Rajpora, pressed for restoration of damaged bridges in his constituency. Mir Saifullah demanded DPR formulation for the proposed Keran tunnel to improve border connectivity.

On developmental fronts, Dr Bashir Ahmad Veeri, MLA Srigufwara-Bijbehara, demanded that the Jablipora Fruit Mandi be developed as per its original DPR to serve as an international fruit terminal, besides seeking introduction of a Market Intervention Scheme

for horticulturists. Rafiq Ahmad Naik, MLA Tral, and Abdul Majeed Bhat Larmi, MLA Anantnag West, both sought establishment of Cold Storage and CA stores in their respective areas to aid fruit growers.

Tourism-related issues were prominently raised by Dr. Shafi Ahmad wani MLA Beerwah, who sought reopening of closed tourist destinations including Doodhpathri, Yousmarg, Tosamaidan, and Drang, while Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, MLA Tangmarg, echoed similar concerns, calling for early restoration of tourism activities.

Several members also flagged matters concerning administrative outreach and education. Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Reasi, demanded setting up of an SDM office at Pouni/Arnas for public convenience, while Pawan Gupta, MLA Udhampur, urged restoration of work on the upcoming GMC Udhampur, stalled due to relocation issues with the ITI. Baldev Raj Sharma, MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, pressed for speedy establishment of the IMS Katra project.

Social and humanitarian concerns were also voiced during the Zero Hour. Shameem

Firdous, MLA HabbaKadal, sought constitution of a committee comprising retired judges and senior police officers to review cases of Valley youth jailed in prisons outside J&K.

Dr Sajjad Shafi, MLA Uri, highlighted pending relief for families whose houses were damaged during Operation Sindoor, while Zafar Ali Khatana, MLA Kokernag, sought relief measures for nomadic families affected by floods.

Arjun Singh, MLA Ramban, brought to the notice of the House the kidnapping of a person belonging to his constituency in Niger and urged the Government to take up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs for his early repatriation.

Rafiq Ahmad Naik and Iftikhar Choudhary, along with Saif-ud-Din Bhat, urged that Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works be taken up concurrently with ongoing departmental enquiries to avoid disruption in water supply schemes. Aijaz Ahmed Jan, MLA Poonch, called for early release of scholarships for tribal students, and Salman Sagar, MLA Hazratbal, demanded release of pending salaries of Khidmat Centre (CSC) operators.

## Baramulla hosts District-Level Viksit Bharat Cultural & Innovation Fest under National Youth Festival 2025-26

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 27:** In connection with the National Youth Festival 2025-26, the Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Baramulla, today organized a vibrant and inspiring District-Level Viksit Bharat Cultural and Innovation Track Competition at the Indoor Stadium, Khawaja Bagh Baramulla.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 150 schooling and non-schooling youth in the 15-29 years age group, showcasing their creativity, intellect, and cultural brilliance.

The competitions included Declamation, Story Writing, Painting, Folk Dance, Poetry Writing, and Innovation (Science Mela Exhibition), each reflecting the spirit of Viksit Bharat and the boundless energy of India's youth.

The event was graced by various dignitaries from various departments who lauded the efforts of the young participants and emphasized the importance of nurturing innovation and cultural expression among youth.

A panel of judges drawn from reputed institutions evaluated the performances and selected the best talents who will represent District Baramulla at the Divisional Level Competition.

At the valedictory ceremony, the best performers were given certificates and trophies, applauding their outstanding contributions and spirited participation.

The event reflected the department's continued commitment to empowering young minds through opportunities that blend art, culture, innovation, and national development.

## DC Srinagar reviews Implementation of Mission YUVA Scheme in district

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27:** To review the status and progress of the implementation of the Mission YUVA scheme in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting focused on assessing the achievements made so far under the scheme and formulating a future roadmap in consultation with concerned departments and stakeholders to further enhance the progress of Mission YUVA in Srinagar.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed review of various components of the scheme, including pendency of cases at different levels, establishment of Model Single Block Development Units

(SBDUs), conduct of awareness programmes under Udyam Jagriti-4.0, and initiation of output tracking mechanisms aimed at improving the overall implementation of the Mission.

The DC directed the Employment Department and J&K Bank to adopt proactive measures to meet the targets set for the current financial year. Emphasizing the significance of grassroots-level support systems, he instructed that SBDUs, Block Handholding Desks (BHDs), and YUVA Doots be optimally utilized to facilitate on-ground execution of the scheme.

The DC stressed the need to further streamline the approval process, ensure timely sanction and disbursement of loans, and closely monitor the establishment of enterprises by beneficiaries. He further directed that processes



from District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) approvals to bank sanctions and loan disbursements be further expedited.

Highlighting the importance of Udyam Jagriti-4.0, the DC emphasized close coordination be-

tween colleges and the District Employment Department to organize awareness programmes and sensitize students about the entrepreneurial ecosystem under Mission YUVA, enabling youth to pursue self-employment oppor-

tunities.

The DC also instructed the concerned departments to ensure the establishment of Model SBDUs in the district and initiate a robust output tracking mechanism under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; Nodal Principal Colleges, Seema Naaz; General Manager, J&K Bank, Peer Masood Ahmad Chishti; Deputy Director Employment, Shubi Tabasum; Lead District Manager (LDM), Nilofer Jan; and other concerned officers.

## Rs. 451.99 lacs incurred on lift irrigation scheme Peth Devsar: Minister Jal Shakti

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana today said that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the lift irrigation scheme Peth Devsar was prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 452.69 lacs under NABARD.

The Minister said that against this

an expenditure of Rs. 451.99 lacs has been incurred till date. However, the scheme could not be commissioned as the cost of land has shot up from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 80.91 lakhs upon the promulgation of Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, (LARR Act) 2013 since August, 2019.

The Minister said this while replying a question by Legislator, Peerzada

Feroze Ahmad in Legislative Assembly today.

He further stated that the department is currently examining the modalities for covering the balance funds as per revised rates/ guidelines.

He added that subsequent steps will be taken based on the outcome of this examination and in accordance with the applicable financial rules.

## Awareness Programme Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Held at GHSS Hajin

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 27:** A comprehensive awareness programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was today conducted at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Hajin, aimed at sensitising youth about the ill effects of drug abuse and the collective responsibility of society towards eradication of this menace.

The event was held under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Bandipora, Bashir Ahmad. It was organised by the Social Welfare Department Bandipora in collaboration with the School Education Department Bandipora, J&K Police, and JKSWM-District Drug De-Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre (DDAC) Bandipora.

Speaking on the occasion, SHO



Hajin, emphasised the crucial role of law enforcement. "Drug peddlers destroy generations; society must stand united to isolate and report them," he said, urging commu-

nity vigilance. Principal GHSS Hajin, added, "Schools are not just centres of learning but the first line of defence against social evils like substance

abuse." Medical Officer, District Drug De-Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre Bandipora, sensitised students on medical complications

associated with addiction. She cautioned, "Drugs attack both the mind and body silently; early help is the key to full recovery."

Outreach Worker, DDAC Bandipora, detailed the support systems available across the district. "Treatment, counselling, and rehabilitation are accessible, no one struggling should hesitate to seek assistance," he noted.

On the occasion, the speakers urged youngsters to become ambassadors of positive change and spread awareness within their peers, neighbourhoods, and families. Participants took a pledge to uphold a drug-free environment in schools and communities.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, teaching and non-teaching staff, and officials from various departments.

## Rally under SVEEP conducted at GHSS Humhama for Voter Awareness

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BUDGAM, OCTOBER 27:** As part of the ongoing efforts under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme, a voter awareness rally was today organised by District administration in collaboration with CEO Budgam and information & PR Budgam.

The rally aimed to spread awareness among the general public, especially the youth, about the importance of voting and active participation in the democratic process.

The event was flagged off from Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Humhama, where students, teachers, and staff members participated enthusiastically, carrying placards and chanting slogans promoting ethical and informed voting. The rally passed through the main streets of Humhama, drawing attention and engagement from the local community.

On the occasion, District Information Officer (DIO) Budgam, Erum Khan and Principal GHSS Humhama, Shabir Hussain, addressed the gathering and spoke about the power of the vote and the responsibility of every citizen to participate in elections.

They highlighted that voting is not only a constitutional right but also a fundamental duty that shapes the future of the nation. They urged students to act as ambassadors of voter awareness by encouraging their families and communities to register and vote responsibly.

The event reflected the collective commitment of the District Administration Budgam towards ensuring inclusive, ethical, and informed participation in the electoral process.

# Works on different projects being executed on fast-track basis in Anantnag Constituency: Deputy CM

DPR of 499.25 lakh prepared for Construction of Marriage Hall at Rani Bagh Anantnag

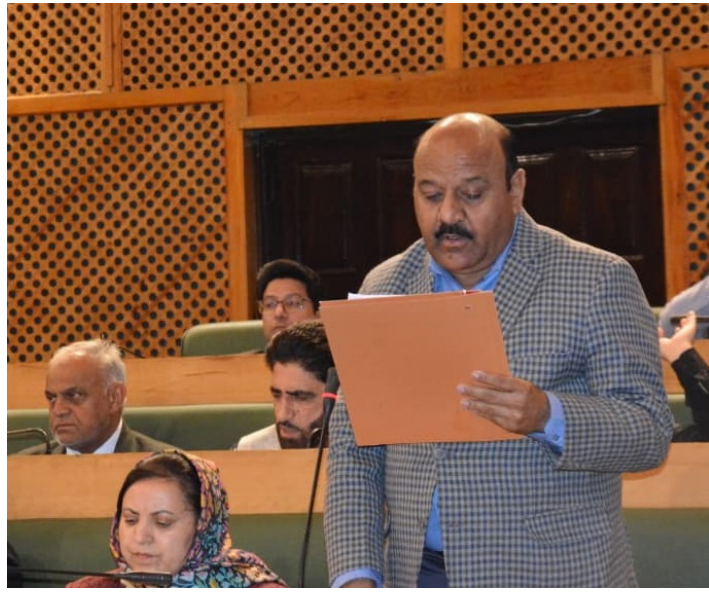
■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR OCT 27** : Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today informed the Legislative Assembly that the works on all ongoing projects in Anantnag Constituency will be executed on fast track basis and completed timely.

The Deputy Chief Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Peerzada Mohammad Syed.

The Deputy CM informed the house that the DPR for Construction of the Marriage Hall at Rani Bagh for an amount of Rs. 499.25 lacs has been prepared and stands submitted to office of the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Anantnag. However, the administrative approval is awaited.

He further informed that the



department has raised various queries regarding non-completion of construction work of shopping complex building at Old SRTC Yard near DC Office Anantnag like requirement of

Technical Sanction, vetting of structural drawings and other related issues with Housing and Urban Development department (HUDD), adding that as and when the HUDD responds to the observations of this department, the work on the said project shall be started in line with financial code and GFR (manual of works).

With regard to new Deputy Commissioner Office Complex in Anantnag, the Deputy CM informed that a Preliminary Project Report (PPR) amounting to Rs. 106.87 Crores has been prepared for the construction of the Mini Secretariat and has already been submitted to the office of Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag by the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Anantnag. He added that, although no formal letter has been received for the preparation of DPR, it is currently under preparation in close consultation with the Chief Architect and work shall commence once land is free from any encumbrances, AAA is obtained, and funds are made available, in accordance with the GFR (Works Manual) and applicable financial codes.

