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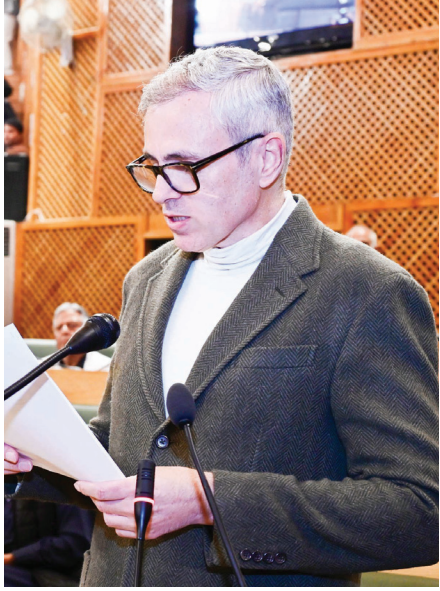
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# CM Announces Major Reforms in CDF Scheme in Assembly

Revised Guidelines to Enhance Flexibility, Transparency, and Alignment with MPLADS model : CM Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday announced a comprehensive set of reforms in the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme, aimed at making it more flexible, transparent, and responsive to grassroots development needs across Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking during the Zero Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said the government intends to align the CDF guidelines with the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) to ensure uniformity and allow legislators to undertake a wider range of development works in their constituencies. "The alignment with MPLADS will allow our Hon'ble Members to execute projects that bring tangible benefits to the people—just as MPs are able



to do under their scheme," Omar Abdullah said.

**Key Reforms Announced**  
Under the revised guidelines, several sector-specific changes have been introduced to expand the permissible scope of works and ease procedural bottlenecks:  
**Power Sector:** The existing ceiling of ₹50 lakh on power development works has been withdrawn, allowing MLAs to recommend projects without any upper limit.  
**Renewable Energy:** The ₹10 lakh cap on installation of solar energy light systems has been removed.  
**Public Health Engineering (PHE):** MLAs can now recommend the purchase of mobile water tankers and facilitate individual household connections.  
**Education & Health:** Purchase of school vans and buses (four and three-wheelers)

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# Sizeable Number of Pak Militants Killed in Op-Sindoor: Rajnath Singh

"India Taught a Befitting lesson to the Enemy After Pahalgam Massacre"

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29 :** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that a "sizeable number of Pakistani militants" were neutralised during Operation Sindoor, launched in retaliation to the brutal killing of innocent tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's

Pahalgam earlier this year. Addressing an election rally in Bihar's Darbhanga, Singh said India had "taught a lesson" to Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism and targeting civilians. "Our neighbouring country did not mend its ways. Even after our surgical strikes, they continued their mischief. But this time, India's patience

had limits," he said. Recalling the April 22 Pahalgam massacre in which 26 tourists were shot dead after being forced to reveal their religion, the Defence Minister condemned the act as a "shame on humanity." "They were forced to remove their undergarments

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# J&K Assembly Passes Resolution to Establish National Law University in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** In a significant move aimed at strengthening higher legal education in Jammu and Kashmir, the Legislative

Assembly on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution for the establishment of the Jammu and Kashmir National Law University (NLU) in Srinagar.

The resolution, moved by MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat, called upon the government to initiate the process of setting up the premier law institution "without any further delay," noting that funds for the first phase had already been earmarked.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while extending full support, said there was "nothing in the resolution we see the need to

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# India, China Renew Border Calm Pledge: Fresh Talks Signal Thaw Along LAC

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR OCT 29:** In a fresh Diplomatic boost to ease long-standing tensions, India and China have agreed to uphold peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, reaffirming their commitment to dialogue and cooperation.

The understanding was reached during the latest Corps Commander-level talks held on October 25 at the Moldo-Chushul border point on the Indian side. This was the first high-level military engagement between the two sides since the Special Representatives' talks in August between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the discussions were conducted in a "friendly and cordial atmosphere," with both sides noting progress since the 22nd round of talks held in October 2024. "Both sides agreed to continue using existing mechanisms to resolve any ground issues along the border to maintain stability," the MEA said in a statement.

The meeting, held under the "General Level Mechanism" in the Western Sector, marks renewed momentum in efforts to consolidate calm along

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# Right Time to Invest in Indian Shipping Sector: PM Modi Tells Global CEOs

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged global investors to seize what he called the "right time" to invest in India's rapidly expanding shipping and maritime sectors, as the country pushes for a greater role in global trade and logistics. Speaking at the India Maritime Week 2025, the Prime Minister said India's

policy environment, infrastructure push, and openness to foreign capital make it an ideal destination for long-term investment in ports and shipping. "For all of you hailing from different countries, this is the right time to work in the Indian shipping sector and expand your presence," Modi told an audience of business leaders and policymakers before a closed-door meeting with select global CEOs.



During his address, Modi highlighted that India allows 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the ports and shipping sector and provides multiple incentives under the government's 'Make in India, Make for the World' vision.

He underlined India's commitment to building world-class mega ports, citing the ongoing work on the Vadhaven Port near Mumbai, which he said

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# Finally, Direct Rail Connectivity to Kashmir Set to Become Reality Soon: Northern Railways

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** The dream of direct rail connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country is set to turn into reality soon, with the Northern Railways announcing that operational and security formalities are in the final stages of completion.

After the successful launch of twin Vande Bharat Express trains

on the Srinagar-Katra route in June — marking the completion of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) — the focus has now shifted to establishing uninterrupted train services connecting the Valley with the rest of India.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (DCM) of the Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal, confirmed that the department is "working

meticulously to overcome the remaining challenges" to ensure seamless connectivity.

"The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, was a historic milestone — the first step in linking Kashmir directly with Kanyakumari by rail," Singhal told a national news agency. "Work is progressing

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# Over 15.5 lac fruit plants imported to JK in the last 2 years

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** The Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javid Ahmad Dar today said that a total of 15,51,863 fruit plants were imported by the empanelled agencies to Jammu and Kashmir during last two years.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Shabir Ahmad Kullay in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the majority of imports comprise apple varieties such as gala, red delicious, and their improved strains, besides apple plants, limited quantities of walnut plants, and cherry

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# Chief Secy reviews progress on BISAG-N Projects

Hails role of BISAG-N in digital governance and e-service delivery

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of a series of technology-driven projects being implemented by various departments of the Jammu and Kashmir Government in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N).

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture

Production Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Principal Secretary, Home; Additional Director General of Police, CID; Commissioner Secretaries of Social Welfare and Industries & Commerce; Spl DG, BISAG-N; Secretary, Education; Secretary, Information Technology; Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha; Director, Employment; CEO, JaKeGA; SIO, NIC, and other senior officers.

The Chief Secretary

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# CS Reviews Prep for 150 Yrs of 'Vande Mataram' in J&K

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Culture

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# MLAs raise several public issues during Zero Hour

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** The Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather Wednesday urged legislators to exercise restraint and use measured language while participating in debates to uphold the sanctity of the House. He observed that members, as representatives of the people, must show mutual respect and maintain the decorum of the Assembly.

During the Zero Hour, sev-

eral legislators raised pressing public issues, concerning their respective constituencies.

Shagun Parihar, MLA Kishtwar, highlighted that certain remote areas like Chatter to Oli

continue to lack road access, forcing residents to carry patients in palkis. She also sought expeditious completion of ongoing road projects in

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DIT/kM/10/25  
Dated: 29-10-2025

# Fury Over Speaker's Refusal to Allow Kashmiri in Assembly: AMK Seeks Protection of Linguistic Rights

HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** A fresh controversy has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir after the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly once again refused to allow a member to speak in Kashmiri — a move that has drawn sharp criticism from literary circles, with the Adbee Markaz Kamraz (AMK) terming it an "affront to the linguistic rights" of the people.

In a strongly worded statement, the AMK — the Valley's premier literary and cultural organisation — expressed deep anguish over what it called a systematic neglect of Kashmiri, an official language of the Union Territory and a vital part of its cultural identity.

"For the second time, the Hon'ble Speaker has cited non-availability of a translator as a pretext to deny a member the right to speak in their mother

tongue," the AMK said, calling the move "a blow to the promotion and preservation of Kashmiri."

Criticising the Omar Abdullah-led government for its "indifference and silence" over the issue, the AMK said it reflected a broader failure to safeguard Kashmiri heritage and linguistic diversity.

"It is shocking that even after being declared an official language, Kashmiri finds no space in the highest

democratic forum of the region," the statement read.

The organisation demanded that the Speaker immediately revisit the decision and ensure interpreter services in the Assembly so that MLAs can speak freely in Kashmiri.

"The denial of this basic right in the people's House is unacceptable," AMK added.

The AMK urged the government

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

**CM Announces....**

is now permissible, along with procurement of wheelchairs, tricycles, electric scooters, and other assistive devices under the health sector.

Support for Calamity-Affected Families  
In a major relief measure, the Chief Minister announced a one-time relaxation permitting utilization of up to ₹50 lakh from the CDF for the construction and repair of houses for families affected by natural calamities during the current and next financial years (2025-26 and 2026-27).

Improved Flexibility and Accountability  
The government has also removed the earlier clause requiring MLAs to utilize at least 80% of funds in a financial year for release of the next installment, a move aimed at providing greater operational flexibility.

The revised scheme retains several socially beneficial provisions unique to the CDF. These include: Construction of temporary shelter sheds for people affected by natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, or droughts.

Financial assistance up to ₹3 lakh to old age homes, orphanages, and shelters for essential items like bedding, utensils, books, and uniforms.

Grants up to ₹3 lakh for youth clubs and sports organizations to purchase sports equipment through recognized agencies.

Special Provisions for Disaster Response and Tribal Welfare

MLAs from non-affected areas can now contribute up to ₹10 lakh from their CDF allocations towards works in regions hit by calamities—either through Deputy Commissioners or the Chief Minister's Relief Fund with stipulations ensuring targeted use.

Additionally, the revised guidelines allow utilization of up to ₹20 lakh under the CDF for upgrading houses of tribal and BPL families, aligned with Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) norms and subject to strict verification procedures.

"These changes are intended to make the CDF scheme more inclusive, responsive, and development-oriented, ensuring that our MLAs are empowered to directly address the needs of their people," the Chief Minister said. The reforms mark a significant step toward decentralizing development planning and enhancing accountability in local governance, aligning J&K's constituency development mechanism with national best practices.

**Sizeable Number.....**

to confirm their religion what a mockery of humanity! We were seething in anger, yet India showed restraint," he said.

Singh said India's response under Operation Sindoor was "decisive and moral," aimed specifically at terrorist camps across the border. "They killed our people after asking their faith; we targeted only those who spread terror," he remarked.

Emphasising that India's politics is rooted in justice and humanity, Singh said, "We do not divide people on caste or religion. When PM Modi sent money into women's accounts or gave aid to farmers, did he ask their religion? No- Every Indian benefitted. That is the spirit of this nation."

Highlighting India's growing global stature, Singh credited Prime Minister Modi for restoring the country's pride. "Today, India's head is held high before the world," he said.

Under Operation Sindoor, launched in May, Indian forces reportedly struck nine terror infrastructures located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The operation came weeks after the Pahalgalam attack, which had sparked nationwide outrage.

Singh concluded by saying that India's real strength lies "not just in the power to strike back, but in the courage to act with restraint, justice, and humanity."

**J&K Assembly.....**

oppose," signaling the government's willingness to move ahead with the proposal.

Bhat, while piloting the resolution, emphasized the urgent need for a National Law University in the region, saying it would provide a "broader platform and greater opportunities" to aspiring law students.