Regarding the proposal for construction of Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) behind (MMA-BM) Hospital Janglat Mandi Anantnag on land owned by Municipal Committee Anantnag, the Deputy CM informed the house that no such communication has been received from the indenting department; as and when a formal request is received from the Tourism Department, the process for the Tourist Centre (TRC) shall be initiated as per the norms governing the said construction.

## Construction of new Women's Hostels under active consideration of Government

Sakeena Itoo

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR OCT 27** : Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo today said that the construction of new Women's Hostels is under active consideration of the department, while as the possibility for establishing Women's Hostel in district Kishtwar will be explored.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Shagun Parihar regarding Women's Hostels in Legislative Assembly today.



The Minister informed the house that 12 Women's Hostels under the Higher Education department, with capacity of around 1200, are functional in various districts across Jammu and Kashmir. She also informed that 16 Girls Hostels are under construction in different colleges across Jammu and Kashmir. She added that several functional/ under construction Girls Hostels are also established under Skill Development department at various Polytechnic Colleges in Jammu and Srinagar.

Further, the Minister informed that under Social Welfare department, one Working Women Hostel is functional at Roop Nagar, Jammu with a capacity of 25 women, which includes dormitories, kitchen, library, washrooms, lawns, lobby, and daycare centre.

She also informed that the Department is in the process of establishing five newly approved Sakhi Niwas in the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kathua, and Rajouri and suitable buildings have been identified and engagement of human resources is under process.

The Minister also added that the Health & Medical Education Department also provides hostel facilities through Nursing, Para-medical, and Girls Hostels for Medical Colleges, besides School Education Department also provides Hostel Facilities for Girls through KGBVs in various districts of J&K.

## DDC Kupwara reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KUPWARA, OCTOBER 27**: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of developmental works under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26.

At the outset, the CPO Kupwara, presented a detailed overview of the ongoing and completed projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 pertaining to various departments including R&B, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, PHE, Minor Irrigation, United Grants, ADF and Samridh Seema Yojna.

The meeting was informed that total approved outlay for the financial year 2025-26 involves Rs 10907.83 lakh, and funds released as on date is Rs 6882.03 lakh.

On the occasion, the DDC took a detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex budget. He stressed upon the officers gear up the pace of work and ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects keeping in view the ensuing winter season.

He emphasized the need for regular field monitoring, better inter-departmental coordination, and prompt resolution of bottlenecks hampering project progress.

The DDC reiterated the administration's commitment to equitable and sustainable development across all blocks of Kupwara district and urged officers to utilize funds judiciously before the end of the financial year.

He further instructed the concerned departments to upload progress reports on the BEAMS and PFMS portals to ensure real-time monitoring and transparency.

The DDC directing all departments to expedite works under Area Development Plans (ADP), PRI grants, and other schemes aligned with the District Capex Budget to ensure tangible results on the ground.

CPO Kupwara, ACD, Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti and I&FC, besides, other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

## DC Bandipora chairs meeting on Solid Waste Management under Swachh Bharat Mission

Focus on source segregation and Plastic Waste Management

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 27**: The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of Solid Waste Management under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting was attended by officers from the Urban Local Bodies, Rural Development Department, WUCMA, Legal Metrology, Pollution Control Board, Cooperative Department, besides Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Block Development Officers, and other concerned stakeholders.

The meeting discussed the self-assessment summary of Solid Waste Management across important parameters such as door-to-door waste collection, source segregation, processing by bulk waste generators, wet

and dry waste processing capacity, dumpsite remediation, and geo-mapping of waste processing facilities, C&D facilities, landfills, dumpsites, and STPs/FSTPs. The aspirational parameters covering geo-mapping of wards, drains, nallahs, and water bodies, along with mechanisms for waste sale, were also reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all Executive Officers to share the list of bulk waste generators with the Pollution Control Committee (PCC) along with details of the quantum and nature of waste generated. She stressed on roping in Cooperative Societies to strengthen local-level waste collection and processing, and called for interaction with interested cooperative units to explore viable partnerships. It was informed that rural sanitation efforts will be supported through third-party agencies, while necessary infrastructural assistance shall be provided by the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat's office.

The DC also laid emphasis on achieving the Garbage-Free City (GFC) Star Rating, stating that efforts are underway to attain 1-Star certification for Bandipora town and 3-Star certification for Sumbal. She directed officers to engage a professional agency for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to raise awareness among citizens regarding source segregation, plastic waste management, and sustainable waste disposal practices.

During the discussion, the DC underscored the importance of coordination between the Urban Development Department (UDD) and Rural Development Department (RDD) and proposed the signing of an MoU between the two departments for ensuring effective waste collection and awareness generation in rural areas.

## DC Kupwara chairs DLCC Meeting on National Tobacco-Control Programme & COPTA-2003

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KUPWARA, OCTOBER 27**: The District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) meeting was today held at DC Office Chamber, Kupwara under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse to review the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA-2003) in the district.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized strict enforcement of tobacco control measures, particularly in public places and educational institutions, and directed all

stakeholder departments to ensure visible compliance of COTPA-2003 provisions across the district.

The DC stressed on effective implementation of the Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (TO-FEI) guidelines and directed the Education Department to ensure installation of signages, appointment of tobacco monitors, and conduct of awareness programmes in all schools and colleges.

The DC also directed for intensified enforcement drives in markets and public places to ensure compliance with COTPA-2003 and the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA).



He further called for extensive awareness campaigns, including wall paintings, posters, and competitions in schools to highlight the ill effects of tobacco use.

On Tobacco-Free Villages, the DC instructed the concerned officers to conduct special Gram Sabha meetings to sensitize Panchayat members, NGOs, SHGs,

youth and farmers, besides organizing Nukkad Nataks, wall writings, and declaration programmes to promote and sustain the "Tobacco-Free Village" initiative.

During the meeting it was informed that a student rally under the NTCP will be organized on October 28, 2025, from DC Office Complex Kupwara, which will proceed via Bypass Road to Sub-District Hospital Kupwara with participation of students and ASHA workers.

The meeting was attended by SDM Lolab, CMO Kupwara, ASP Kupwara, DySP Handwara, BMO's DEPO, CEO MC and other concerned Officers.

## DC Bandipora reviews Damage to Jhelum Embankment at Check-Chandergeer Hajin

Heavy vehicle Movement suspended as Preventive Measure

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 27**: The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday visited Check-Chandergeer, Hajin to take stock of the situation arising from the recent damage to the right embankment of River Jhelum, located at RD-114.730 Km.

The visit followed reports of fresh subsidence and cracks along the protective embankment, which resulted in partial sinking of the RCC Toe Wall and displacement of crate structures.

During the on-site inspection, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by officers from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, R&B, Police, and other concerned officers. She interacted with local residents and assured them that all necessary preventive and restorative measures were being taken to ensure public safety and protect the embankment from further deterioration.

Based on the technical inputs from



the concerned departments, the District Administration ordered complete suspension of heavy vehicle movement on the affected road stretch until full restoration and stabilization of the embankment. The DC also directed the concerned departments to initiate immediate strengthening work and carry out continuous monitoring of the vulnerable section.

The DC emphasized that public safety remains the top priority and urged residents, transporters, and drivers to cooperate with the administration. She added that movement of light motor vehicles will be allowed only after daily safety assessments, and that the order shall remain in force until the embankment is certified stable by the competent authorities.

## DLC meeting approves 165 Cases under HADP and JKCIP for agri sector development in Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 27**: A meeting regarding the implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP) was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

The department heads submitted 165 cases for consideration, which were scrutinized for permissibility. After the verification and deliberations and confirming the rules, the committee approved all 165 cases for financial assistance and technical support under different agri and allied sectors.

Under the Agriculture sector, 46 cases were sanctioned focusing on area expansion, creation of water management systems and promotion of protected cultivation.

In the Horticulture sector, a total of 45 units were approved, 22 under HADP, focusing on management of water storage facilities and 23 under JKCIP, promoting expansion of apple



nursery, development of apple and pear aimed at strengthening horticultural infrastructure and supporting orchardists through various interventions.

Similarly, under the Sheep Husbandry sector, 48 units were approved, 27 under HADP and 21 under JKCIP, including sheep reproduction units, tent PP sheds and other enterprise-based interventions to promote sustainable livestock rearing and entrepreneurship.

Under the Animal Husbandry sector, 26 cases of HADP including establishment of dairy units and automat-

ic milk collection units were approved. On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the officers to facilitate beneficiaries and expedite field-level activities so that the objectives of both HADP and JKCIP are effectively achieved.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik; ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar, DIO, CAHO, DSHO, CAO, CHO, AMO, Dy. Registrar, AD Fisheries and officers from Sericulture, J&K Bank and others associated with the implementation of these flagship programmes.

**HT EDITORIAL**

**Use specific stadiums for specific sports**

Srinagar has a world class cricket stadium and the beauty as well as magnificence of the same has mesmerized some of the legends of the game. The cricket stadium known as Sher-I-Kashmir cricket stadium is located in the Sonwar area and the presence of lofty chinars adds to the splendour of the cricket stadium. The cricket stadium has hosted foreign teams like West Indies and Australia in the 1980s with a couple of one day matches being played against the host country.

While the West Indies-India cricket match was held in November 1984 the one day match between India and Australia was played in September 1986. As militancy broke out in Kashmir in 1989 no more international cricket matches were played at this venue. Over the past few years there has been a revival of domestic cricket matches at the Srinagar cricket stadium with matches between the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team and some of the states being held.

Even though there is a beautiful cricket stadium in Srinagar in the recent past some of the cricket matches have been played at the Bakshi stadium. As on date the Indian Heaven Premier League cricket matches are being played at the Bakshi stadium. Some of the cricketing greats are taking part in this league and the tourney is going to last for five days. Bakshi stadium is primarily a football stadium and over the years numerous football matches have been played at this ground.

Functions related to the Republic Day and Independence Day are also organized at the Bakshi stadium. Given this fact one is surprised why cricket matches are being played at Bakshi stadium when there is a world class cricket stadium in the city. This is a million dollar question and the answer to this question needs to be given by the organizers of the different leagues. Specific stadiums need to be used for specified games and there should not be any violation in this regard.

It is important that the organizers of different games and sports keep this thing in mind and select the stadium according to the game or sport to be played. Playing cricket in a football stadium or football in a cricket stadium does not go well with the people in general more so with those who are lovers of such games. Hopefully the people associated with the sports associations understand this point and there is no more violation in this regard.

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**Sufi Nisar Sahib: The Guardian of Kashmir's Sufi Soul**



Shah Nawaz Nazir

**Years later, with deep conviction, he began an extraordinary mission: to collect, preserve, and digitize the poetic manuscripts of Kashmir's Sufi masters. What began as a personal effort soon turned into a global service to seekers and scholars alike. Through sheer dedication, he started scanning rare books—many unavailable even in libraries—and sharing them through his online blog and social media. Each scanned page became an act of devotion, an offering to the divine legacy of his homeland. Today, his blog has evolved into what many consider a digital library of Kashmiri Sufi heritage. Almost every form of old literature related to Kashmiri Sufi kalam (poetry) can be found there, along with a Kashmiri dictionary and other valuable resources. For many like me, it has become a sacred space of learning, reflection, and remembrance**

In a world swept by the currents of haste and forgetfulness, there are rare souls who stand as sentinels of memory—those who guard the fading songs of a people, the fragrance of their sacred heritage, and the language of their ancestors. Among these luminous keepers stands Sufi Nisar Sahib, a name whispered with affection and reverence among lovers of Kashmiri mysticism. His life's work—reviving, preserving, and disseminating the written treasures of Kashmir's Sufi poets—has become a quiet revolution, nurturing a generation's reconnection with its spiritual and linguistic roots.

**The Land of Saints and Poets**

Kashmir has long been called Pir Vaer, the Valley of Saints. From the tranquil groves of Charar-e-Sharif, where Sheikh ul Aalam R.A. (Nund Reshi) rests, to the spiritual echoes of Shamas Faqeer, Mehboob ul Aalam, and countless others, this valley has been a sanctuary for divine seekers. Their verses, sung in the language of the people, wove together the earthly and the eternal.

But as time advanced, conflict, migration, and modern indifference began to erode that delicate fabric. Ancient manuscripts decayed in forgotten trunks; the Kashmiri language, once the medium of divine dialogue, started to recede from daily life. Amidst this quiet erosion, Sufi Nisar Sahib arose—not as a scholar seeking fame, but as a humble devotee answering a sacred call to preserve his heritage.

**The Humble Archivist of the Divine Word**

Born and raised in the valley, Sufi Nisar grew up listening to the verses of mystics that echoed through shrines and mountains. These words were not merely poetry—they were the heartbeat of Kashmiri spirituality, the whispered remembrance of God in the native tongue. He sensed early on that something sacred was slipping away.

Years later, with deep conviction, he began an extraordinary mission: to collect, preserve, and digitize the poetic manuscripts of Kashmir's Sufi masters. What began as a personal effort soon turned into a global service to seekers and scholars alike. Through sheer dedication, he started scanning rare books—many unavailable even in libraries—and sharing them through his online blog and social media. Each scanned page became an act of devotion, an offering to the divine legacy of his homeland.

Today, his blog has evolved into what many consider a digital library of Kashmiri Sufi heritage. Almost every form of old literature related to Kashmiri Sufi kalam (poetry) can be found there, along with a Kashmiri dictionary and other valuable resources. For many like me, it has become a sacred space of learning, reflection, and remembrance.

**A Personal Connection Beyond Distance**

Though I have never met Sufi Nisar Sahib in person, I consider him one of my greatest guides. During the days when I was writing my first poetry collection, Divine Melodies, I had the honor of speaking with him. Our conversations, though separated by distance, carried deep spiritual warmth. His words were filled with wisdom, humility, and kindness.

He guided me through the delicate balance of expressing divine love through poetry—how to let the words breathe naturally and allow the soul's yearning to speak for itself. Even from afar, his guidance touched me profoundly. It was as though an unseen teacher was walking beside me through the process, reminding me to remain true to the essence of love and longing that lies at the heart of Sufi expression.

To this day, whenever I feel the urge to read Kashmiri kalam, I simply open Sufi Nisar Sahib's blog on Google. It has become my personal retreat, a spiritual library where I can lose myself in the words of the saints. The blog holds treasures that might have otherwise been lost to time, and it fills my heart with peace each time I visit.

Often, I find myself scrolling through the pages not just to read but to feel the presence of those who wrote centuries ago—the mystics whose words still pulse with divine remembrance. And every time I see Sufi Nisar Sahib's name on Facebook, I feel a quiet joy, a sense of calm and gratitude, as though I am witnessing a living embodiment of the love and patience that defines the Sufi path.

**An Open Heart and a Listening Ear**

One of the most admirable qualities of Sufi Nisar Sahib is his approachability and patience. Whenever someone asks him a question on Facebook—be it about a verse, a saint, or a linguistic detail—he responds with generosity and humility. There is no trace of pride or dismissal in his tone. Instead, he welcomes every question with warmth, as if each seeker is equally deserving of understanding.

Such behavior reflects the essence of Sufism: service without ego, teaching without superiority. In a world where social media often fosters division, his presence on these platforms has become a source of harmony. He uses the digital world not for self-promotion, but as a means to serve humanity and the sacred word.

**Preserving the Kashmiri Language**

Language is more than a tool of communication; it is the vessel of a people's soul. The Kashmiri language, with its lyrical beauty and spiritual undertones, carries centuries of mystic wisdom. Recognizing this, Sufi Nisar extended his mission beyond manuscripts to reviving linguistic pride among Kashmiri youth.

Through his blog and social presence, he encourages people to read, write, and speak Kashmiri—to reconnect with the mother tongue of saints. His digital



archive stands as both a monument and a living classroom, inspiring countless Kashmiris, both at home and abroad, to rediscover the rhythm of their own language.

**Technology as a Spiritual Tool**

What makes Sufi Nisar Sahib's contribution even more remarkable is how he has transformed technology into a vessel for spirituality. In an age where the internet often distracts and divides, he uses it as a tool of remembrance and unification. His online presence is not a mere website—it is a digital shrine, where lovers of Kashmiri poetry gather from across the globe.

Through his tireless efforts, seekers from America, Europe, and the broader subcontinent can now access the writings of Shamas Faqeer, Ahad Zargar, and Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, many for the first time. His blog ensures that the divine wisdom of Kashmir's poets is no longer bound by geography—it travels on the wings of light across continents.

**An Unseen Teacher and Living Example**

Like the true Sufis of old, Sufi Nisar Sahib teaches through silence and action. His humility is his message. He never claims ownership of the texts he preserves. He never demands acknowledgment. He sees himself only as a conduit through which the heritage of the saints flows into the world.

This humility is rare in our time. It reminds one of the candle that never speaks of its own light—it simply burns to illuminate others. In that burning lies the essence of divine service.

His quiet consistency, his patience with seekers, and his deep respect for every poet and saint he mentions make him a living example of the Sufi principle: serve, love, and let go of the self.

**Inspiration for the New Generation**

Many young Kashmiris, caught between modern uncertainty and a longing for meaning, have found direction through Sufi Nisar Sahib's work. His example teaches them that to know one's culture and spiritual heritage is to anchor oneself amid the storms of the world.

Inspired by his path, some have begun their own journeys of preservation—scanning old books, collecting oral histories, and translating Sufi poetry into English to reach global readers. Through his quiet service, he has sparked a revival of remembrance—one that may, in time, restore the valley's cultural and spiritual balance.

**A Legacy of Love**

To preserve a book is to preserve a soul. Each manuscript that Sufi Nisar rescues, each poem he shares, is a form of zikr—a remembrance of God through the written word. His efforts have ensured that the voices of Kashmir's mystics do not fade into silence but continue to speak to generations unborn.

For those like me, who are deeply connected to Sufi literature and Kashmiri identity, his work is not just archival—it is transformative. It reminds us that love, knowledge, and service can transcend all boundaries, even those of distance and time. I may have never met him face to face, but through his words, his guidance, and his work, I feel his presence as a spiritual companion—one who lights the path without ever asking to be seen.

**The Light That Never Dies**

The story of Sufi Nisar Sahib is the story of love's endurance. In him, the ancient and the modern meet in harmony; in his work, the language of saints finds new life in the digital age. He reminds us that spirituality is not confined to shrines or monasteries—it breathes wherever there is sincerity of heart.

In the quiet of his room, as he scans another fragile manuscript, one can almost imagine the unseen company of saints smiling upon him. For through his labor, their voices continue to echo across the valleys, reaching the hearts of seekers in every corner of the world.

And thus, Kashmir continues to sing—not only through its rivers and mountains, but through the dedication of one humble servant:

Sufi Nisar Sahib, the guardian of Kashmir's Sufi soul, whose silent service has turned the digital age into a sanctuary of remembrance.

The author is a Columnist from Zagi Pora, Chararsharif.



# Budgam Assembly Elections and Our Responsibilities



Aubaid Akhoun

**Budgam, located in the picturesque Kashmir Valley, is more than just a geographical district — it is a land of spiritual depth, cultural richness, and intellectual legacy. From ancient times, Budgam has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, each leaving its unique imprint on the district's identity. Known as the cradle of Sufism in Kashmir, Budgam has been home to saints, scholars, and poets whose teachings continue to guide generations toward peace and harmony**

As Budgam once again finds itself in the spotlight amid the upcoming elections, social media platforms and local news outlets are flooded with road interviews and political debates. Unfortunately, many of these so-called public interactions often seem orchestrated, serving the interests of specific political parties through paid promotions. In the age of technology, where perception can be more powerful than truth, political narratives are increasingly shaped by digital influence rather than genuine ground realities. This has made it even more important for the people of Budgam to think critically and vote consciously.

### Budgam: A Land of Culture, Heritage, and Hope

Budgam, located in the picturesque Kashmir Valley, is more than just a geographical district — it is a land of spiritual depth, cultural richness, and intellectual legacy. From ancient times, Budgam has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, each leaving its unique imprint on the district's identity. Known as the cradle of Sufism in Kashmir, Budgam has been home to saints, scholars, and poets whose teachings continue to guide generations toward peace and harmony.

The district is distinguished by its cultural diversity and the peaceful coexistence of different religious and ethnic communities. The blending of Kashmiri, Persian, and Central Asian influences has produced a vibrant tradition of art, poetry, architecture, and music. Its people, despite political and economic challenges, have preserved values of tolerance, mutual respect, and social unity. These values, rooted in Budgam's heritage, must also guide its political decisions today.

(Readers can explore more about Budgam's cultural and historical depth by searching one of my articles titled "Budgam: A District of Rich Culture, Scenic Landscapes, and the Urgency for Social Harmony" on Google.)

### The Pain of Neglect

Despite being one of the nearest districts to Srinagar, Budgam's development story is filled with neglect. Successive governments, regardless of political affiliation, have failed to provide the district with even the most basic facilities. The condition of roads, drinking water, healthcare, sanitation, and electricity paints a picture of administrative indifference.

What makes the situation worse is the unplanned urbanization that threatens Budgam's fertile agricultural lands. The unchecked spread of private colonies — often promoted by unregistered property dealers — has transformed vast stretches of productive farmland into unplanned residential clusters. These colonies, though illegal or semi-legal, are paradoxically equipped with better facilities than government housing schemes.

Take the example of Ompora Housing Colony in Budgam, developed by the Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board. Despite being ecologically sound, free from flood threats, and systematically planned, Ompora Colony continues to suffer from poor roads, inadequate drainage, unreliable water and electric-



ity supply, and the absence of essential civic institutions. There is no marriage hall, no proper hospital, no police station, and no dedicated fire and emergency service.

As a resident of Ompora Colony, I have witnessed these problems daily. This condition reflects a broader pattern of neglect faced by citizens who choose to live in planned government colonies. Ironically, those living in unregistered private colonies enjoy better basic infrastructure, thanks to selective favoritism and the influence of private interests.

If authorities truly wish to promote sustainable housing and responsible urban growth, they must start by revitalizing government colonies like Ompora — making them models of civic management and urban dignity. Roads, drainage systems, waste management, street lighting, public safety, and health facilities should be prioritized. Only then can citizens regain trust in public housing schemes and planned urban development.

### The Power of an Informed Vote

With the assembly by-elections approaching, Budgam's citizens have a renewed opportunity to reflect and act responsibly. Elections are not mere political events; they are moral tests of our awareness, honesty, and vision for the future.

Voters must remember that casting a vote is not about rewarding families or following communal affiliations. It is about empowering the right person — the one who has the competence, education, and genuine commitment to address people's needs. Dynastic politics and emotional appeals have long hindered Budgam's growth. It is time to move beyond personality cults and evaluate candidates on the basis of their work, integrity, and vision.

The real question for every voter should be simple yet profound:

Who has consistently stood for the people even after the elections?

Which candidate has demonstrated sincerity toward solving local problems rather than chasing media attention?

Who values education, development, and ethics

more than rhetoric and power?