The motion received wide support from across party lines, with several legislators including R S Pathania, Mir Saifullah, Sajad Shaheen, Narinder Singh Raina, Nazir Ahmad Khan, Shamim Firdous, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Altaf Ahmad Wani, and Ajaz Ahmad Jan endorsing Srinagar as the ideal location, citing its central position and accessibility.

MLA Hilal Akbar Lone of Sonawari had earlier proposed an amendment suggesting the university be set up in his constituency but later withdrew the proposal, paving the way for a unanimous voice vote in favour of Srinagar.

With the adoption of the resolution, the stage is now set for Jammu and Kashmir to join the ranks of other Indian states that host premier National Law Universities, marking a key step toward advancing legal education and research in the Union Territory.

**India, China.....**

the frontier. In recent months, India and China have initiated several measures to normalise relations following the completion of disengagement from the last two friction points Demchok and Depsang late last year. The disengagement effectively ended the four-year-long military face-off that began in May 2020 and escalated into the deadly clash at Galwan Valley.

Following Wang Yi's visit to New Delhi in August, both nations unveiled a roadmap for a "stable, cooperative and forward-looking" relationship, which includes reopening border trade, promoting investment flows, and jointly maintaining peace along the frontier.

A statement from the Chinese Defence Ministry echoed similar sentiments, saying both sides held "active and in-depth communication" on managing the western section of the border. "They agreed to continue dialogue through military and diplomatic

channels under the guidance of the consensus reached by their leaders, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity," it said.

While disengagement from the major flashpoints has been completed, full de-escalation is still awaited, with an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 troops from each side remaining deployed along the eastern Ladakh frontier. The decision to revive communication mechanisms was taken during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian city of Kazan in October 2024.

Observers say the latest round of talks, conducted amid a relatively stable border environment, signals a measured thaw in India-China relations and a cautious step toward durable peace along one of the world's most sensitive frontiers.

**Right Time to.....**

will soon rank among the top 10 ports globally. Modi also outlined ambitious goals to quadruple capacity at 12 major ports and increase India's share in global containerised cargo, stressing the government's focus on strengthening global supply chain resilience.

The Prime Minister later met with top executives of leading maritime companies, including Robert Maersk Uggla (AP Moller-Maersk), Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem (DP World), Soren Toft (Mediterranean Shipping Company), Karan Adani (Adani Ports and SEZ), and Ludovic Renou (CMA-CGM).

People familiar with the discussions said the talks centred on investment opportunities, technology partnerships, and sustainability initiatives in India's maritime ecosystem.

The participation of delegations from over 85 countries underscored the global interest in India's maritime growth story. Modi hailed the presence of shipping giants, startups, innovators, and policymakers at the event as a testament to India's growing maritime clout.

Thanking Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) for its recent ₹8,000 crore investment in the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority's fourth terminal, the largest FDI in India's port sector. Modi said such investments reflect global confidence in India's reforms and potential.

The Prime Minister noted that more than 150 new initiatives have been launched under the Maritime India Vision, resulting in a near doubling of major port capacity, reduced turnaround times, and a new momentum in cruise tourism. "We welcome your ideas, innovations, and investments," Modi told global CEOs, adding that India's maritime transformation will be driven by strong international partnerships.

**Finally, Direct.....**

smoothly to address all operational and security aspects so that a direct train service between Kashmir and other parts of the country becomes a reality very soon," he added.

As part of ongoing service enhancements, Northern Railways on Thursday introduced a two-minute halt at Reasi railway station for the semi-high-speed Vande Bharat trains running between Katra and Srinagar.

According to the schedule, train number 26401 will depart Katra at 8:10 a.m., reach Reasi at 8:28 a.m., and continue onward to Srinagar. The return service, train number 26402, will stop at Reasi at 4:34 p.m. The halt, introduced on an experimental basis for one month, may be extended depending on passenger feedback and commercial viability.

Previously, Banihal was the only stoppage on the route. The new Reasi halt follows persistent public demand and advocacy by local representatives, given Reasi's growing importance as a district headquarters and a key pilgrimage and tourism hub.

"The addition of Reasi as a stopover will benefit pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and tourists exploring the Chenab Bridge and other nearby attractions," Singhal said. Railway officials highlighted that the Katra-Srinagar service has received widespread appreciation for its speed, comfort, and reliability. During the heavy monsoon rains earlier this year, a special train was also introduced to maintain uninterrupted connectivity between Katra and Banihal, reflecting the department's commitment to passenger convenience.

Reasi MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey, who flagged off the inaugural stoppage on Thursday, hailed the development as "a major step towards strengthening regional connectivity." He extended gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for fulfilling the long-pending public demand. BJP District President Rohit Dubey expressed hope that the Railways Ministry would soon introduce a special Reasi tourism train, connecting the world's tallest railway bridge over the Chenab and India's first cable-stayed Anji Bridge, to boost local tourism and employment.

With direct rail connectivity now on the horizon, the long-cherished dream of integrating Kashmir with India's national railway grid is inching closer to fulfillment—a development poised to transform the region's economy, tourism, and mobility landscape.

**Over 15.5 lac.....**

apple root-stock have also been imported.

The Minister said that the Leaf Minor pest has shown a surge in past two to three years due to recent climatic changes, besides there has been a notable resurgence and increased severity of aphid infestation in various parts of Kashmir valley.

He informed that the Department of Horticulture, in collaboration with SKUAST, Kashmir, undertakes regular field surveillance, pest monitoring, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) intervention to effectively control and contain such incidences.

Javid Dar said that, besides, regular awareness and capacity-building programmes are also being conducted to sustain such community-based interventions.

He said that pests like leaf minor have a potential for a rapid horizontal spread and warrants integrated pest management approach with strategic incorporation of insecticide and bio control agents, including cultural practices with community participation.

Minister said that the community based IPM approach in the hot spots strategy is in place, including blanket cover in contiguous areas. Advisories in this regard are being provided by the Department of Horticulture in collaboration with SKUAST-K.

The Minister said that the incidence of pest outbreaks, such as leaf minor, necessitates coordinated interventions but large scale blanket spraying of insecticides through drones is not recommended by the research institutions due to environmental concerns and issues like fragmented land holdings, harm to non-target organisms, non-availability of ultra-low-volume formulation for the said pests. Horticulture Departments intend to follow advisories issued by SKUAS-K CITH and ICAR in the matter

Javid Dar said that the Department of Horticulture is taking concerted steps to strengthen the local nursery sector and promote the production of quality indigenous planting material under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP—Project 21) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP). The financial/subsidy support is being provided for the establishment of Mother Orchards, Rootstock Banks, and Plant Propagation Units across the districts to boost local plant nursery growers

He further informed that the Department of Horticulture has fixed district-wise targets for the promotion and supply of high-density planting material under various schemes, including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Revised Modified High-Density Plantation Scheme (RMHDPS), and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP). An area of 5500 Ha has been proposed to cover under High Density plantation in JKUT in 10 years, subject to availability of resources.

**Chief Secy reviews.....**

commended the Department of Information Technology and BISAG-N for the successful rollout of several citizen-centric and administrative digital platforms under the Digital J&K initiative.

He observed that projects being implemented in sectors such as Education, Agriculture, and Revenue are pivotal in ushering modern reforms and directed their timely completion to ensure that the envisaged outcomes are achieved within set timelines.

Highlighting the transformative potential of technology, Dulloo emphasized that leveraging AI and audio-visual content for personalized and localized learning would significantly enhance pupil learning outcomes.

He further noted that timely forecasts, advisories, and capacity-building measures for farmers would contribute to improved productivity and higher income levels.

On the modernization of land records, he remarked that digitization of revenue records forms the cornerstone of broader reforms aimed at creating a transparent and efficient governance system across the UT. Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur assured the Chief Secretary of complete technical and operational support in the development of all IT modules and applications. He called for enhanced synergy and regular coordination between the implementing departments and BISAG-N to expedite progress and remove bottlenecks in minimal time.

Secretary, Information Technology, Piyush Singla, briefed the meeting on the major achievements and progress made under various projects designed to enhance transparency, efficiency, and revenue realization. Among the key initiatives reviewed were Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS). It was divulged that the Phase-I of the satellite imagery-based system has been successfully implemented to detect and prevent illegal mining activities. Over 114 automated triggers have been shared with field officers and district administrations for prompt verification through a dedicated mobile application, the meeting was apprised.

With respect to the J&K Tourism App with AI Chatbot. It was added that this mobile and web-based application was launched on September 16, 2025 and it provides comprehensive information on destinations, itineraries, and travel assistance. Powered by BISAG-N's AI resources, the Chatbot enhances visitor experience and has already crossed 1,000 downloads.

About the AI-Based GST Fraud Detection module the meeting was informed that the High-priority analytical reports have been developed for the Finance Department, identifying potential tax evasion patterns such as GSTR mismatches, sequential invoicing, and discrepancies between invoice values and e-waybill generation.

A mobile application developed by BISAG-N facilitated a comprehensive survey of houseless and landless urban households. As of October 10, 2025, a total of 3.35 lakh households have been successfully surveyed across J&K completing the exercise in a minimum possible timeframe.

Moreover regarding the PM-Gati Shakti Integrations it was given out that dedicated mobile applications for Jal Shakti, PWD (R&B), and Industries & Commerce Departments are in final phases of completion, enabling efficient asset mapping of roads, bridges, water assets, and industrial estates with a Maker-Checker-Approver workflow.

Additionally a unified digital platform for the Power Department aims to provide real-time visibility across Generation, Transmission, and Distribution. Wireframes and dashboards for JKSPDC and DISCOMS (KPDC & JPDC) have been finalized, along with the API integration structure to make the functioning more efficient and transparent here.

It was further divulged that the Mission YUVA dashboard has been integrated with an ONDC-compliant seller app platform to promote youth

entrepreneurship through a digital marketplace, with seller onboarding already in progress.

On the issue of digitalization of Education Department the meeting was apprised that multiple platforms are under development, including an Education Management Information System (EMIS) for teacher transfer, school inspection, and staff attendance; a Litigation Management System for case tracking; and a Student Attendance Mobile App to enhance accountability.

A centralized digital system is being developed to streamline the processing and approval of Recruitment Rules (RRs). The Departmental and Administrative Head Dashboard for monitoring proposals are already live with few additions to be done for its early completion.

Towards the modernization of Revenue Department it was revealed that the work is underway to upgrade the Revenue Department's systems, including database migration, Jama-bandi visualization, and a Maker-Checker-Approver workflow. The Mutation module is also being enhanced for improved service delivery.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to leveraging advanced digital tools and AI-based solutions for improved public service delivery.

He underlined that sustained collaboration between the IT Department and BISAG-N is vital to realizing the government's vision of an end-to-end digitization ensuring transparency, and accountability across J&K.

**CS Reviews.....**

Department for the commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride – Vande Mataram, the National Song of India, being celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir as part of the nationwide campaign led by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretary, Education Department, and other senior officers.

All Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of organizing the celebration in a befitting manner to reflect the national spirit and cultural pride associated with Vande Mataram. He directed all departments to ensure meticulous preparations for the smooth conduct of the first phase of celebrations commencing on 7th November 2025, and to lay equal emphasis on subsequent phases extending through 2026.

The Chief Secretary underlined the need for large-scale public participation, especially from students and youth, to instill a deep sense of patriotism and national pride. He also instructed departments to undertake wide-ranging awareness campaigns to ensure mass participation and to designate nodal officers for effective coordination, implementation, and timely uploading of reports, photographs, and videos on the national portal.

Presenting the national framework, Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, informed the meeting that the commemoration marks 150 years since the composition of Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on 7th November 1875, later published in his celebrated novel Anandamath in 1882.