The fate of Budgam depends on the collective conscience of its people. If citizens use their vote wisely, keeping the district's development and dignity in mind, Budgam can finally emerge from decades of political marginalization.

### A Call for Political Maturity

Budgam's story is not one of despair but of potential. Its people are educated, aware, and capable of shaping a brighter future. However, awareness must translate into action. True change will not come through slogans or sympathy speeches; it will come through decisive participation and responsible voting. It is time to recognize that our vote is not just a mark on a ballot paper — it is a voice that determines the direction of our society. Every citizen must evaluate who truly deserves that trust. The next MLA should be chosen not on the basis of lineage, influence, or wealth, but on merit, sincerity, and a record of service.

Let this election mark the beginning of a new political culture in Budgam — one that values progress over propaganda, accountability over arrogance, and service over slogans. The destiny of Budgam does not lie in the promises of politicians but in the power of its people to make wise, conscious choices.

Let us move beyond old divisions and inherited loyalties, casting our votes not out of habit or pressure, but guided by reason, foresight, and responsibility. It is only through such conscious choices that Budgam can emerge from years of neglect and become a shining example of development, unity, and social harmony.

The author is a renowned educator and coaching consultant in Kashmir, also serving as a columnist, motivational speaker, and Associate Editor of Education Quill. He manages operations at Genagogy Nowgam Kashmir in association with Technoglobe Jaipur, a prominent tech training institute. Email: akhoun.aubaid@gmail.com

## India Achieves Network Sovereignty in the North-East as BSNL Terminates Bangladesh Bandwidth Link

BY DR. NAVIN KUMAR

India's digital infrastructure has reached a pivotal moment of self-reliance, highlighted by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) recent decision to stop purchasing the 10 Gbps international internet bandwidth from Bangladesh Submarine Cables PLC (BSCPLC). This strategic move signals a successful culmination of efforts toward network autonomy for the North-Eastern Region (NER), confirming that the Indian government's extensive investments in domestic optical fiber infrastructure have yielded concrete results.

This institutional shift toward self-reliance is a direct outcome of a broader, profound structural transformation in India's overall bandwidth capacity and internet experience over the last decade. This revolution was fundamentally driven by the accelerated and widespread deployment of 4G and the subsequent, rapid transition to 5G mobile networks, alongside high-priority fiber-optic initiatives such as BharatNet. This change in the telecommunications sector precipitated a massive escalation in data usage, reduced cost and high speed. Consequently, the nation's average download speed experienced a substantial increase, moving over 114 places in global rankings to attain a median speed exceeding 100 Mbps in the mobile segment, thereby establishing the

country as one of the world's largest consumers of mobile data and a rapidly expanding digital economy.

The termination of the Bangladesh bandwidth contract is not merely a commercial or technical accomplishment; it functions as a powerful indicator of BSNL's substantial institutional restructuring and financial recovery from a phase where it was frequently perceived as a non-viable public sector enterprise. After enduring accumulating losses for over 17 years, BSNL has recently recorded its first consecutive quarterly net profits (Q3 and Q4 FY2024-25), demonstrating a crucial inflection point driven by comprehensive government-backed revival packages and rigorous operational streamlining. Furthermore, this resurgence aligns profoundly with the Atmanirbhar Bharat policy, positioning BSNL as the primary implementation vehicle for India's fully indigenous 4G and 5G-ready technology stack. By deploying this domestically developed network across the country, particularly in remote and geopolitically sensitive areas like the North-East, BSNL has solidified its strategic value, progressing from an entity characterized by financial precarity to one demonstrating national technological capability and infrastructure leadership.

### Structural Implications for North-East Development and Digital Autonomy

This transition to network self-sufficiency is anticipated to serve as a significant

accelerant for the overall socio-economic development of the North-East Region (NER). By eliminating reliance on external transit for core internet capacity, the region attains digital sovereignty, a condition critical for national security and the effective operation of e-governance, e-health, and e-education services. The robust, high-capacity domestic network, predicated on Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) and redundant ring topologies, provides uninterrupted connectivity capable of better mitigating both the natural disasters prevalent in the mountainous geography and potential geopolitical risks. This guaranteed continuity of service is essential for attracting IT/ITeS investment, establishing domestic data centers, and encouraging the local startup and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Ultimately, a stable, sovereign, and high-speed digital infrastructure is poised to integrate the NER more thoroughly with the broader Indian and global digital economy, transforming it from a geographically peripheral zone into a digital thoroughfare supporting India's Act East Policy.

The termination of the Bangladesh contract conclusively establishes that BSNL's backbone is no longer dependent on external transit for the NER. This domestic network capacity has been achieved through the widespread implementation of high-capacity technology on critical inter-state routes, representing a substan-

tial technical shift from Gigabits per second (Gbps) to Terabits per second (Tbps) capacity. Specifically, the deployment of DWDM on core routes like Siliguri-Guwahati provides Tbps capacity, which can readily accommodate and exceed the previous 10 Gbps traffic load. Moreover, BSNL has upgraded its backbone using Multi-Protocol Label Switching-Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) and contemporary Next Generation Network (NGN) elements, which are indispensable for managing combined voice and data traffic with carrier-grade reliability across the region's complex terrain.

Crucially, the domestic network now exhibits enhanced resilience. This improved robustness has been secured through the deployment of redundant ring topologies linking state and district headquarters, which minimizes service disruption from the frequent fiber cuts — often caused by landslides or construction in the challenging NER geography — via automatic traffic rerouting. The network has been further protected against common terrestrial failures by utilizing physically diverse paths, such as Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) on power transmission lines.

Dr. Navin Kumar is a faculty member in Department of Electronics and Computers at Langat Singh College, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

## The Smile

*I see your smile,  
Not in gold  
Nor silver  
But like a cloud  
Among the solitude  
Of the velvet sky,  
The smile is open  
Like a flower  
Upon the wild hey  
Smile me back,  
I too smile you in return.*

Sidharth PK  
India

# Understanding Shoulder Impingement Syndrome



Surinderpal Singh

**Physiotherapy forms the cornerstone of non-surgical treatment. Scientific evidences suggests that a well-structured rehabilitation program can restore shoulder function, reduce pain and prevent recurrence.**

Postural correction and scapular stabilization exercises to restore proper biomechanics.

Rotator cuff strengthening exercises such as internal and external rotations using resistance bands.

Range of motion exercises to prevent stiffness and maintain flexibility

The Shoulder impingement syndrome (SIS) is one of the most common causes of shoulder pain, particularly among athletes, manual laborers and individuals engaged in repetitive overhead activities. This impingement is characterized by the compression of rotator cuff tendons between the humeral head and the acromion, this condition can significantly limit upper limb function.

The human shoulder is a complex joint designed for mobility rather than stability. Its wide range of motion is made possible by the coordination of bones, tendons and muscles, particularly the rotator cuff group. However, this very complexity renders the joint vulnerable to overuse injuries and mechanical conflicts, the most prevalent being shoulder impingement syndrome. This impingement was firstly described by Charles Neer in 1972 and this syndrome represents a mechanical entrapment of soft tissues in the subacromial space, leading to pain, inflammation and functional limitation.

**CAUSES**  
Shoulder impingement arises primarily from the narrowing of the subacromial space, typically between the acromion process and the head of the humerus. The key contributing factors can be categorized as structural and functional:

**STRUCTURAL FACTORS:**  
**Acromial morphology:**  
A hooked or curved acromion can increase the likelihood of impingement.

**Bone spurs (osteophytes):**  
Age-related changes and degenerative arthritis may cause bony projections that reduce the space for tendons.

**Thickened coracoacromial ligament:** Chronic inflammation or micro-trauma can lead to fibrotic thickening, further compressing the rotator cuff.

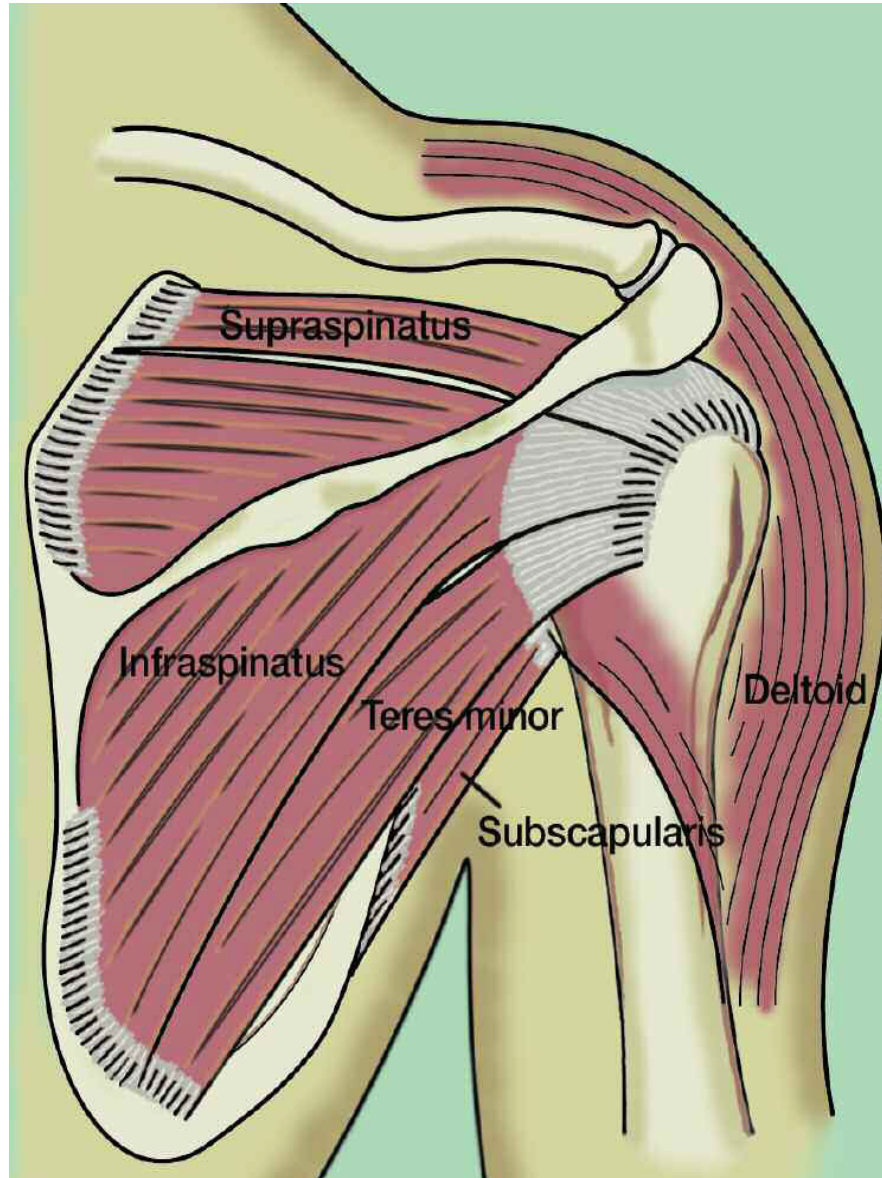
**FUNCTIONAL FACTORS:**  
**Muscle imbalance:**  
Weakness in rotator cuff or scapular stabilizing muscles leads to altered shoulder biomechanics.

**Overuse and repetitive motion:**  
Common in swimmers, painters, and tennis players, repetitive overhead activity causes microtrauma and tendon inflammation.

**Poor posture:**  
Forward head and rounded shoulder posture can decrease subacromial space, contributing to chronic impingement.