He added that the nationwide programme will be inaugurated at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi, on 7th November 2025, featuring simultaneous mass singing of Vande Mataram across all States and Union Territories, along with the release of a commemorative stamp, coin, and a film on Vande Mataram.

A detailed action plan was presented for Jammu and Kashmir, outlining a series of activities and events to be held across all districts, tehsils, educational institutions, and public spaces. It was divulged that large-scale celebrations will commence on 7th November 2025, covering schools, colleges, and public institutions throughout the UT. District and tehsil-level programmes will be conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioners, while year-long activities will be organized in collaboration with Central Government departments.

Moreover the meeting was apprised that the Department of Culture will serve as the nodal department, with the Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAA-CL) acting as the J&K Nodal Officer. Additional Deputy Commissioners will function as District Nodal Officers, Directors of Colleges and School Education (Jammu/Kashmir) as Education Nodal Officers, and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) will handle publicity and media outreach.

Elaborating further it was given out that the celebrations will unfold in four distinct phases over one year. Phase I from 7th to 14th November 2025; Phase II from 19th to 26th January 2026 (around Republic Day); Phase III from 7th to 15th August 2026 (along with Har Ghar Tiranga); and Phase IV from 1st to 7th November 2026, marking the closing week.

The opening phase, was said to feature a grand celebration at the Convention Centre, Jammu, on 7th November 2025, organized by the Department of Culture. District and tehsil-level events will include mass singing, special assemblies, exhibitions, essay and quiz competitions, debates, and cultural programmes

in schools, colleges, and public venues. Police and CAPF bands were also said to perform patriotic music and Vande Mataram renditions at public places. Screenings, concerts, and cultural evenings showcasing patriotic themes will also be held, while all nodal officers will document and upload photographs and videos of activities on the official campaign portal.

The campaign is going to continue through 2026 with a vibrant series of cultural and public initiatives. These include incorporating Vande Mataram themes in Republic Day and Independence Day events, organizing torch relays and youth marathons across districts, and conducting plantation drives titled Salute to Mother Earth.

Extensive publicity campaigns will be carried out too through print, electronic, and social media, complemented by cultural evenings, exhibitions, and murals celebrating national unity. Additionally, "Vande Mataram Audio Booths" will be established under PPP mode to enable citizens to record and upload their renditions of Vande Mataram to the campaign portal all over the country.

**MLAs raise.....**

her constituency. Iftikhar Ahmad, MLA Rajouri, called for immediate disbursal of flood relief and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, besides urging for the timely conduct of DPCs in the Education Department for Jammu division.

Mohammad Yousof Tarigami, MLA Kulgam, emphasized that every citizen has the right to express concerns freely. He demanded that detainees and youth from J&K lodged in prisons outside the Union Territory be shifted back on humanitarian grounds to facilitate easier access for their families.

Surjit Singh Slathia, MLA Samba, demanded an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in allotment of land in Sainik Colony and sought return of money to ex-servicemen and their families who are yet to receive plots.

Mubarak Gul, MLA Eidgah, called for the introduction of regional languages up to the university level and establishment of hostels for Kashmiri students in Jammu.

Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLAKhanyar, reiterated the importance of strengthening democratic values, reminding members that they hold a sacred responsibility as policymakers and law-makers elected by the people.

Randhir Singh, MLAKalakote-Sunderbani, flagged inadequate funding for PHE projects, shortage of doctors, and lack of SRTC bus services in his constituency.

Chaudhary Mohammad Akram, MLA Surankote, sought early completion of the Buzliaz-Surankote road and compensation for land donors whose payments remain pending.

Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, MLAGulmarg, expressed concern over the growing menace of food adulteration in the Valley and urged the government to take strict measures against violators.

Ali Mohammad Dar, MLACHadoora, demanded rectification of land records to ensure actual owners are correctly reflected in revenue documents.

Sunil Bhardwaj, MLARamnagar, raised the issue of rehabilitation of flood-affected families, seeking allotment of an additional 5 marlas for cattle sheds. He also demanded the installation of mobile towers in Dudu-Basantgarh and appointment of permanent faculty at the Jammu University campus in Ramnagar.

Sajad Gani Lone, MLAHandwara, supported the demand for shifting J&K detainees from outside jails to the Union Territory.

Saifullah Mir, MLATrehgam, voiced concern over the sale of frozen and rotten meat in the Valley and demanded a probe into the negligence of enforcement officers.

Prof. Charu Ram Bhagat, MLASuchetgarh, called for upgrading the Higher Secondary School at Deblehar into a Degree College and constructing a sports stadium in his constituency.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan, MLAKathua, sought restoration of flood-damaged roads and pipelines, along with provision of potable drinking water through tankers in affected areas.

Tanveer Sadiq, MLAZadibal, demanded release of government advertisements to the local newspapers.

Salman Sagar, MLAHazratbal, demanded augmentation of drinking water supply in his constituency where several areas face scarcity.

Javid Riyaz Bedar, MLAPattan, pointed out delays in completion of ongoing PHE projects due to shortage of funds.

Shakti Raj Parihar, MLADoda West, and Altaf Ahmad Wani, MLAPahalgalam, also highlighted issues related to damaged road infrastructure, rehabilitation of affected populations, and difficulties faced by locals in obtaining forest clearances for construction purposes.

**Fury Over.....**

to take tangible measures to promote and preserve the Kashmiri language, including introducing simultaneous translation facilities and making Kashmiri mandatory in official proceedings wherever possible.

Calling for collective action, the AMK appealed to all cultural, literary, and social organisations to join hands in defending the linguistic identity of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Omar government must understand that language is not just a medium of communication—it is the soul of our identity," the statement concluded.



# Artisan Shows create buzz, capture attention of local populace, tourists

Srinagar's Polo View to host 3rd edition of Soulful Kashmir, mesmerise visitors with niche handmade products

**HT NEWS DESK**

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** Riding high on the success of the first two editions of 'Know Your Artisan' series held at Jhelum Riverfront and Ghanta Ghar, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, is organizing the third leg of its 'Soulful Kashmir' campaign at the historic Polo View

Market, here on Thursday. In a press release issued today, a spokesperson of the Department stated as many as 12 stalls will be on display, showcasing unique handcrafted creations from Kashmir, alongside the One District One Product (ODOP) items. "The campaign is providing a great opportunity to the general public to direct-

ly connect with the master artisans, while also to the craftsmen to engage in direct marketing of their products," he said.

To enrich the experience, the Department is also setting up a 'Try Corner', offering visitors firsthand opportunity to explore their hands at pottery, papier-mâché, and needlework. "In addition, live music

performances will also be organized to create a heritage-inspired craft ambience at the venue," he stated.

The Department has urged the general public, tourists and buyers to visit Polo View edition of 'Know Your Artisan' in large numbers and extend their support to the craft maestros by participating in the 'Vocal for Local' initiative.



## NCDC Core Committee Discusses Disaster Preparedness and Precautionary Measures

**HT NEWS DESK**

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** The National Child Development Council (NCDC) core committee convened an online meeting to discuss the importance of disaster preparedness and preventive measures during natural calamities such as cyclones, floods, and storms. The session was chaired by senior members of the Council, who focused on raising awareness, improving government coordination, and educating the public on safety precautions.

NCDC core committee member Anandi began the discussion, and highlighted the ongoing cyclonic conditions in Tamil Nadu and emphasized the urgent need for public awareness and precautionary action before such calamities strike. "If the people are informed early and take take precautions, many losses can be avoided while it could even save lives," she said.

The committee agreed that rather than focusing on a single regional event, the resolution should address natural calamities in general. Members



stressed that early prediction systems, technological advancement, and effective communication between authorities and citizens are essential in minimizing damage.

The key points which were discussed by the NCDC core committee were: Strengthening disaster prediction technology and early warning systems, improving public awareness campaigns to encourage people to stay indoors and secure their homes during severe weather, Establishing strict construction protocols in cyclone-prone and flood-prone areas to prevent property loss and Educating people on disaster response and self protection.

Committee member Bindu shared insights based on recent experiences in Kerala, noting that delayed communication from local authorities often leads to unnecessary loss of life. "If alerts are passed on in time, people can safeguard themselves by shifting to safer areas," she said, urging for stronger coordination between the Meteorological Department and local administrations.

Radha from the NCDC emphasized the importance of public cooperation and adherence to safety warnings, saying that negligence often worsens the impact of disasters. She also pointed out that disaster education should not be limited to cyclones but extended to include earthquakes, landslides, and floods.

Adding to the discussion, NCDC Master Trainer Baba Alexander stressed the need for modernizing India's disaster management system, citing Japan as an example of effective disaster preparedness. "India has varied landscapes, but our disaster management is not yet technologically advanced. Training individuals and introducing disaster management in school syllabuses can make a big difference," he said.

Members also proposed including swimming and basic rescue training in school curriculums for students living near rivers or coastal areas. This, they noted, could help reduce casualties during floods or similar emergencies.

## Kulgam Police Organises Seminar on "Role of Police in National Security" under Police Flag Day Week-2025

**FAROOQ RATHER**

**KULGAM, OCT 29:** As part of the ongoing Police Flag Day Week-2025 and in the loving memory of police martyrs who made the supreme sacrifice for the peace and integrity of the nation, Kulgam Police on Wednesday organised an insightful seminar on the theme "Role of Police in National Security" at Government Degree College Kulgam. The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from Principal Degree College Kulgam, DySP DAR Kulgam Shri Mohammad

Ayub Rather, senior police officers, college faculty, students, and members of the local community.

During the event, speakers highlighted the pivotal role of the police force in safeguarding internal security, maintaining public order, and countering threats that challenge the nation's peace and sovereignty. They underlined the importance of community partnership in ensuring a stable and secure society.

Participants also paid rich tributes to the brave martyrs of the Jammu and Kashmir Police



who laid down their lives in the line of duty. The discussions evoked a deep sense of patriotism, professional commitment, and collective resolve to uphold the unity and integrity of the country.

At the conclusion of the event, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position holders of the seminar were felicitated with cash prizes and certificates of appreciation.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and a reaffirmation of the pledge to carry forward the legacy of courage, dedication, and selfless service exemplified by the police martyrs.

## Kulgam Police Celebrates 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Multiple Awareness and Community Engagement Events Held Across District

**FAROOQ RATHER**

**KULGAM, OCT 29:** To commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Kulgam Police organized a series of awareness and cultural events across the district focusing on unity, cleanliness, and social responsibility.

As part of the celebration, a Cleanliness Drive and an Essay Competition on "Youth and Their Role in Promoting National Unity" were held at Government Higher Secondary School Manzgam and Middle School Yari-pora. A special program on the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was organized at GHSS Vessu, Qazigund, while Drug Awareness and Zero FIR/E-FIR Awareness Programs were conducted at HSS Qaimoh. Additionally, a vibrant Cultural Program was held at Government High School Behibagh, showcasing patriotic performances by students.

The events emphasized key social themes such as drug abuse prevention, crime against women, juvenile awareness, and the importance of national unity. Senior citizens, students, teachers, and community members actively participated in these initiatives aimed at honoring Sardar Patel's vision of a united and strong India.



During the sessions, officers of Kulgam Police sensitized participants about the ill effects of drug abuse, underscored the importance of women's safety, and highlighted the vital role of youth in nation-building.

Reaffirming its commitment to a peaceful and drug-free society, Kulgam Police pledged to intensify awareness campaigns and ensure strict enforcement against drug traf-

ficking. The police also urged the community to extend full cooperation in maintaining harmony, progress, and public safety across the district.

In a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's legacy, Kulgam Police reiterated its dedication to promoting peace, unity, and national integration, while strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the community.

## Kupwara RCA Seeks Early Redressal of Demands After CAT Order

**DR. AB. QAYOOM**

**KUPWARA, OCT 29:** In a meeting held by Revenue Clerical Association, during which the members raised various issues concerning the stagnation and limited promotional avenues within the Ministerial Cadre. They strongly appealed to the concerned authorities for immediate implementation of the CAT decision to establish a unified promotion pyramid for the Ministerial Cadre on par with other executive cadres. The Association highlighted that the existing promotion structure with only 8% promotion from Junior Assistant to Senior Assistant, 2.3% from Senior Assistant to Head Assistant, and 1.5% from Head Assistant to Section Officer has caused severe stagnation, leaving many officials to retire at the Junior Assistant level even after decades of service. They further demanded the creation of Senior Assistant, Head Assistant, and Section Officer posts in the newly established administrative units set up in 2014, pointing out that no such posts have been sanctioned even after a decade. This, they said, not only hinders career progression but also affects administrative efficiency and public service delivery. Expressing concern over reports of creating a separate cadre from vacant WBN, Mohsib, and Sader Mohsib posts, the Association urged that these posts be retained or redesignated as Senior Assistant, Head Assistant, and Section Officer positions to address long-standing stagnation among clerical staff. The Association also appealed for streamlining of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) for Junior Assistant posts at the divisional level to provide immediate relief and ensure timely promotions. The members reiterated their commitment to serving the public efficiently but emphasized that addressing these long-pending issues is essential for boosting morale and ensuring fairness within the Ministerial Cadre.

## Farewell Ceremony Held for Class 8th Students at Middle School Shatgund Payeen

**HT NEWS DESK**

**KUPWARA, OCT 29:** A grand farewell ceremony was organized at Middle School Shatgund Payeen, under the educational zone Mawar, in honor of the Class 8th students. On this occasion, teachers and fellow students bid farewell to the out-

going students with great respect and affection.

The event began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by speeches from students Tabsum Ashraf, Nadia Rasheed, and Tabish Manzoor, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to their teachers and shared fond memories of their eight

years of learning at the school.

The head of the institution, Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Mir, advised the students to utilize their abilities to fulfill the dreams of their teachers and parents. Other teachers — Mohammad Shafi Khawaja, Faiq Maqbool, Abdul Majeed Bhat, Khurshid Reshi, and Rubena Ji — also

addressed the gathering, inspiring the students with examples of successful individuals and extending their best wishes for a bright future.

Students of Class 7th Arooba Nazir, Dania Javed, Mehreen Bashir, and Ayat Jan — bid farewell to the seniors in a poetic manner, creating an emotional

atmosphere. At the end, the outgoing students presented gifts to their teachers and left the school with tearful eyes.

Teachers Mohammad Shafi Malla and Abdul Latif Nayko played a key role in making the event successful, while a special lunch was also arranged for the students by the staff.

# Sakeena Itoo addresses two days National Conference on 'Integrating AI and 21st Century Skills in Education' at GCOE Srinagar

Emphasizes on aligning education system with rapid technological transformations

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29:** Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today emphasized on the urgent need of aligning education system with the rapid technological transformations shaping the society.

The Minister made these remarks while delivering the inaugural address at the Two Days National Conference on 'Integrating AI and 21st Century Skills in Education' at Government College of Education (GCOE/ IASE) here today.

The Conference is being organised by Innovation and Action Research Cell/IQAC of the GCOE/ IASE in collaboration with School Education Department, Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantamanu; Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Head, ICT and Project Management, NIEPA, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, Prof. K. Srinivas; Director General School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Director Colleges, Dr. Sheikh Aijaz; Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges and Principal, GCOE/IASE, Dr. Seema Naz; faculty members of college, researchers and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

In her inaugural address, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the urgent need to align the education system with the rapid technological transformation shaping the world. She highlighted that Artificial Intel-



ligence is not just a subject of study, but a vital tool to enhance creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving among learners.

"Education today must prepare our students not only for

the jobs of the future but also for the challenges of the present. Integrating AI and 21st-century skills will empower our youth to innovate responsibly and contribute meaningfully to a knowledge-driven economy", she

stated.

She also lauded the institution's efforts in organizing such a forward-looking conference.

The Minister also released the "IASE Mentorbot", an AI-based educational chatbot on

the occasion, designed to support learners and teachers.

While delivering keynote address, Prof. K. Srinivas emphasized the transformative role of AI in modern education systems and the necessity for educators to embrace digital innovation.

Additional Chief Secretary in his address, emphasized on policy-level perspectives and administrative efforts to integrate AI into educational planning while as VC, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin appreciated the initiative and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration to meet NEP-2020 goals.

Director General, School Education Kashmir underlined the department's commitment to enhancing digital competency among teachers and stu-

dents alike while as Director Colleges in his address highlighted the growing significance of AI-driven pedagogies in Higher Education.

In her welcome address, Principal GCOE, Dr. Seema Naz highlighted the importance of integrating artificial intelligence and 21st-century skills in education to make learning more dynamic and future-ready.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Minister also inspected stalls at AI/Robotics Exhibition, exploring innovative AI-based educational tools and projects displayed by students and researchers.

Earlier, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated newly constructed Science Laboratory Block of Government College of Education, Srinagar.

## DC Kupwara inspects Transit Accommodations, Water Supply Schemes in Handwara Sub Division

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KUPWARA, OCTOBER 29:** Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today took an extensive tour of Handwara sub division to assess the progress of various ongoing developmental projects in the area.

He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javaid Naseem Masoodi, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic, Tehsildar Handwara, Executive Engineer R&B and other concerned officers.

During the tour, the DC visited Transit Migrant Accommodation at Nutnussa and took stock of the pace of work on different blocks of buildings. He was informed that out of 12 blocks approved, 9 blocks have been completed and work is undergoing on other 3 blocks which shall be completed by December 2025. He also inspected Transit Accommodation Kulangam in which 15 out of 18 blocks have been completed.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the concerned officers to speed up the construction work and ensure completion of the projects within the stipulated time frame without compromising the quality.

Later, the DC inspected the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Awathkul-Nutnussa work, which on commissioning will provide clean drinking water to around 600 households of Nutnussa-A and Nutnussa-B panchayats. During the inspection, he also visited WSS Watayan and WSS Kulangam-Chowgol and directed the concerned agencies for completion of these key water supply projects so that the people get timely facilitated. He also inspected WSS Athrutoo which stands functional.

Additionally, the DC inspected the ongoing WSS project under AMRUT 2.0 for Handwara Town.

During the tour to Handwara, the DC paid a visit to high density Apple Nursery chogul, where he reviewed the ongoing activities of the department.

## District Admin Shopian holds Block Diwas at Imam Sahib

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 29:** As part of the ongoing public outreach/grievance redressal programme under the Weekly Block Diwas initiative, the District Administration Shopian today organised Block Diwas at Block Headquarters Imam Sahib.

The event was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of senior citizens, youth and a large number of locals who raised various demands and grievances of public importance which includes, construction/repairs

of lanes and drains, providing of portable water facility, installation of Transformers and Solar lights in uncovered areas, road connectivity, especially Hendor High School road, Aadkhar Wasuwal link road, Tuldren DK pora road, desilting of Gund Nallah, etc.

During the proceedings, the ADDC listened to several public issues projected by the locals and directions were passed on the spot to the concerned departments for immediate action on various demands/grievances related to improvement of basic amenities, upgradation of roads, augmentation of drinking water supply, and strengthening of health and education infrastruc-



ture. Speaking on occasion, the ADDC reiterated the commitment of the district administration towards ensuring time-bound redressal

of public grievances and equitable development of all areas of the district.

The ADDC also urged the officers to maintain close coordina-

tion with the public to ensure effective implementation of all developmental projects and welfare schemes.

Officers from various departments including Revenue, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, R&B, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, Poshan Abhiyaan and other line departments attended the event and briefed the public about different welfare and development schemes being implemented in their areas.

SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; CPO, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar; Tehsildar Imam sahib, LDM, BDO, Ex-En R&B, Zainapora, AEEs, and other officers and officials participated in the block diwas programme.

## Anti-Corruption Bureau organizes Vigilance Awareness Program at Handwara

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KUPWARA, OCTOBER 29:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) today organized a special programme at the Environmental Hall, Handwara, as part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week being observed across the country.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers, officials, and members of the general public, who collectively took the Integrity Pledge to uphold transparency and honesty in all spheres of life.

Addressing the gathering, ACD Kupwara, Arshad Qadir Bhat highlighted the importance of transparency, honesty, and ethical conduct in



public service.

During the session, ACB officers elaborated on the ethics of public duties and the importance of performing responsibilities strictly in accordance with established guidelines. They cautioned that any deviation or negligence in official duties may also amount to a form

of corruption. The officers further stressed that incidents of corruption should be promptly reported to the ACB with genuine and verifiable information, while warning that action will be taken against those providing false or misleading complaints.

Speakers reiterated that the fight against corruption is a collective responsibility and can only succeed when citizens and officials work hand in hand with integrity and accountability.

BDO Headquarters Kupwara, while speaking on the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the ACB and all stakeholders for spreading awareness and reaffirming commitment towards a corruption-free society.

## 2nd Randomisation of EVMs conducted in Budgam in presence of General, Police Observers for Bye-Elections to 27-AC budgam

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BUDGAM, OCTOBER 29:** For the smooth conduct of the upcoming Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam, the second Randomisation of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was successfully carried out today in the presence of General Observer, Bhor Singh Yadav; Police Observer, Nachiketa Jha and Returning Officer Afroza Bano for 27-AC Budgam.

Representatives of contesting candidates also attended the randomisation process, conducted strictly as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), thereby ensuring transparency and fairness in the electoral exercise.

Also, Nodal Officer ETPBS, and other senior officials from the District administration were present during the process. Entire process was videographed as per ECI guidelines.

Copies of lists of randomized CUs/ BUs and VVPATs for 173 polling stations were handed over to the representatives of the political parties/candidates present in the meeting during the randomisation.

Both the General and Police observers also interacted with representatives of political parties/ candidates to take feedback on the election-related matters, and ensure transparent electoral processes.

## JKTPO organizes Export Awareness cum E-Commerce workshop at Pulwama

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**PULWAMA, OCTOBER 29:** The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized Export Awareness cum E-Commerce onboarding drive organized in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama, ODOP Team, DPIIT, ECGE, APEDA and GeM.

The objective of the workshop was to empower local producers, MSMEs, artisans and SHGs, entre-

preneurs by providing them with vital knowledge about export schemes and benefits of digital commerce.

At the outset of the programme, General Manager JKTPO, Shahid Mirza emphasized the pivotal role of JKTPO in organizing the district-level workshop aimed at promoting ODOP sellers and their facilitation on e-commerce platforms.

Pertinent to mention here, that Pulwama district, is renowned worldwide for its high-

quality Kashmiri saffron, walnuts, honey, and handicrafts, which have been identified under the One District One Product (ODOP) and District as Export Hub (DEH) initiatives for focused export promotion.

The event aimed to connect local producers and artisans with national and international markets through digital platforms and targeted capacity-building sessions, fostering greater visibility and market access for Pulwama's

signature products.

Expert agencies shared valuable knowledge on export schemes and procedures for exporting the products, documentation required therein, and global market opportunities.

Further, more than 100 MSMEs, farmers and entrepreneurs attended the workshop, witnessed enthusiastic participation and actively engaged in discussions and showed a keen interest for onboarding their products on the Government

e-Marketplace (GeM) platform.

This initiative is part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts to promote exports from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir under the District as Export Hub Scheme and the ODOP initiative.

Expert-led sessions covered a wide range of topics including the benefits of exports, branding local products for international markets, export financing options and credit risk insurance schemes to safeguard exporters.