**IMPACT ON DAILY LIFE AND PERFORMANCE**

Shoulder impingement can severely limit an individual's ability to perform everyday tasks such as reaching, lifting, dressing, or combing hair. Pain is typically felt during overhead movements or while lying



on the affected side. In athletes, it can hinder throwing, swimming, or weightlifting performance. Chronic untreated impingement may lead to rotator cuff tendinopathy, bursitis, or even partial tears, significantly impairing quality of life and occupational productivity.

**MEDICAL MANAGEMENT**  
Treatment of shoulder impingement follows a stepwise approach, beginning with conservative therapies and progressing to surgical intervention when necessary.

**PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENT:**  
**Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs):**  
Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs are highly effective such as ibuprofen or naproxen, to reduce pain and inflammation.

**Corticosteroid Injections:**  
Local subacromial injections may provide temporary relief in acute cases but should be used cautiously due to tendon-weakening potential.

**SURGICAL OPTIONS:**  
Arthroscopic Subacromial Decompression (ASD):

This surgery involves shaving of the acromion or removal of bony spurs to enlarge the subacromial space.

**Rotator Cuff Repair:**  
It is recommended in advanced cases with partial or full-thickness tears.

However, surgery is generally reserved for cases that fail to respond to six months or more of conservative therapy.

**ROLE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY**  
Physiotherapy forms the cornerstone of non-surgical treatment. Scientific evidences suggests that a well-structured rehabilitation program can restore shoulder function, reduce pain and prevent recurrence.

**KEY PHYSIOTHERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES INCLUDE:**  
Postural correction and scapular stabilization exercises to restore proper biomechanics.

Rotator cuff strengthening exercises such as internal and external rotations using resistance bands.  
Range of motion exercises to prevent stiffness and maintain

flexibility.  
Manual therapy and myofascial release to reduce muscular tightness and improve circulation.

Ultrasound or cryotherapy as adjunct modalities for pain control.  
A consistent physiotherapy program under professional supervision can often eliminate the need for surgery in early and moderate stages.

**NATURAL AND DIETARY SUPPORT**  
Nutrition plays an adjunctive role in reducing inflammation, promoting tendon healing and supporting joint health. A balanced anti-inflammatory diet can complement medical and physiotherapeutic interventions.

**RECOMMENDED DIETARY COMPONENTS:**

- Omega-3 fatty acids:** F  
Omega 3 fatty acids are found in flaxseeds, walnuts and fish oil and these help to modulate inflammatory responses.
- Vitamin C and Collagen Precursors:** Citrus fruits, bell peppers and bone broth support collagen synthesis for tendon repair.
- Vitamin D and Calcium:** Vitamin D and Calcium are highly essential for bone strength and muscle performance.
- Turmeric (Curcumin):** Turmeric is a natural anti-inflammatory natural product that can help reduce pain and swelling.
- Magnesium-rich foods:** S  
Magnesium rich foods such as spinach, almonds and avocado aid in muscle relaxation and recovery.

Conversely, processed foods contains high contend of refined sugar and trans fats and these should be avoided as they aggravate inflammation. Maintaining proper hydration and an ideal body weight further aids shoulder joint health.

The Shoulder impingement syndrome is a multifactorial condition that exemplifies the delicate balance between mobility and stability in the human shoulder. While structural anomalies may predispose individuals to impingement, lifestyle, posture and repetitive mechanical stress are often the true culprits. Early diagnosis, proper physiotherapy and supportive nutrition can effectively restore function and prevent chronic disability. A holistic approach combining medical science and natural management not only relieves symptoms but enhances musculoskeletal longevity — a message vital for athletes, professionals, and the general population alike.

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

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# A 6-Month Long Research-Based Project on Folk Music and Dance of J&K Concluded In Tagore Hall Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** Vemeth Rangmanch proudly announces the successful conclusion of its 6-month-long research-based project on the folk music, dance, and traditional art forms of Jammu and Kashmir, organized under the Scheme for Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas (BTH), approved by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The project's final phase culminated at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, in front of a packed audience comprising artists, researchers, cultural practitioners, media representatives, and art enthusiasts. Event was hosted by Gulfam Barji.

The extensive project was carried out across multiple districts of Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of Shri Rohit Bhat, President of Vemeth Rangmanch, with the assistance of Smt. Suman Ji and Smt. Bharti Ji. Over the past six months, the initiative has focused on reviving, preserving,



promoting, and documenting the region's rich and diverse folk traditions—many of which are at risk of fading into obscurity.

In its first phase, Vemeth Rangmanch conducted a 21-day intensive training workshop that

brought together folk artists, musicians, dancers, and young learners for practical sessions in traditional performance forms, vocal techniques, and musical instruments native to Jammu and Kashmir.

The second and concluding

phase involved field research, documentation, and on-ground interaction with local practitioners to record and archive the unique expressions of Jammu & Kashmir's living folk heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri

Rohit Bhat, President of Vemeth Rangmanch, said:

"It is our collective responsibility to safeguard the traditions handed down to us by our ancestors. This project is a humble yet significant step toward empowering local artists, fostering cultural pride, and reconnecting younger generations with their roots."

The closing event featured vibrant live performances of Jammu and Kashmir's folk music and dances, which received overwhelming appreciation from the audience. The program also showcased excerpts from the documentation work completed over the past months, highlighting the depth and diversity of the Himalayan region's intangible heritage.

With the Ministry of Culture's support, this initiative stands as a model of cultural preservation, ensuring the intergenerational transmission of Jammu and Kashmir's invaluable folk traditions for years to come.

## Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as ALTAF AHMED KHANDAY, which contains incorrect spellings.

The correct name as per my other valid documentary records including the Date of Birth Certificate is: ALTAF AHMED KHANDAY

I am now applying for correction of my name in my Aadhaar Card accordingly.

Any person having any objection to the said correction may kindly file his/her objection in writing with valid proof to the undersigned or to the concerned authorities within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained and the correction shall be deemed final.

## Public Notice

My Son's name has been wrongly written as JEHANGIR HAFEEZ S/O HAFEEZULLAH TELI in his school record while his correct name is JEHANGIR HAFIZ S/O HAFIZULLAH TELI which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of TEHSILDAR Wagoor/BDO Wagoor Within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... HAFIZULLAH TELI  
F/O JEHANGIR HAFIZ, ZONE ...WAGOORA

## 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 Wagoor) / 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

## 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 Wagoor) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of BILQUEESA 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

## 21-Day Training Programme on Geo-Information Science for Natural Resource Management Concludes at SKUAST-K

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, OCT 27:** The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) successfully concluded a 21-day Training Programme on "Geo-Information Science for Natural Resource Management", organized by the Division of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura.

The valedictory session was presided over by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, while Director, ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar, Dr. M. K. Verma, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

In his address, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai praised the comprehensive course curriculum and the way the training programme was designed and executed. He commended the efforts of the organizing team and emphasized the importance of the emerging paradigm shift towards data sciences, noting that Remote Sensing and GIS are integral components of this transformation.

He further highlighted the university's commitment to integrating



modern technologies for sustainable resource management and agricultural development.

Dr. M. K. Verma, in his remarks appreciated the diversity of the participants who came from different parts of the country and represented varied backgrounds, from recent school pass-outs to working professionals. He encouraged the participants to apply the knowledge gained during the training to practical challenges in natural resource management and agricultural innovation.

Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Haroon R. Naik also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the

native role of SKUAST-K in organizing advanced training programmes that promote capacity building and skill enhancement in frontier areas of science and technology.

The 21-day training included expert lectures, practical sessions, and field demonstrations covering Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS applications, land use mapping, watershed management, and climate-resilient agriculture.

The programme brought together researchers, students, and professionals from multiple disciplines, enriching the exchange of ideas and experiences.

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## Public Notice

It is hereby informed that Shri Akhter Rasool, S/o Gh. Rasool Ahanger, R/o kawarigam, Tehsil & District Anantnag, intends to apply for an Other Backward Class (OBC) Certificate.

As per the Report of Patwari Concern, the total annual family income from all sources (Agriculture / Horticulture / Rental Shops / Houses etc.) is ₹1,583,592/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Eighty three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Two only).

The family consists of the following members:  
Gh. Rasool Ahanger (Father, Employee)  
Haseena Bano (Mother)  
Suheel Ahanger (Brother)  
Akhter Rasool (Self, Applicant)

Any person having any objection regarding the above-mentioned details may contact the undersigned or the office of the Tehsildar, Anantnag, within seven (7) days of the publication of this notice.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICES & SPORTS OFFICER BUDGAM

Sub: - Tentative Seniority of Physical Education Teacher of District Budgam- Inviting objections thereof

### NOTICE

Whereas, the administrative department vide YSS-Adm/14/2022-02-YSS&S Dated: - 16-01-2025 advised to update the seniority list of Physical Education Teachers in terms of SRO-375 of J&K Decentralization & Recruitment Act 2010 issued by General Administration Department; and

Whereas, the Directorate Youth Services & Sports, J&K vide order no. DG- YSS/Estt/455-79 Dated: - 09-04-2025, constituted District Level Committees headed by the concerned District Youth Services & Sports Officers and accordingly authorized these committees to prepare the District wise seniority of Physical Education Teachers as per rules in vogue and it was further ordered that the concerned Joint Directors Youth Services & Sports will examine the draft seniority lists and ensure that all the rules & regulations governing the formulation of seniority list are strictly adhered to. The final seniority lists shall be issued only after being vetted by the concerned Joint Directors YSS Jammu/Kashmir; and

Whereas, this office has already issued tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers vide notice no. DYSSO/Bud/Estt/255-58 Dated: - 14-05-2025 which was published in two leading newspapers for inviting objections, if any, from the stakeholders; and

Whereas, the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers submitted their objections in this office within stipulated time. During the scrutiny of the objections, it was observed by the Committees concerned that the issuance of appointment orders of many PETs were delayed due to different administrative reasons viz; receipt of CID verifications, Clarification of documents, court cases etc. which has disrupted the actual seniority position assigned to them in terms of Rule 24 of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956; and

Whereas, the matter was deliberated upon at a meeting convened by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports with both the Joint Directors and all the DYSSOs (and taking into consideration of various circulars and court judgements regarding formulation of seniority) it was observed that many Physical Education Teachers who figured higher in the selection list were appointed later and got placed in the tentative seniority lists below those who were lower in the merit to them, creating an anomalous situation which may lead to avoidable litigation. In view of that, it was unanimously decided that the concerned DYSSOs shall submit the service particulars of those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons for grant of notional effect of Date of Appointment; and

Whereas, a committee constituted vide DG-YSS/Estt/8276-87 Dated: - 04-09-2025 recommended the grant of notional effect to the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers to maintain the merit of SSRB selection list.

Whereas, Directorate Youth Services & Sports J&K vide order no. DG- YSS/Estt/11056-11091 Dated: - 22-10-2025 has granted notional effect of appointment to those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons; and

In view of the above, issuance of tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers afresh is necessitated. Therefore, this office is once again issuing tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers of District Budgam annexed herewith for inviting objections from the stakeholders within 21 days in this office. No representations/objections shall be entertained after the aforementioned period.

The tentative seniority list is available on the office notice board, Directorate Official website and also on the concerned ZPEO notice boards etc.