## DC Kulgam visits far-off Waltengoo Kund area, Presides over Grievance Redressal Camp, Numerous Issues resolved On-the-Spot

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KULGAM, OCTOBER 29:** Continuing the endeavour to provide governance at the doorstep of the people, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited the far-off Waltengoo Kund area and chaired a Public Grievance Redressal Camp and listened to a wide range of public issues and developmental demands pertaining to the welfare of the area.

The programme witnessed overwhelming participation from locals of Nowbugh (Kund), Waltengoo, Pachgam, Kraloo, Hukradan, Razloo, Chitirgam, Waripora Kund, Cheki Wazoo, Nigeen Pora, Oriel, Batengo, Thathoo, and Kanchloo, who apprised the DC of their concerns and projected various developmental requirements.

During the camp, several public delegations and individuals raised demands includ-

ing augmentation of staff at the local health centre, macadamization of link roads, smooth power supply during winters, and other development-related issues.

The DC patiently heard all grievances and assured prompt action. He also informed the public about various approved projects that will be taken up shortly in the area.

A number of grievances were resolved on-the-spot by the Deputy Commissioner during



the camp. Officers from different departments were also present and responded to sector-specific issues, providing necessary clarifications to the public.

Earlier, the BDO briefed the DC about the progress of developmental works underway in the area. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the administration is focused on ensuring efficient public service delivery and addressing the concerns of citizens on priority.

He emphasized that such outreach programmes play a vital role in strengthening the connect between the administration and the public.

He assured that all genuine demands raised will be taken up with the concerned departments for their timely redressal.

Among others, the camp was attended by ADDC, ADC, ACR, besides district and sectoral officers from various departments.

# DC Baramulla Chairs Block Diwas at Dangiwach, issues on-spot directions for Public Grievances

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 29:** In an effort to reach out to the people and address their developmental concerns, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today presided over a Block Diwas programme at the auditorium of Government Degree College Dangiwach, Rafiabad.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of civil society, traders federation, transport association, and the general public.

The general public and representatives from various sections raised several issues and demands pertaining to their respective areas, including drinking water supply, macadamization of roads, construction of protection bunds along nallahs, shortage of staff in key departments, healthcare



facilities, and restoration of the bridge at Sheikhpura Hahachpora.

Responding to the issues, the DC gave a patient hearing and issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt action. He instructed the Jal Shakti department to ensure adequate drinking water supply, the R&B department to expedite macadamization works, the Irrigation & Flood Control department to initiate necessary measures for constructing protection bunds, and the Health Department to address staff shortages and strengthen healthcare delivery. The DC also directed immediate assessment for restoration of the Sheikhpura-Hahachpora bridge.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the aim of conducting such public outreach programmes

is to strengthen the connect between the administration and the people, ensure timely redressal of public grievances, and enhance awareness about various government welfare schemes meant for socio-economic upliftment at the grassroots level. He reiterated that public participation is key to effective, transparent, and responsive governance.

During the programme, the DC, in presence of ADC Sopore, ACD Baramulla, and the Principal of the college, released the college magazine and anthem, appreciating the institution's efforts in promoting academic and cultural excellence.

Earlier, the DC inspected various stalls set up by different departments showcasing government schemes and services aimed at public welfare and local development.

# District Level Competitions of 29th National Youth Festival held at Bandipora

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 29:** The District Youth Services and Sports Office Bandipora on Wednesday organized the District Level Competitions of the 29th National Youth Festival 2025 under the theme Viksit Bharat at the New Auditorium of N.M. Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa Bandipora.

The event witnessed vibrant and enthusiastic participation from youth representing various educational institutions and zones of the district. The festival aimed to celebrate the energy, creativity, and leadership potential of young people while promoting national unity, integrity, and cultural harmony.

The National Youth Festival, celebrated annually from 12th to 16th January to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, seeks to channel the power of youth towards nation-building and social transformation.

During the Bandipora-level competitions, participants showcased their diverse talents in folk songs, folk dances, thematic presentations, poetry recitation, story writing, painting, elocution, debate, and science exhibitions under the Science Mela category. The competitions also included activities promoting life skills, innovation, and social awareness, aligning with the objectives of Viksit Bharat@2047.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants and commended the efforts of the Department of Youth Services and Sports for organizing such a meaningful event. He emphasized that youth are the torchbearers of progress and social change, and platforms like these play a pivotal role in nurturing young leadership, creativity, and civic responsibility.

He further highlighted that such festivals encourage inter-zonal cultural exchange and inspire youth to contribute to the vision of a progressive, inclusive, and self-reliant India.

Renowned martial arts coach and Padma Shri Awardee, Faisal Ali Dar, who was also present on the occasion, shared words of motivation with the participants, urging them to pursue excellence with dedication and discipline.

The winners of the district-level events will now represent Bandipora district at the UT-level competitions, paving their way towards the National Youth Festival 2025.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks from officials of DYSS Bandipora, who reaffirmed their commitment to continue organizing youth-centric events that promote talent, innovation, and national integration.

# DC Kulgam reviews Healthcare and Infrastructure Upgrades at PHC Devsar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**KULGAM, OCTOBER 29:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Devsar to review healthcare facilities and assess staff availability.

During the visit, the DC inspected various units of the health centre, closely examining essential services, availability of medical equipment, and deployment of medical and paramedical staff.

He also interacted with healthcare professionals and patients to gather on-ground feedback regarding the quality, accessibility, and efficiency of healthcare services. Highlighting the importance of timely and reliable healthcare delivery at the grassroots level, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure



uninterrupted patient care, maintain adequate staff presence, and uphold high standards of cleanliness and hygiene throughout the facility.

The DC also reviewed ongoing works, including finishing works to the newly constructed hospital building, development of the parking area, and fencing around the premises.

The Executive Engineer informed him that the finishing works and parking area have been completed, while fencing work is currently underway. The DC instructed concerned to ensure its early completion.

It is pertinent to mention that the hospital has already been fully shifted to the new building.

ADC, Tehsildar Devsar, and other officers accompanied the DC during the visit.

# SKUAST-Kashmir condoles demise of its Founder Vice Chancellor

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) held a condolence meeting to express profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Prof. Allauddin Ahmad, the Founder Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was presided over by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, and was attended by University Officers, Heads of Divisions, scientists, and non-teaching staff of the Shalimar Campus.

While offering heartfelt sympathies and condolences, Prof. Nazir Ahmad



Ganai expressed deep sorrow on the passing of Prof. Ahmad. He conveyed

that the thoughts and prayers of the entire SKUAST-K fraternity are with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

He highlighted the invaluable contributions of Prof. Ahmad in laying the foundation on which the university continues to grow in research, extension, and innovation. He described Prof. Ahmad as a personality of humility, integrity, and deep religious values, whose vision and leadership remain an inspiration for the entire academic community in the University.

The participants collectively prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and for strengthening and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

# RDD&PR organises 3-Day Training on OSR to Empower Panchayats

Training is key to building Atma-Nirbhar Panchayats in J&K: Sham Lal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29:** The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Jammu & Kashmir, successfully conducted a 3-day training cum workshop focused on Own Source Revenue (OSR).

The program was designed to equip Panchayat Account Assistants of the department and other functionaries with the essential knowledge and skills to unlock the financial potential of Halqa Panchayats.

The workshop delved deep into the critical importance of OSR, framing it as the lifeblood

for ensuring the autonomy, sustainable development, and effective service delivery of Panchayats. A core component of the training was a detailed exposition of the legal framework provided by the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

Director Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal, emphasized the transformative objective of the initiative. "This training is a cornerstone of our mission to build financially self-reliant and Atma-Nirbhar Panchayats," he stated.

He said by empowering our grassroots functionaries with the knowledge to augment and

strategically utilize their own revenue, we are fundamentally strengthening the third tier of governance and accelerating local development tailored to community needs.

Thematic experts from the State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), District Panchayat Resource Centres (DPRC), and the School of Excellence for Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) guided participants through the specific provisions, including Sections 13 to 23, which detail the properties, taxation powers, and fund management mechanisms available to Halqa Panchayats.

Participants received hands-

on training in the practical aspects of OSR management. This included procedures for levying taxes and fees, maintaining meticulous books of records, and the preparation of a separate, Gram Sabha-approved annual budget for OSR funds.

The curriculum also covered the stringent guidelines for incurring expenditure from OSR, emphasizing financial prudence, transparency, and the prohibition of using these funds for private assets or donations.

To inspire innovative thinking, the workshop showcased best practices and successful case studies from other Indian

states, such as the remarkable OSR generation model of Mukundapur Patna Gram Panchayat in Odisha.

These examples highlighted diverse revenue streams, from waste-to-wealth initiatives and eco-tourism to leasing Panchayat assets and imposing user charges for local services.

The training adopted a highly interactive methodology, moving beyond traditional lectures. It incorporated brainstorming sessions, sub-group discussions, guided reading, and group activities to foster a collaborative and practical learning environment.

# Mock Drill on EVMs conducted for POs ahead of Bye-Elections in Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**BUDGAM, OCTOBER 29:** In line with the directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the District Election Office Budgam today conducted an extensive Mock Drill on Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for Presiding Officers (POs) as part of their ongoing training sessions ahead of the Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam.

The hands-on exercise was aimed at ensuring complete familiarity of Presiding Officers with the functioning, handling, and troubleshooting of EVMs and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units before the poll day.

During the session, each Presiding Officer conducted an individual mock poll exercise by casting 100 votes and matching the VVPAT slips to verify accuracy and transparency of the voting process.

Certificates in the prescribed format were collected from all participating Presiding Officers upon successful completion of the mock drill.

Furthermore, testimonials of at least 50 Presiding Officers will be compiled and uploaded on the official website of the District Election Office, Budgam, reflecting the district's commitment to conducting free, fair, and transparent elections in line with ECI's mandate.

The mock drill was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Trainings Nodal Officer, Zahoor Ahmad,



along with the team of Master Trainers and officials from the District Election Office Budgam.

It was informed that the EVMs used during the exercise were those already earmarked for training purposes and were green-tagged, signifying that they are exclusively meant for training and demonstration and not for actual polling.

The initiative underscores the District Election Office's focus on ensuring that every polling official is well-trained, confident, and technically adept in managing EVMs and VVPATs for a seamless and transparent electoral process in Budgam.

# SKUAST-K holds training on alternate systems of Agriculture under HADP at Gurez

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 29:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), under the ambit of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) Project No. 16 titled "Alternate System of Agriculture for Sustainability," in collaboration with KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, today organized a one-day training programme for progressive farmers, farm women, and budding agri-entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Investigator, Prof. Parmeet Singh, highlighted the current challenges confronting the agriculture sector and emphasized that adopting alternate systems of agriculture through organic and natural means offers a viable solution for sustainable production, enhanced quality, and better income returns. He observed that farmers in the Gurez valley have traditionally been following organic practices and added that certification of such practices on standard lines would help in establishing a unique brand identity for Gurez-grown products.

Head KVK/MAR&ES Gurez, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, informed that several initiatives have been undertaken for conserving heritage and niche crops of the region. He added that efforts are underway for the introduction and promotion of newly released University varieties of economically important crops to ensure organic and sustainable agricultural practices in the valley. KVK scientists Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq and



Dr. Shahida Altaf, along with HADP Project Associates Dr. Moneesa and Dr. Shayista, deliberated upon the importance of eco-friendly measures for sustainable farming and soil health improvement. The event was ably supported by Technical Officers Tanzeer Hussain and Manzoor Ahmad, whose contribution added to the success of the programme.

As a gesture of appreciation towards the farming community, bio-fertilizers containing beneficial microorganisms were distributed free of cost among the participants to promote soil health and improve crop productivity. The participants expressed gratitude to SKUAST-K for organizing a programme of immense practical relevance to the local farming community.

# DC Kulgam visits Ziyarat Shareef Hazrat Noor Shah Wali Bagdadi (RA) at Kund, reviews ongoing works,

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPP

**KULGAM, OCTOBER 29:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited the revered shrine of Hazrat Noor Shah Wali Bagdadi (RA) at Kund, where he paid obeisance and reviewed the progress of ongoing construction and development works at the Ziyarat Shareef.



During the visit, the DC interacted with officers and stakeholders associated with the project and emphasized the timely completion of the works.

The DC directed the concerned executive engineering department to maintain quality standards and ensure timely completion of the shrine development project with focus on preserving its religious & heritage significance.

He also instructed for expediting the pace of work so that improved facilities for devotees are made available at the earliest.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; Executive Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad Tak, Tehsildar, BDO and other officers.

HT EDITORIAL

Relief! Education clause removed from marriage assistance scheme

The union territory government of Jammu & Kashmir headed by chief minister Omar Abdullah may not have done wonders over the past one year or so but it has taken a step that is going to help the unmarried girls belong to the middle or lower strata of the society. The government has removed the education clause from the marriage assistance scheme launched some years back.

The marriage assistance scheme was launched for the poor girls who are 18 or older and belong to families with either an Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAJ) or Priority Household (PHH) ration card. While the broader contours of the scheme were being framed the policy framers added the marriage clause to the same. It was written that the girl applying for the scheme should have at least passed the 8th class examination. The education clause came in for sharp criticism from people especially those working for the rights of women.

Immediately after assuming charge the National Conference government promised that the clause would be removed and there would be no education criteria for poor girls applying under the scheme. It may have taken the government one year to remove the clause but the important thing is that the right step has been taken. There is an old saying that it is better to be late than never. Kudos should go to the government and there should not be any holding back in this regard.

the removal of the education clause from the marriage assistance scheme one can expect that more and more girls belonging to the lower section of the society would apply for it and get benefitted. The marriage assistance scheme is a great scheme and the people belonging to the lower strata of the society should take optimum benefit from the same. If the government launches any scheme for the people then it is the right of the masses to take full advantage of the same.

The marriage assistance scheme is one of the great welfare measures taken by the government of Jammu & Kashmir and it can easily benefit lakhs of poor girls of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Since the marriage costs are very high in the modern times it is important that most of the expenses are covered. The marriage assistance scheme is a great step in this regard and as such people need to avail the benefits out of the same.

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Unstoppable Shaheena Majid: Empowering Kashmir Through Fitness



Sheikh Imran

Shaheena's journey into fitness was not accidental. From a young age, she had set her sights on becoming a fitness trainer, driven by a passion to help others achieve their health goals. "Since the beginning of my career, I knew I wanted to be a fitness trainer," she said. "I wanted to empower people to take control of their health and wellness, and I've never looked back since"

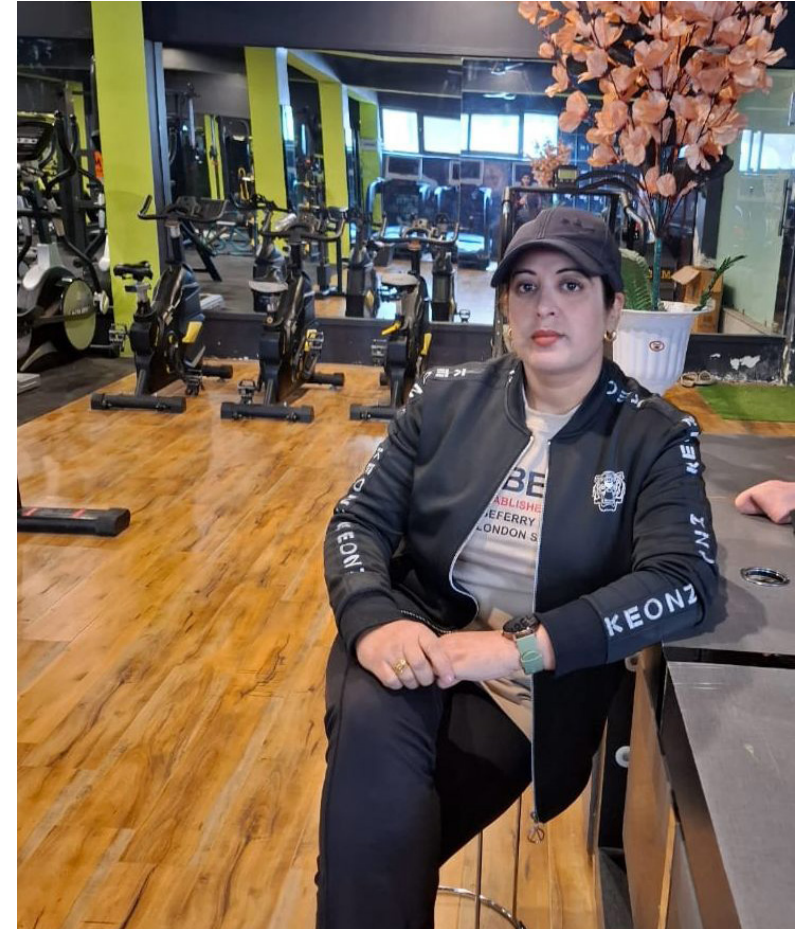
In the breathtaking valley of Kashmir, where majestic mountains meet serene lakes, a remarkable individual is making waves in the fitness world. Meet Shaheena Majid, a trailblazing gym coach from Srinagar's Habbak area, who is redefining the boundaries of health and wellness in the region. As a certified female fitness trainer at Muscle Blast Unisex Gym in Burzama, Shaheena is on a mission to empower individuals, particularly the youth, to prioritize their health and unlock their full potential.

With an impressive academic background, having completed her PG BEd and currently preparing for a PhD, Shaheena is a shining example of intellectual prowess and athletic enthusiasm. Her journey into the world of fitness began with a clear goal - to become a respected fitness trainer. After obtaining the necessary certifications, Shaheena embarked on her career, working with prominent gyms like Titans, The Game Changer, and Muscle Factory.

With nearly Eight years of experience under her belt, Shaheena has established herself as a leading figure in Kashmir's fitness industry. Her expertise and passion have inspired countless individuals to adopt a healthier lifestyle, and her message resonates with people of all ages. In a recent conversation with Sheikh Imran, Editor-in-Chief of "The Voice of Kashmir" media group, Shaheena shared her inspiring story and valuable insights into the world of fitness.

Shaheena's journey into fitness was not accidental. From a young age, she had set her sights on becoming a fitness trainer, driven by a passion to help others achieve their health goals. "Since the beginning of my career, I knew I wanted to be a fitness trainer," she said. "I wanted to empower people to take control of their health and wellness, and I've never looked back since".

As a female fitness trainer in a conservative society, Shaheena faced numerous challenges. However, she refused to let societal norms dictate her path. Instead, she broke barriers and shattered stereotypes, paving the way for other women to pursue careers in fitness.



"I've always believed that women can excel in any field they choose," she emphasized. "Fitness is not just about physical strength; it's about mental toughness and determination."

In an era where substance abuse has become a significant concern among Kashmiri youth, Shaheena's message is particularly relevant. She urges young individuals to ditch harmful habits and instead, get hooked on gym workouts, which can transform their lives. "In today's world, where the youth are easily swayed by negative influences, it's essential to channel their energy into something positive," she emphasized. "Gym workouts can be a game-changer, helping individuals build confidence, discipline, and a strong work ethic."

As a female fitness trainer, Shaheena is particularly passionate about empowering women to prioritize their health and wellness. She encourages girls and women to shed their inhibitions and focus on

building strong bodies and minds. "Health is paramount, and it's essential for both men and women to prioritize their well-being," she said. "By working out regularly, women can boost their confidence, improve their mental health, and lead a more fulfilling life."

As Shaheena continues to inspire and motivate individuals through her work, her vision for a healthier, more empowered Kashmir becomes increasingly clear. With her dedication, expertise, and passion, she is sure to make a lasting impact in the world of fitness. As a role model, Shaheena Majid's journey serves as a testament to the power of hard work, determination, and a commitment to excellence.

Shaheena's message to the youth is clear: "Believe in yourself, set your goals, and work towards achieving them. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. You have the power to shape your destiny and create the life you want".

Doda-The Hidden Gem Of J&K



Mool Raj

Nestled in the lap of the mighty Chenab Valley, Doda is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, lush green meadows, and crystal-clear streams, it is a paradise for nature lovers and adventurers alike.

From the serenity of Bhaderwah - "Mini Kashmir", to the scenic trails of Bhalessa and Thatri, every corner of Doda tells a story of peace, purity, and timeless charm. The region's warm-hearted people, rich culture, and majestic landscapes make it a true jewel of the Himalayas. In mid-June, as temperatures soar and heat waves blanket the region, suitcases emerge from dusty storages and eager hands start packing them with mufflers and mittens. It is during June's hot weather that holiday destinations promise us all a calm respite from the sweltering heat. A small town located by the river Chenab, Doda in Jammu and Kashmir remains a hidden gem with its scenic views, freshwater lakes and spiritual sites which hold deep religious significance in the hearts of devotees and pilgrims.

The mountainous region of Doda is also renowned for its craftsmanship, including handmade woolen blankets, shawls, and Gaba, reflecting the prowess of its artisans. Additionally, the intricate Bina work using wheat and paddy grass stands out as a celebrated craft in the area. Moreover, the centuries-old tradition of Bakerwals' silver jewelry, crafted by local artisans, captivates both outsiders and tourists alike.

Nestled in the district of Doda, Bhaderwah is often referred to as 'little Kashmir', a title it truly deserves. This picturesque tehsil captivates visitors



with its green valleys, dense Deodar forests, and expansive meadows similar to Kashmir itself. Bhaderwah's serene landscapes offer a perfect retreat, inviting travelers to immerse themselves in nature's arms and discover the charm of this region.

The town is also popular for trekking as it lies in the foothills of the mountain range of Himalayas and for the 600-year-old festival, Mela Pat which is a three days festival held annually on Nag Panchami, symbolizing Nag Culture at Khakhal (village in Bhaderwah). Almost half an hour drive from Bhaderwah - the Chinta Valley is a crowned summer destination, surrounded by Black Forests and captivating greenery. The place is calm, and perfect for a quiet laidback picnic.

At an altitude of 3000 meters - the Padri Pass is adorned by Para Gliders in summers and Skiers in winters. Situated on Bhaderwah - Chamba national highway, it links Jammu to Himachal's Chamba Valley. Another Trekking destination is the Seoj Meadow, which is the checkpoint of the famous Kailash Kund Trek. This vibrant meadow is amongst the echoes of nature and assures any traveler peace and tranquility. The Vasuki Nag temple acts as a starting point of Kailash Kund trek. It is the shrine



of a popular deity of Bhaderwah - Vasuki Nag.

Nalhi has gained prominence as a junction with the completion of the Bhadarwah-Bani-Basholi road. In addition to its dense deodar forests, the area has lush green grasslands adorned with vibrant flowering plants of various hues. It serves as a serene resting point for trekkers journeying from Sarthal (Bani) and Bhadarwah.

The most pleasant time to visit Doda would be in months from May to November due to its pleasant climate. The roads to Doda are well connected from Jammu (crossing the Patnitop region) and can also be reached via Chamba Valley. Doda has a variety of Home stays, Resorts and Hotels which are also pocket friendly. Overall, Doda remains a natural beauty for those looking for calm and quiet and also for enthusiasts of adrenaline-inducing activities who wish to spend their summer trekking, camping and biking. Last but not least

let's celebrate and promote the natural and cultural heritage of this divine land - Doda, where beauty meets tranquility and thereby We Explore The Untouched Natural Beauty

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

# Style Meets Spirit: Kashmiri Youth Redefine Sports Excellence!



M S Nazki

The Youth is happy because it has the capacity to see beauty. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old!