No. DYSSO/Bud/Estt/1569-86  
Dated: 27-10-2025

Sd/- District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam

DIPK: 7545/25 | Dated: 27-10-2025

## Vigilance Awareness Week campaign takes off in Rajouri

DC stresses on maintaining transparency in governance

HT NEWS DESK

**RAJOURI, OCT 27:** A special programme was today organised at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to mark the commencement of Vigilance Awareness Week. The event was held under the supervision of SSP Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Rajouri-Poonch Range Mamta Sharma and Additional Deputy Commissioner (DVO) Chander Prakash.

The event began with a solemn Integrity Pledge administered by SSP ACB, with the officials reaffirming their commitment to uphold integrity, transparency and accountability in public service.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma was the Chief Guest. In his address, the DC appreciated the informative PowerPoint presentation and case studies presented at the workshop.

He emphasized the need to ensure transparency and accountability in the



administrative setup, stating, "Trust of citizens in institutions is paramount. When corruption increases, trust disappears; and when corruption increases, the economy declines." He further added that every government employee is accountable to the Constitution of India and must discharge his/her duties with utmost honesty.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP ACB underscored

the importance of integrity in day-to-day work. "Our conscience is watching us. We must address public issues sincerely so that citizens do not suffer," She said and urged the officers to perform their duties with honesty, act as whistleblowers against corruption and engage in self-inspection to strengthen ethical governance.

ADC Chander Prakash

stressed the need to eradicate corruption from all the society, adding that moral and social corruption are equally detrimental and must also be eliminated.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation on the unfair practices, particularly those noticed in the revenue department was presented by DySP ACB, Shamsher Singh. The session was followed by an interactive question and answer round, during which valuable suggestions were shared by members of the general public.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to uphold the principles of honesty, transparency and commitment to a corruption-free society.

Prominent among those present were SE PWD Tilak Raj; ACD Mohammad Jahangir Khan; ACD Auail Naveed; Executive Engineer PWD Aftab Anwar; Executive Engineer Nowshera Sarwar Mehmood, besides BDOs, Tehsildars and other district and sectoral officers.

# Vigilance Awareness Week-2025 kicks-off across Kashmir Division with Integrity Pledge Ceremonies

## Div Com Administers Integrity Pledge to DCs



■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27:** In a strong collective stance against corruption, Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 themed "Vigilance—Our Shared Responsibility," commenced today across Kashmir division with hosting of pledge-taking ceremonies by district administrations engaging officers and staff to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg administered the Integrity Pledge to all Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Kashmir Division and other officers through a virtual ceremony held in the Div Com Office. Officers and officials of the Divisional Commissioner's Office also joined the pledge, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity in public administration.

**AT BUDGAM:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam, organised a Workshop on Vigilance Awareness in the Conference Hall Budgam under the aegis of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025.

The DC Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat was the chief guest on the occasion. Among others present were ADC Budgam, representatives from Anti-Corruption Bureau Srinagar, Tehsildar Charar-i-Sharif, and other district officials.

Representatives from ACB Srinagar addressed the gathering and spoke about corruption, its adverse effects on society, and measures to curb and eradicate it. A detailed PowerPoint presentation was delivered by DySP ACB Srinagar, Zahid Rashid, highlighting various acts, provisions, and procedures for combating corruption.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Budgam said that the Anti-Corruption Bureau is a credible institution working tirelessly to curb the menace of corruption. He emphasised that fighting corruption is not only the responsibility of the administration and police but also the moral duty of every citizen.

The DC said that transparency and accountability are the strongest tools to eliminate corruption, adding that corruption is not limited to monetary transactions but also includes extending undue favours to ineligible beneficiaries.

He urged the people of Budgam to actively use institutions like the District Administration, Police Administration, and Anti-Corruption Bureau to help eradicate this social evil.

The DC also briefed the audience about the "Jan Bhagidari" Portal, where citizens can access information about developmental works and schemes of various departments with a single click.

He encouraged the public to be proactive and vigilant to ensure greater transparency and zero tolerance for corruption.

Additionally, the DC urged people of Budgam to use the "Jansugam App" to easily access revenue records, and directed all revenue officers to ensure 100% digitisation of revenue records to achieve cent-percent transparency and accountability in the system.

Later, the DC administered the Vigilance Pledge to all participants, reaffirming collective commitment towards transparency, integrity, and ethical governance.

**AT SHOPIAN:** As part of the nationwide observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025, the District Administration Shopian today organised the inaugural event here at Mini Secretariat under the theme of "Vigilance, Our Shared Responsibility".

The event was organised under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta wherein all District and sectoral officers along with officials participated and took the Integrity Pledge.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed on promoting integrity, transparency and accountability in public administration, besides reaffirming the commitment towards maintaining the highest standards of honesty and fairness in the discharge of their official duties.

The DC highlighted the importance of preventive vigilance and sensitization among government functionaries to strengthen institutional mechanisms for transparent governance. He emphasised that vigilance is a continuous process that requires cooperation, awareness and proactive participation from all sections of society.

During the event, officers collectively read out the Integrity Pledge, resolving to perform their duties with utmost sincerity, uphold ethical values and contribute towards building a corruption-free society.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, ACR, Shakoora Ahmad Dar and other district officers and officials participated in the event.

**AT BANDIPORA:** Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), North Kashmir in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora on Monday observed the commencement of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 is being held from 27th October to 2nd November 2025 on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility."

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, administered the Integrity Pledge to the officers and officials of various departments. The event also featured a presentation by ACB officers, followed by an interactive question-answer session on transparency and accountability in public services.

On the occasion, Officers from ACB highlighted the significance of the Vigilance Awareness Week, observed annually by the Central Vigilance Commission to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known to be a man of high integrity.

They underlined the importance of participatory vigilance and collective responsibility in building a corruption-free system. During the programme, special focus was laid on critical areas of the Revenue Department including fard issuance,

mutations (inheritance, sale deed, gift, etc.), and settlement-related issues.

In her address, the Deputy Commissioner said that everyone should be aware of the functioning and efforts of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in ensuring transparent governance. She appreciated the Numberdars and Chowkidars for their dedication and honesty, describing them as the "ears and eyes" of the Revenue Department.

She reiterated that state land encroachments and stamp duty evasion will not be tolerated under any circumstances and emphasised that people should use services of grievance redressal mechanism for better public service delivery.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner further urged the Anti-Corruption Bureau to organise such awareness programmes regularly, in addition to the Vigilance Awareness Week, to strengthen public trust and institutional integrity.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani expressed gratitude to ACB for organising the awareness programme and underscored the importance of transparency, accountability, and digitisation of land records as vital tools to eliminate deficiencies and ensure clean governance. He also highlighted initiatives like the Public Services Guarantee Act and Jan Sugam for promoting time-bound and citizen-friendly service delivery.

The event witnessed participation from various stakeholders, including District Officers, Officers from Anti-Corruption Bureau, and officials of various departments, Naib Tehsildars, Patwaris, Lumberdars, and Chowkidars.

**AT KULGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today inaugurated the week-long Vigilance Awareness Programme, a joint initiative of the District Administration Kulgam and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) J&K, held under the theme "Vigilance Our Shared Responsibility".

As part of the initiative, the DC presided over an awareness programme for Revenue officers and officials at the Conference Hall, Kulgam, where he also administered the Integrity Pledge to reaffirm commitment towards transparency and ethical governance.

Addressing the gathering, the DC stated that honesty, transparency, and integrity are the pillars of accountable governance. He stressed that the fight against corruption is a collective responsibility, requiring active participation from government functionaries and the public alike.

He further noted that corruption weakens institutions, hampers development, and erodes public trust, urging officials to lead by example and ensure transparent, accountable, and efficient service delivery to citizens.

District Vigilance Officer (DVO) Vigar Ahmed Giri highlighted the proactive measures being taken to strengthen accountability and uphold zero tolerance against corruption.

Officers from ACB J&K also sensitized participants about the causes, consequences, and seriousness of corruption, and encouraged collective

action in curbing the menace.

The event witnessed the participation of officers and officials from ACB, ADDC, Altaf Ahmad; SDM, Bashir Ul Hassan; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah, All Tehsildars and other officers and officials from the Revenue Department.

**AT KUPWARA:** District Administration Kupwara in collaboration with Anti Corruption Bureau J&K today organized a one day workshop on the beginning of 'Vigilance Awareness Week-2025' at D.C Office Complex Kupwara. The workshop was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, ACR Kupwara, ACD, other officers and a large number of employees from various departments attended the workshop.

On the occasion, an Integrity Pledge was administered by the Deputy Commissioner to the participants aiming to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in public service delivery.

The DC emphasized the need for maintaining work ethics, morals and proper conduct for smooth public service delivery.

Earlier, DySP ACB Baramulla spoke and highlighted the significance of Vigilance Awareness Week-2025.

During the workshop, few documentaries were presented before the participants about the working of the Vigilance Department in containing bribery and corrupt practices across the departments to foster integrity, accountability and corruption free society. Pamphlets providing awareness about the Vigilance Awareness Week were also distributed among the participants.

Meanwhile, the DC along with the participants also took part in the Integrity Pledge administered at UT level through virtual mode.

The Vigilance Awareness Week was also observed across all the Government offices of district Kupwara during which Heads of the offices administered the Integrity Pledge among the officers and employees for upholding the higher standards of work ethics and corruption free business.

ADC Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi also administered the Integrity Pledge at ADC Complex Handwara during which a large number of officials took part and vowed to promote a corruption free environment in offices and public life.

**AT GANDEBAL:** Vigilance Awareness Week-2025 commenced today in Ganderbal district with an awareness programme held for revenue officers and officials by Sr. Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau Srinagar at Conference Hall, D.C office Ganderbal.

The Vigilance Awareness Week-2025 is being observed from 27 October to 02 November, 2025 with the theme 'Vigilance Our Shared Responsibility,' and a number of programmes have been planned each day to enhance awareness among officials and masses about corrupt practices and need to fight against them.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore administered the Integrity Pledge among the participants, call-

ing corruption a major obstacle to economic, political and social progress of the country.

He reaffirmed his commitment to the government's zero tolerance against corruption, and emphasized upon all stakeholders to work together towards eradication of corruption.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars and Dy. Superintendent of Police ACB were present in the event which also witnessed the participation of Naib Tehsildars, Inspectors of ACB, Girdawars, Patwaris, Lumberdars and Chowkidars.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal was the guest speaker at the event, and in his address he gave a brief overview of the Revenue Department and its functioning, transparency through adoption of online practices, besides enhanced grievance redressal mechanisms.

He emphasised that the programme held additional importance for Revenue department staff in terms of it conducting both administrative and judicial functions.

He said switching to online mode by means of extending government services through online portals has minimized the public footfall to government offices to a large extent and this is the ultimate goal of the government with an aim to put an end to corruption.

Earlier, a brief history of the Vigilance Awareness week observation was also presented by ACB officials and it was informed that the event is being observed every year to mark the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel which falls on 31st October who was the architect of modern Indian Civil Services.

Later, a case report of a revenue related forgery case was also presented to the audience by an Inspector from ACB and documentaries on anti-corruption were also screened during the event.

**AT BARAMULLA:** As part of Vigilance Awareness Week being observed from October 27 to November 2, 2025, a pledge-taking ceremony was today held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla under the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility."

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa led the officers and officials in taking the vigilance pledge and highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in public service.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the aim of introducing online public services is to bring transparency and ensure the timely implementation of government schemes. He stressed that the root cause of corruption often lies in delays and lack of timely delivery of public services, and emphasized the need for all departments to ensure that public services are delivered to citizens on time.

The DC urged officials to uphold integrity in their work and contribute collectively towards creating a corruption-free and transparent

governance system in the district.