The first thing I came to know was Real Kashmir FC (They did publish my stories but stopped! It was bad luck for me but this one I'm exclusively for them).....MD!

JKSRTC had once upon a time a great soccer history but today it is finance that matters!

Kashmiri youth are great sportsmen, why leave the girls aside, they too are fabulous.....And they love Gymnasiums and fields!

Real Kashmir Football Club is an Indian professional football club based in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Incorporated in 2016, the club currently competes in I-League, the second tier of the Indian football league system. Real Kashmir with its reserve side also participates in the Jammu & Kashmir Premier Football League regionally.

Nicknamed "Sheeni Seh"! Real Kashmir is the first club from Jammu and Kashmir to earn promotion in any top flight football league of the country. They also won the IFA Shield title in 2022. Club's futsal section has been competing in the state league, as well as AIFF Futsal Club Championship, the highest division in the country.

History: Foundation and early history

The origin of Real Kashmir FC dates to 2014 after devastating floods swept through the region causing massive loss of life and property. To keep the youth, who had lost much during the floods—engaged, Shamim Mehraj, editor of a local newspaper named "Kashmir Monitor", and Sandeep Chattoo, a local businessman, came together to arrange footballers

What began as a community outreach

programme garnered support from the local populace and it soon started evolving into something more. Real Kashmir FC as a club, formalised in 2016, and affiliated with Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) under the tireless efforts by Chattoo.

Founded in 2016, Real Kashmir FC emerged as the first ever top flight professional football club in Jammu and Kashmir.

In August 2018, the Real Kashmir FC youth team travelled to Germany for pre-season training with Borussia Dortmund. The youth team visited the training centres where official BVB teams train. They participated in the 2019 Durand Cup and reached the semi-finals, but lost 3-1 to Mohun Bagan.

On 19 December 2020, the Snow Leopards, as they are fondly called, added another golden chapter in their short yet eventful history by winning the 123rd edition of the IFA Shield tournament, defeating George Telegraph at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. It is the first major domestic triumph since their inception in 2016.

But this was all about soccer so let us switch over to cricket since that is the flavor of the season!

Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium: Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium is a cricket stadium located in the Sonwar Bagh neighbourhood of Srinagar in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is home to the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association and the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team which represents the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Ranji Trophy and other domestic tournaments in the country. The National Cricket Academy is currently constructing an indoor complex at the stadium.

International cricket: The venue has hosted two One Day International matches. In the first match India played West Indies on 13 October 1983. India batted first, but the match was affected due to the protests by Kashmiri Dambali from Handwara digging the pitch during the lunch interval. When the match resumed, rain and dust storms affected the play, and India scored 176 all out. West Indies scored 108 for no loss in 22.4 overs before rain ended play, and West Indies were declared winners as the revised target was 81 in 22 overs. Desmond Haynes (West Indies), who

scored 55 not out, was named Man of the Match.

In the second match India took on Australia on 9 September 1986. India batted first, and a superb 52 off 56 balls by Sunil Gavaskar helped India score 222 for 8. In reply Australia achieved the target with 3 wickets in hand and 6 balls to go. Allan Border scored 90 not out off 106 balls and was named Man of the Match.

But International Cricket was to revisit Kashmir and it did! By the way it is a better stadium than Dharamsala!

Stories you read when you're the right age never quite leave you. You may forget who wrote them or what the story was called. Sometimes you'll forget precisely what happened, but if a story touches you it will stay with you, haunting the places in your mind that you rarely ever visit!

The men who are forgotten souls ignited the youth in Kashmir!

Chris Gayle is a Jamaican cricketer known for his powerful left-handed batting and the nickname "Universe Boss". A former West Indies captain, he is widely regarded as one of the greatest Twenty 20 batsmen in history and played for several international and franchise teams. Key achievements include being the first player to score a T20I century and scoring the first-ever double century in a Cricket World Cup.

Career highlights International Career: Gayle played for the West Indies from 1999 to 2021, serving as captain and playing a crucial role in their wins at the 2004 ICC Champions Trophy and the 2012 and 2016 ICC World Twenty20 tournaments.

Batting Style: He is a fearsome, aggressive opening batsman, known for his fearless approach and high number of sixes.

IPL Career: He was a dominant force in the Indian Premier League (IPL), playing for teams like Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Kolkata Knight Riders. His final T20 score in the IPL was 175\*, the highest individual score in the league's history.

"Universe Boss": His nickname, "Universe Boss," came from his dominating and large-than-life presence at the crease.

Awards and recognition He holds the record for being the first player to score a century in a T20 World

Cup match.

He is the only player to have scored a T20I century and an ODI double century. Martin Gupthill

He is a retired New Zealand cricketer, known for being a prolific white-ball opener with explosive hitting, who retired from international cricket in January 2025.

His career highlights include being the first New Zealander to score a century on ODI debut and setting the highest individual score in a World Cup with an unbeaten 1237 against the West Indies in 2015.

He holds the record for the most runs in T20Is for New Zealand and will continue his career in various T20 leagues worldwide.

Gupthill played for New Zealand for 14 years, making his international debut in 2009 and retiring in January 2025. ODI achievements:

He was the first New Zealander to score a century on his ODI debut.

Shakib Al Hasan Shakib Al Hasan made his Test debut in 2007 against India. His breakthrough came in the Test against New Zealand in Chittagong in 2008, where he picked up 7 wickets for 36 runs, the best figures by a Bangladeshi bowler at that time.

He quickly established himself as one of the team's leading performers. He has scored over 4,000 runs and taken more than 200 wickets in this format.

He has also captained the team on their first-ever Test match win over England in 2016.

In ODIs, Shakib has been more successful. He has scored over 6,000 runs and taken more than 270 wickets in the format, becoming the fastest player in history to achieve the double of 5,000 runs and 250 wickets in ODIs.

In the 2012 Asia Cup, Shakib scored 237 runs, including three fifties, and took six wickets. Bangladesh progressed to the tournament's final for the first time but eventually lost to Pakistan by 2 runs, and he was awarded the Player of the tournament award in that edition of the tournament.

He is considered one of the most impactful players of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup, where he broke the record of maximum runs scored in the group stages of the World Cup which was previously held by Sachin Tendulkar and finished as the third-highest run-scorer, scoring

606 runs in total at the tournament.

He has played for various T20 tournaments around the world for many teams, including Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Jamaica Tallawahs and Dhaka Dominators, where he won the Indian Premier League (IPL) twice with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2012 and 2014. He also won the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) title 3 times in 2012, 2013 and 2016 with Dhaka Dominators. He was named the player of the tournament in BPL a record four times, in 2012, 2013, 2018 and 2022. He has won 41 man-of-the-match awards, the highest for any Bangladeshi player and 16 man-of-the-series awards in all formats. Between 2009 and 2022, he captained the Bangladesh cricket team in 120 matches across all three formats.

Shaun Edward Marsh He is an Australian cricketer who previously played for the Western Australia cricket team in Australian domestic cricket and has represented Australia in all three formats. Nicknamed SOS ("Son of Swampy"), he is a left-handed top-order batsman.

The competition: The Kashmir Valley was all set for a blockbuster cricket season as a wave of international and domestic cricket stars prepared to descend on Srinagar for the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL)—2025, kicking off on October 25 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

Adding to the excitement, former West Indies opener Devon Smith and J&K's very own Parvez Rasool, along with Ishan Malhotra, are also set to feature in the tournament, bringing a blend of international flair and local pride to the Valley.

Meanwhile, the upcoming tournament follows the tremendous success of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) 2024 matches held last year, where thousands of spectators filled Bakshi Stadium to witness international legends in action for the first time in four decades.

Notably, for fans, this marks yet another chance to see their heroes play at Kashmir soil, with turning the Valley into a true "Valley of Cricket."

Chris Gayle has already set the tempo! The final lines: In youth, it was a way I had. To do my best to please. And change, with every passing lad To suit his theories. But now I know the things I know And do the things I do. And if you do not like me so, To hell, my love, with anything!

## Letter from a failed elder brother to his younger brother

■ RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

My dear brother.

It has now been three months since you last held your mom's hand and that too while she was giving it out. You last saw your mom when her soul was leaving her and she was going millions of Kilometres away from you and that too forever. You never wanted to let her go but sometimes the nature is cruel and we have no other choice but to surrender before the natural.

You had a deep connect with your mom. Each time I tried making you jealous of things I used to have for eating or for that matter another thing. Your quick response used to be "Wait let me go to my mother and I'll get better of what you have". Your mother was your "To Go" person in any situation. I remember how worried you were when she was busy. While she was will your behaviour changed. From a guy who never used to shout at me, shouting at me become your daily routine. Just because you couldn't see your mom suffering and that got you frustrated. You had every reason to be frustrated. You were seeing your most favourite person slipping out of your hand. While you were unable to do anything. That helpless situation must have made you hate yourself. You must have wanted to do something but nothing was of any help. When nature decides

to do something, no one can do anything. It has to happen and it happened. Each time I used to ask you about mom's health, you had a constant reply "Please pray for her". And this gave me sense that she's soon going to someone who you'll see for the last time. I always wanted to ask you what are the doctors saying about her or why don't you take her to hospital. But I had no courage to say it and then hear the answer to this question. But when I one day mustered the courage of asking you. I got the same answer I was faring. "Doctors told us to keep her at home". This response made my heart sink and I knew you have to deal with something that you never had thought of. Knowing about your relationship with your mom, I always wanted a miracle to happen. I always wondered of a miracle where I'll call you and you would reply being happy "Bro mom is all well, doctors are saying she's all well". But all had to hear was "Please pray for her". The sorrow in your voice was enough to tell me what is awaiting. Neither you nor I had the courage of saying each other that we should be ready for something that we never wanted to imagine. All we wanted is a miracle to happen. But that didn't happen and you finally messaged me "Today I lost my everything. My mom, my world. Please remember her in prayers". Seeing the messages on notification bar I wasn't ready that this message

has come from you. I opened the chat to make sure that I don't come to a conclusion regarding something which I was never imagining of happening.

I read that message three to four times just to make sure that I am reading it right. I was busy with my phone and had returned from Friday prayers. While scrolling the X (Formerly Twitter) the notification popped up and it changed the whole environment. I replied while my hands were shaking "Are you even serious? What are you even saying". I got sad emoji as a reply and I understood he's broke beyond my imagination.

The next day when I reached his home, I had to see a different him. Broken and a face that reflects tears. He tried hard to fight back tears but the rolled down his cheeks. I couldn't even ask him to stop crying. I myself was fighting back tears. I was unable to speak, I wanted to make him feel comfortable but I couldn't get words and my throat felt a knot.

As the night came, the lights were switched off and it was all dark. We could see each others face because of the screen light falling on it. We all were busy with our phones. But he was thinking what he lost and tears rolled down his cheeks. The screen light fell on the tears and reflected. Just like it happens with water. My mind fell numb, I have never felt such helpless. I

was completely blank.

I know you still cry and you want to be in her arms and ask her to cook food for you. You may not say it to me but I know what falls on you when you see others making demands to your mother and you have no one to demand to. When I speak to my mom. I fall silent in the middle of the conversation thinking that you have no one to talk to. My heart pains but I have no solution to offer.

My dear friend, you aren't someone who doesn't have the knowledge of Quran. And Quran says "Every soul shall taste the death". And in the same Quran Allah makes it clear that he'll keep his promise and he's keeping his promise.