**AT PULWAMA:** As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week, a series of activities were organised across Pulwama, including Integrity Pledges at the District level led by the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, similar pledges and awareness sessions at Sub-Division, Tehsil and Block levels.

Besides, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), South Kashmir (Anantnag), in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama, organised a Mega Awareness Programme at Circuit House Pulwama. The event was part of a series of awareness programmes scheduled to be held across the week from 27th October to 2nd November 2025 for various departments.

The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama, Dr. S.M. Ashraf, and attended by officers and officials of the Revenue Department. The programme was held under this year's theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" and aimed at eradicating corruption and promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in governance.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Pulwama highlighted the significance of building a culture of integrity within public institutions and emphasised that transparency and accountability form the cornerstone of effective public service delivery. He urged all government employees to remain steadfast in upholding ethical standards.

Furthermore, during the programme, Dy.SP ACB Anantnag, Mansha Beigh, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting various aspects of corruption, its causes, and its far-reaching impact on national development. The presentation also covered the role of anti-corruption agencies, mechanisms for lodging complaints, and the operational framework of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu and Kashmir, including procedures for verifications, preliminary enquiries, joint surprise checks, and registration of FIRs.

Furthermore, participants also engaged in an interactive discussion on promoting ethical governance and shared practical measures for strengthening vigilance mechanisms at the departmental level.

Earlier, all participants took the Integrity Pledge, reaffirming their collective resolve to uphold transparency, integrity, and ethical conduct in public life.

The programme concluded with a question-and-answer session, wherein participants sought clarifications on various vigilance-related matters and shared their experiences in implementing anti-corruption practices at the grassroots level.

On similar lines, a series of awareness programmes and workshops are scheduled to be organised across the district during the week for departments such as Health, Rural Development, Transport, Education, and Power Development Department (PDD), among others.

# Trump's Asia return, East Timor's entry take ASEAN spotlight

United News of India  
Kuala Lumpur

Southeast Asian foreign ministers held talks Saturday ahead of a landmark ASEAN summit that will formally welcome East Timor as the bloc's 11th member and mark US President Donald Trump's first trip to Asia since returning to the White House. The meeting serves as a curtain-raiser for the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit which starts on Sunday in Kuala Lumpur, followed by two days of high-level engagements with key partners, including China, Japan, India, Australia, Russia, South Korea and the US. Leaders are expected to focus on regional security, economic resilience, and maritime disputes — with US tariffs and shifting global trade patterns looming large over discussions. Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan cautioned his counterparts that "the turbulence of global politics will surely continue to cast a long shadow over our region in the years ahead." "As the international landscape becomes increasingly dominated by contestation rather than consensus, division rather than dialogue, ASEAN finds itself at a crossroads," he said. "Our space for neutrality and centrality is narrowing,

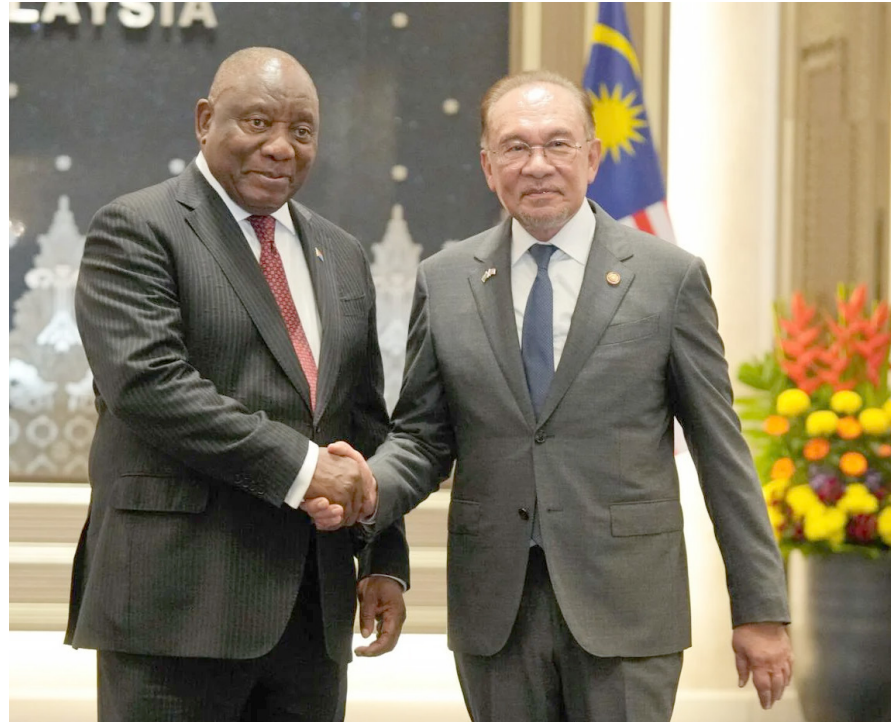
particularly in areas such as trade, technology and regional security arrangement," he said. "We must continue to act as the speakers and not the spoken for."

A separate leaders summit of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership — the world's largest trade bloc encompassing ASEAN and five partners: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand — will convene for the first time since 2020.

Its revival comes as regional economies seek to stabilise trade flows at a time when Washington's tariff measures have rattled markets and tested decades of globalisation.

Apart from Trump, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japan's newly-inaugurated Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi are among more than a dozen leaders attending the ASEAN summit and related meetings. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will also participate as new sectoral dialogue partners — part of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's effort to deepen ASEAN's economic ties with Africa and Latin America.

**Trump's return to Asia**  
Trump's trip marks his first ASEAN meeting since 2017



and his first journey to Asia in his second term. The last US president to attend an ASEAN meeting was Joe Biden in 2022. Officials say Trump is expected to witness new US trade deals, including with Malaysia. Trump is also expected to preside over the signing of an expanded ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia, following border clashes between the countries earlier this year. The ceasefire deal was bro-

kered in Kuala Lumpur in July with ASEAN's support and under Trump's threat to suspend trade negotiations. His trip will also take him to Japan and South Korea. "Trump's presence reflects a rare moment of direct US presidential engagement in the region," said Joanne Lin, co-coordinator of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute's ASEAN Studies Centre in Singapore. It signalled Washington still sees value in ASEAN as part of its Indo-

Pacific outreach, she said. "But more than deepening US involvement, this visit is about visibility. Trump wants to project himself as a global dealmaker at a time when his domestic policies, especially tariffs, have unsettled key partners in the region," Lin said.

**Tight security in Kuala Lumpur**  
Security has been ramped up across Kuala Lumpur ahead of planned protests against

Trump's visit, particularly over his administration's stance on the Palestinian issue.

Anwar has said the government would allow peaceful demonstrations but vowed the meetings would proceed smoothly. While Anwar acknowledged that some critics may have called Trump anti-Muslim, Anwar commended Trump for helping broker a ceasefire in Gaza "which is near impossible under normal terms."

Malaysia, however, maintains that the truce has not resolved the Palestinian question and intends to raise the issue directly with Trump during the summit, Anwar said. In his opening remarks, Mohamad welcomed Trump's plan for peace, calling it "an important step forward" while emphasising he hoped would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

**East Timor joins ASEAN**

This year's summit marks a milestone for ASEAN as it welcomes a new member for the first time in 26 years. It has been a long but rewarding journey for East Timor, also known as Timor Leste, which applied for membership in 2011.

The last member to join ASEAN was Cambodia in 1999. "Welcoming this young

democracy strengthens not only our collective resolve, but also our capacity to meet future challenges together," Mohamad said.

The integration of the region's youngest and poorest nation — with just 1.4 million people — is being hailed as a symbolic step for regional inclusivity. East Timor was a Portuguese colony for over four centuries before Indonesia's 1975 invasion.

A brutal 24-year occupation followed, claiming tens of thousands of lives through conflict, famine and disease. A UN-supervised referendum in 1999 paved the way for independence, which was formally restored in 2002.

ASEAN membership gives East Timor access to the bloc's free trade deals, investment opportunities and a broader regional market — vital for diversifying an economy long reliant on oil and gas. "They are poor, yes, but they still have the potential. As a community, it's our duty to prop up these countries," Anwar has said.

**Regional tensions and the Myanmar crisis**

Leaders are also expected to discuss flashpoints including the South China Sea dispute, Myanmar's civil war, and the spread of cross-border scam networks.

During the meetings,

ASEAN will sign an upgraded free trade pact with China and continue negotiations on a long-delayed code of conduct for the contested waterway.

Meanwhile, the civil war triggered by Myanmar's 2021 military takeover continues to test ASEAN's unity, with military government leaders still barred from summits after failing to comply with the bloc's 2021 Five-Point Consensus on peace and dialogue. Myanmar's plans for elections in December — dismissed by critics as neither free nor fair — have put the bloc in a tight spot and will be discussed at the summit.

The military government has invited ASEAN nations to send election observers, but accepting could be seen as legitimising the regime, while refusal risks further isolating Myanmar and weakening ASEAN's leverage. The bloc is also faced with the dilemma of whether it would recognize the elected government.

Following the foreign minister talks, Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nikorndej Balankura told reporters his country would be prepared to send observers, but stressed that it would not mean endorsing the polls. "We think that we have to be there, we have to be involved, post election as well," he said.

## Houthi rebels detain two more UN staffers in Yemen

United News of India  
United Nations

Houthi rebels detained two additional United Nations (UN) staff members and raided the homes of several others in Yemen over the last 48 hours, the latest in a series of events now forcing the world body to reassess how it operates in the war-torn country. The detention of two staffers was confirmed by Farhan Haqq, the deputy UN spokesperson, on Friday. Three officials with the World Food Program confirmed the raids on the homes of Yemeni staff and the UN facility took place on Thursday and Friday. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak on the matter. "Since 2021, the de facto authorities have taken a number of steps that have made it increasingly difficult for the UN to provide assistance to Yemenis," Haqq



told reporters. "These actions are forcing us to reassess the way in which we work in areas controlled by the Houthis."

The detention marks the latest in a series of escalations by the armed group against both national and international humanitarian workers. Over the last several months, the rebels have forcibly entered and occupied UN premises, including in the capital of Sanaa, where they have seized assets and repeatedly detained personnel.

There are now 55 staffers who are currently detained by the Houthis, as well as other non-government and civil society personnel from various diplomatic missions.

On Wednesday, the rebels released a dozen international staffers and allowed three others to move freely within the UN compound after detaining them in the Sanaa facility last weekend. The 12 international staffers departed Sanaa on a UN Humanitarian flight, with some relocating to Jordan to continue their work there.

## US imposes sanctions on Colombia's president, family

United News of India  
Washington

The Trump administration imposed sanctions on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, his family and a member of his Government over accusations of involvement in the global drug trade, sharply escalating tensions with the leftist leader of one of the closest US allies in South America.

The Treasury Department leveled the penalties against Petro; his wife, Veronica del Socorro Alcocer Garcia; his son, Nicolas Fernando Petro Burgos; and Colombian Interior Minister Armando Albero Benedetti.

Petro "has allowed drug cartels to flourish and refused to stop this activity," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. "President Trump is taking strong action to protect our nation and make clear that we will not tolerate the trafficking of drugs into our nation."

The move ramps up a growing clash between the

Republican US President and Colombia's first leftist leader, notably over deadly American strikes on alleged drug-carrying boats off South America.

This week, the Trump administration expanded its crackdown to the eastern Pacific Ocean, where much of the cocaine from the world's largest producers, including Colombia, is smuggled. And in an escalation of military firepower in the region, the US military is sending an aircraft carrier to the waters off South America, the Pentagon announced Friday.

After the sanctions were announced, Petro named an attorney he said will represent him in the US.

"Combating drug trafficking effectively for decades brings me this measure from the government of the society we helped so much to stop its use of cocaine," Petro wrote on X. "Quite a paradox, but not one step back and never on our knees."

The penalties were expected after Trump recently said



he would slash assistance to Colombia and impose tariffs on its exports, referring to Petro on social media in recent days as "an illegal drug leader."

"He's a guy that is making a lot of drugs," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Wednesday. "He better watch it, or we'll take very serious action against him and his country."

The US last month added Colombia, the top recipient of American assistance in the region, to a list of nations failing to cooperate in the drug war for the first time in

Colombia, John T. McNamara. McNamara also met with Foreign Minister Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio Mapy on Thursday.

Colombian president defends his drug policy

Petro has repeatedly defended his policy, which moves away from a repressive approach and prioritises reaching agreements with growers of coca leaf — the raw material for cocaine — to encourage them to switch to other crops, pursuing major drug lords and combating money laundering. He has said his government has achieved record cocaine seizures and questioned UN figures showing record coca leaf cultivation and cocaine production.

The amount of land dedicated to cultivating coca has almost tripled in the past decade to a record 253,000 hectares (625,000 acres) in 2023, according to the latest report available from the UN office on Drugs and Crime. That is about triple the size of New York City.

## Pak SC upholds woman's right to Khula

United News of India  
Islamabad

In a landmark ruling, Pakistan's Supreme Court has reinforced a woman's right to dissolve marriage through 'Khula' and recognised psychological abuse as a valid ground for divorce.

Khula is an Islamic concept which recognises the right of a woman to dissolve the marriage, a contrast against 'Talaq' which grants the right to a man. Justice Ayesha A Malik, one of the two female judges of the apex court, authored the judgment uploaded on the Supreme Court website on Friday.

The judgment was in response to a petition filed by a woman who challenged the Peshawar High Court's

(PHC) dismissal of her dissolution of marriage claim. It denied her request on the grounds that her husband's consent was required and that reconciliation efforts had not been exhausted.

According to the SC judgment, the two-member bench comprising Justice Malik and Justice Naeem Afghan, after hearing the case, ruled that the PHC's decision was incorrect.

The bench reinstated the Family Court's decree of dissolution, affirming the right of the wife to seek Khula independently of her husband's consent.

It clarified that Khula is a voluntary right of the wife and cannot be made conditional upon the husband's consent or

judicial discretion. Justice Malik wrote in the judgment that the Family Court's role is not to force a woman to stay in a marriage where there is no harmony or substance.

The ruling marked a significant step in recognising psychological abuse — including humiliation, neglect, intimidation, and emotional abuse — as valid grounds for seeking a divorce under Islamic law.

"Cruelty need not always manifest in physical violence," the judgment stated.

The court emphasised that mental cruelty can be as damaging as physical abuse, and a woman's emotional well-being should be taken into account when assessing the viability of a marriage. It also criticised the patri-

archal interpretation used by the lower courts, which limited women's agency and autonomy.

The Supreme Court also cited Articles 14, 25, and 35 of Pakistan's Constitution, which guarantee dignity, equality before the law, and protection of the family.

The court emphasised that the right to seek Khula embodies these guarantees, allowing women to withdraw from harmful marriages without the stigma that has traditionally been associated with seeking divorce.

The Supreme Court restored the Family Court's decree of dissolution, recognising the petitioner's right to seek divorce on the grounds of second marriage and psychological cruelty.

## UK judge sentences 5 men for roles in Russia-linked arson attack in London

United News of India  
London

A British judge on Friday sentenced five men for their roles in an arson attack in London that authorities say was masterminded by Russian intelligence as part of a wider campaign of sabotage and disruption.

The sentences ranged from seven to 17 years in prison.

The men were involved in a plot to set fire to a warehouse in east London in March 2024 that contained satellite communication devices destined for Ukraine.

British prosecutors said that the arson — organised on behalf of the Wagner



Site of Arson attack in London

File photo

paramilitary group — was intimately connected to the Russian state and likely linked to another arson attack against a warehouse in Spain.

Another man was sentenced for not disclosing information about a plot to

burn a London restaurant. The fire is one of at least 25 arson or explosives plots across Europe linked to Russia by Western officials that The Associated Press has documented since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on

February 24, 2022. "This offence was part of a series of European-wide sabotage operations," prosecutor Duncan Penny said. The actions of Dylan Earl — the British man who arranged the arson — constituted a "sustained campaign of terrorism and sabotage on UK soil, carried out in support of a foreign power — the Russian Federation — and its war of aggression against Ukraine," Penny said.

The sentences were the first imposed by a British court for violating the National Security Act, which was introduced in 2023 to address threats from foreign states including espionage and sabotage.



## 2 Cameroon Opposition leaders arrested

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA | YAOUNDE

Two Cameroon opposition leaders have been arrested, their parties said, as protests rattled the country over the presidential election results that were expected on Monday. Among those arrested late Friday in the economic hub of Douala were Anicet Ekane and Djeukam Tchameni, two top figures in the Union for Change Political platform that endorsed candidate Issa Tchiroma Bakary and his claim to have defeated President Paul Biya in the October 12 election. The African Movement for New Independence and Democracy (MANIDEM) party said its treasurer and other members were also "kidnapped" by local security forces. It said the aim was "to intimidate Cameroonians."



## Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit dies as 93

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA | BANGKOK

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit, who supervised royal projects to help the rural poor, preserve traditional craft-making and protect the environment, has died. She was 93. The Royal Household Bureau said she died on Friday in a hospital in Bangkok, adding that she began suffering from a blood infection on Oct 17 and despite her medical team's efforts, her condition did not improve. She suffered a stroke in 2012 and was afterwards largely absent from public life due to declining health. Her husband, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, died in October 2016. The bureau's statement said King Maha Vajiralongkorn had directed that she be given a funeral with the highest honours, and that he had instructed members of the royal family and royal servants to observe mourning for one year.

# Qasim Sports Dahama Lift Legends Cup Poshnar Edition II Title



**Legends Cup Poshnar II**

**JAVAID BHAT**

**KUPWARA, OCT 27:** In a thrilling finale of the Legends Cup Poshnar Edition II, Qasim Sports Dahama emerged victorious after defeating Ashkanpora Stars by 62 runs at

the historic Poshnar Warpora ground.

Batting first, Qasim Sports set a mammoth total of 207 runs, thanks to a spectacular show of power hitting. Firdous Wani, the star performer from District Kupwara, led from the

front with a blistering 62 off just 30 balls, while Mohd Amir smashed 47 runs off 13 deliveries and Ahmad Irfan added a quickfire 28 off 13 balls, propelling the team to an imposing total.

In response, Ashkanpora

Stars failed to keep up with the asking rate and fell short by 62 runs. Shahid Rashid was the lone fighter for his side, scoring a valiant 49 runs.

During the presentation ceremony, guests were honoured with certificates. Mr. Gh

Mohidin Lone, the Chief Guest, and Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Guest of Honour, handed over the winner's and runner-up trophies to the respective teams.

Firdous Wani shone bright throughout the tournament, clinching Man of the Match,

Best Bowler, and Most Valuable Player awards. Shahid Rashid received the titles of Best Batter and Best Wicket-keeper of the tournament.

With this emphatic victory, Qasim Sports Dahama proudly lifted the Legends Cup

Poshnar Edition II trophy, marking a memorable day for cricket enthusiasts across Kupwara.

The Tournament was well organised by Rameez Jamal, Waseem Raja and Muzamil Gani.

## DPS Junior Kathua Emerges Overall Champion at North India Open Karate-Do Championship 2025

**HT SPORT DESK**

**KATHUA, OCT 27:** Students of Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua, brought immense pride to the institution by clinching the Overall Championship Trophy at the 6th Invitational North India Open Karate-Do Championship 2025, held at S.M.D.R.S.D. College, Pathankot.

The prestigious inter-state championship witnessed spirited participation from schools across Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. A strong contingent of 26 students represented DPS Junior Kathua and showcased remarkable skill, discipline, and determination, collectively winning 26 medals – 4 Gold, 7 Silver, and 15 Bronze.

The Gold Medalists – Samriddh Chowdhury, Vartika Rajput, Aryaveer, and Nyraa Rajput – displayed outstanding focus and finesse.

The Silver Medalists – Mohammed Naveed, Priyal Sharma, Aairah, Advik Singh, Satvik Verma, Kanupriya, and Divyansh Singh – also impressed with their remarkable performances and sportsmanship.

The Bronze Medalists – Nandana, Riyanshika, Vimarsh, Niyti, Aahan Pratap, Akashansh Singh, Aayansh Singh, Parv Mahajan, Hridayansh, Aaditya Vardhan Singh, Affan, Ranvijay, Viren Attri, and Mayank – added to the glory with



their commendable efforts and enthusiasm.

The school's Sports Teacher, Ms. Kajal Rajput, was the guiding force behind this phenomenal success. Her expert training, relentless dedication, and constant encouragement helped the students perform with confidence and grace.

Ms. Monika Singh, School In-charge, DPS Junior Kathua, expressed immense pride and admiration for her students and the mentor. She remarked,

"This outstanding achievement stands as a reflection of the perseverance, hard work, and indomitable spirit of our young achievers. They have proved that excellence

is born out of determination and discipline. I am deeply proud of each participant who represented our school with such dignity and enthusiasm. My heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Kajal Rajput for her untiring guidance and mentorship, and my sincere gratitude to the parents for their unwavering trust and support. Together, we celebrate not only medals but the values of courage, commitment, and teamwork that define true education."

She further added that DPS Junior Kathua continues to uphold its vision of holistic education, where sports and academics complement each other in shaping confident, responsible, and accom-

plished individuals.

The School Management and Principal congratulated the team for their exceptional accomplishment and lauded their enthusiasm and dedication. They appreciated the collective efforts of the students, teachers, and parents, reaffirming that such milestones strengthen the school's legacy of excellence and all-round development.

With this glorious victory, DPS Junior Kathua once again reaffirmed its position as a leading institution nurturing young champions who excel not only in academics but also in courage, confidence, and character.

## Grand Finale of MPL 10th Edition 2025 Concludes at Gulshan Ground Manchhama Beerwah

**HT SPORTS DESK**

**BUDGAM, OCT 26:** The much-awaited Grand Finale of the MPL 10th Edition 2025 was held with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship at Gulshan Ground Manchhama, marking the successful completion of a thrilling cricket tournament that saw participation from 32 teams across District Budgam.

The prestigious event was organized by Muzamil Mehmood, a renowned social activist and youth leader, who has been instrumental in promoting sports and youth engagement in the region.

The final was played between Beerwah Gym Khana and ACC Ohangam, where Beerwah Gym Khana emerged victorious, clinching the championship title after a competitive and spirited match.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Muzamil Mehmood, accompanied by Wasim Molvi and Master Mushtaq, who distributed trophies, medals, and cash rewards among the winners and runners-up.

In his address, Muzamil Mehmood emphasized the vital role of sports in shaping the youth, promoting discipline, teamwork, and healthy lifestyles. He also highlighted the need to combat drug abuse by channeling youth energy into positive and productive activities such as sports and community service.

The event concluded with applause and appreciation for the organizers and participants who made the tournament a grand success. The MPL continues to serve as a platform for nurturing young sporting talent and fostering unity and brotherhood through the spirit of the game.



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