You may act strong but have I not heard you crying while covering your head with blanket. You may tell people that you are busy with things but don't I know since mama went away you no more like talking to people. What you go through delay no one can connect with it. When you enter your home and find non one. Only you know what befalls on you. All I can do is stay by your side and watch you cry.

You look at me as your elder brother. But I am sorry I failed you.

Your failed brother.  
Raqif makhdoomi.

# Kids Makeup



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Is your little one often digging through your makeup bag or reaching for your lipstick? You're not alone.

Chances are, your child is being exposed online, on social media, YouTube videos to endless cosmetic products that promote beauty or other kinds of visual transformation. The majority of bullying in school and public places is related to physical appearance. Teasing about being overweight or not pretty enough has lasting and detrimental effects on kids. Skincare routines have become a big focus nowadays for teens as young as 10 years old.

Whether it's smearing blush across their cheeks or experimenting with eyeshadow like it's finger paint, kids are naturally drawn to the colourful world of makeup.

Both boys and girls often face body image issues, leading to a belief that natural appearance isn't good enough.

But here's the problem - Makeup might be fun and playful, but there could be some side effects of makeup on kids. These aren't just physical but also emotional and psychological. Traditional beauty products are loaded with chemicals, synthetic dyes, and mica, which

may not be safe for kids' sensitive, delicate skin.

More problematic is children doing "mimicry makeup", or often trying their mother's makeup. Such use could not only cause acne, dry skin, and itching-related issues, but also viral infections like herpes or bacterial infections.

Children are prone to atopic dermatitis. If they pick their parents' makeup and use it on their skin, they have a high chance of developing dermatitis.

Children's sensitive skin makes them prone to allergic reactions, irritations, and long-term damage from chemicals like parabens and phthalates.

Many products have what we call "active" ingredients — like salicylic acid, retinols, peptides, which are easily absorbed by teen thin skin since absorption rate in children is at least 10 per cent higher than compared of adults due to their faster metabolism. It is more permeable and can therefore absorb chemical substances more easily.

These ingredients can cause micro-trauma and irritant dermatitis, damaging the skin barrier and making it more susceptible to irritation and infection.

Simply put, applying these makeup products to the skin of your kids will make them vulnerable to toxic materials. With constant use, makeup products can cause dryness, itchiness, redness and irritation to the skin. It can permanently harm the skin's barrier and structure of the skin, causing it to be more sensitive to even water.

Exposure to makeup products has led to signs of premature ageing, dry and dull hair and skin due to the presence



of chemicals in the cosmetics and exposure to environmental toxins. The long-term psychological effects, such as anxiety and depression, stemming from an obsession with appearance, are profound and troubling. The presence of retinols in beauty products can sometimes cause retinoid dermatitis, a type

of scaly rash. Additionally, retinols can make you susceptible to sunburn and sun damage.

The abuse of beauty products in girls can alter both their emotional well-being and neuronal development, while also causing anxiety or eating disorders.

Exposure to chemicals such as para-

bens, phenols, and phthalates in cosmetics was directly linked to the early onset of puberty among girls. Girls with higher levels of parabens in their bodies attained puberty earlier.

Earlier puberty in girls affects their behaviour as teenagers and makes them more prone to mental health issues. More importantly, the early onset of puberty increases breast and ovarian cancer risk in these girls in the long term.

The use of creams and serums — useful for preventing ageing — can lead the skin to develop dermatological pathologies (such as dermatitis, skin irritations, or even sun intolerance) among teens.

Early use of makeup can disrupt hormones, leading to growth, developmental, and reproductive issues.

Applying kajal on infant eyes has been a ritual in various parts of the country. However, kajal contains lead, which causes permanent multiple organ system damage in children due to lead toxicity. Similarly, Cadmium and Lead in lipsticks can be ingested and cause disorders in the digestive tract. Young girls may feel pressured to conform to societal standards, fostering a culture of comparison and self-doubt. The pursuit of perfection can contribute to depression, anxiety, and body dysmorphia, particularly during the vulnerable teen years. Regular use of make-up, sometimes in thick layers, can lead to problems of 'comedogenicity' — that is, clogged pores that cause blackheads and what is known as 'cosmetic acne'.

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

## Department of Neurology organizes Stroke Awareness Walkathon on World Stroke Day

■ HT NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** On the eve of World Stroke Day, the Department of Neurology, Government Superspeciality Hospital, Shireenbagh, Srinagar, organized a large-scale Stroke Awareness Walkathon at the picturesque River Front, Rajbagh, aimed at educating the public about stroke prevention and timely management.

The event drew enthusiastic participation of people from various walks of life, including Senior Citizens, students, and



## Sopore's Harsh Truth: From students to Govt Employees, Rich or Poor - All Caught in Drug Net

Drug Abuse Spares No Section of Society: SSP Sopore Iftkhar Talib

■ KHAN JAHANGEER

**SOPORE, OCT 28:** As part of the ongoing public outreach initiatives and celebrations marking the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Sopore Police today organized a public meeting at Islamia High School Warpora, Zaingeer, aimed at fostering community engagement and spreading

for active public cooperation in curbing it. Police officers addressed public queries and assured that all genuine concerns related to law and order, traffic management, and public safety would be taken up for timely redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Sopore Shri Iftkhar Talib-JKPS emphasized that effective policing is rooted in partnership with the people. He reit-

**LAMHAI E FIQRIYA...  
MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN...**

erated that Sopore Police's mission goes beyond enforcement — focusing equally on awareness, guidance, and trust-building. He urged youth to stay away from drugs and negative influences, and instead dedicate themselves to education, sports, and constructive pursuits.

The event commenced with a two-minute silence as a mark of tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, whose vision of national unity and integrity continues to guide the nation. Speakers reflected on his life, achievements, and unmatched contribution towards the unification of India.

During the interactive session, participants discussed a range of social issues — particularly the growing menace of drug abuse — and the need

erated that Sopore Police's mission goes beyond enforcement — focusing equally on awareness, guidance, and trust-building. He urged youth to stay away from drugs and negative influences, and instead dedicate themselves to education, sports, and constructive pursuits.

Drug abuse is not confined to any one section of society. From a good school student to an old-aged man, from a government employee to a labourer, people from every background have been caught," the SSP said, adding that the Sopore Police are making daily deployments to curb the rising trend.

He further emphasized the importance of community



cooperation in tackling the issue. "Our aim is not to increase arrests but to reduce them. To eradicate this menace completely, police-public

partnership is essential," he said.

The event concluded with a collective reaffirmation of the shared commitment to

peace, unity, and community service — a true homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's enduring ideals of Ekta, Naitiktika aur Samarpan.

## World Stroke Day: Why every minute counts when the brain is under attack

doctors from different hospitals across the Valley.

The Walkathon was flagged off by the Principal & Dean, Government Medical College Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, accompanied by Head, Department of Neurology, and Medical Superintendent, Government Superspeciality Hospital, Shireenbagh.

Speaking on the occasion, the organizers emphasized the importance of preventive measures in reducing the rising burden of stroke in society. They highlighted that whenever people notice warning signs of stroke, they should immediately seek urgent medical help.

The event successfully blended scientific awareness with social participation, reaffirming the department's commitment to promote neurological health and stroke prevention in Kashmir.

Stroke remains one of the most urgent medical emergencies, a crisis that can strike anyone, anywhere at any time. When blood flow to the brain is disrupted, millions of brain cells begin to die within minutes, leaving survivors to grapple with lasting consequences such as paralysis, speech impairment or cognitive decline. Each minute lost can mean a lifetime changed.

Today, advances in rapid diagnostics, streamlined hospital workflows, and rehabilitation technologies are transforming how clinicians respond to stroke emergencies. Across the globe,

improved stroke-care pathways are helping doctors not only save time but also use it more effectively, shifting neurology from reactive treatment to proactive, time-sensitive care that prioritises immediate intervention.

A stroke can destroy nearly two million brain cells every minute if a major artery is blocked, underlining the urgency of early diagnosis and treatment. Indian studies show that improvements in imaging and triage protocols have reduced treatment initiation times by up to 27% and overall care delays by nearly 40%.

Yet, with an estimated 1.8 million new strokes occurring each year and fewer than two neurologists per 100,000 people, India faces a critical shortage of specialists. The challenge now is building systems that make timely, high-quality stroke care accessible to all because in stroke management, every minute truly counts.

Highlighting the severity of the condition, Dr. Neha Kapoor, Associate Director & Head-Neurology, Asian Hospital, said, "Around 12 million people have a stroke each year, according to the World Stroke Organisation (WSO) with one in

every four adults over the age of 25 experiencing one at some point in their lives. It is no longer confined to the elderly as more than 62% of all strokes occur in persons under the age of 70, with 16% affecting those under the age of 50. Back home, strokes affect roughly 1.8 million people each year with the incidence rising among young adults. However, the good news is, many strokes are preventable and treatable. Recognizing symptoms and acting quickly is key to recovery and preventing lifelong disability."

First Post

# KU commences Vigilance Awareness week to promote integrity, transparency

**HT NEWS DESK**

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** The University of Kashmir (KU) launched Vigilance Awareness Week at the Main Campus underscoring the Varsity's commitment to promoting ethical conduct and institutional integrity across all levels of administration and academics.

Observed under the theme "Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility," the programme is being organised in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), J&K.

The initiative aims to strengthen transparency, accountability, and collective responsibility among university employees and students.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her address, reaffirmed the university's commitment to ethical governance.

"Integrity must guide every decision we make as individuals and as an institution. Vigilance should prevent wrongdoing and nurture trust, transparency, and accountability in our daily work. Each of us shares the responsibility to uphold these values for the



progress of our university and society," she said.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, said that the University's active participation in Vigilance Awareness Week reflects its commitment to promoting good governance and ethical practices.

"Vigilance begins with self-discipline and awareness. Upholding integrity in every action strengthens our collective commitment

to good governance and institutional trust," he said.

SSP, ACB, Javid Hassan Bhat, stressed on the significance of public vigilance in curbing corruption.

"Public participation and awareness are vital in building a corruption-free society. When every citizen becomes vigilant, transparency and accountability naturally follow," he said.

Dean, School of Law, KU, Prof. Shahnaz, emphasized

the importance of promoting awareness about ethical governance and accountability among students.

During the event, officers from ACB delivered a detailed presentation on vigilance awareness and discussed a case study on disproportionate assets.

Dr. Mubashir Altaf, faculty at the Department of Law, KU, provided a critical overview of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

while law student, Saqib Bashir shared his thoughts on the role of society in promoting transparency.

Participants engaged actively by sharing their feedback and taking part in an interactive quiz on the Kahoot app, designed to test their understanding of vigilance practices and

ethics.

The event concluded with a pledge-taking ceremony, during which teaching and non-teaching staff reaffirmed their commitment to uphold integrity, promote transparency, and contribute to building a corruption-free institutional environment.

**Public Notice**

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 9357 3821 6869 as TANEVVR TAHIR, which contains incorrect spellings.

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

PEERZADA TANVEER TAHIR QADIRI,  
S/O PEERZADA MOHAMMAD TAHIR QADIRI.

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.

**Name: PEERZADA TANVEER TAHIR QADIRI**  
**S/O: PEERZADA MOHAMMAD TAHIR QADIRI**  
**Address: Village Bobernaag Kupwara**  
**Contact No: 7006846797**

**Public Notice**

This is to inform the general public that I, Ghulam Hassan Bhat, son of Abdul Rehman Bhat, resident of Kenihama BK Pora, have applied for a correction in my PAN card details. My previous PAN card incorrectly mentioned my name as "Ghulam Hasan, son of Abdul Rahman."

The correction is being made to reflect the accurate name as "Ghulam Hassan Bhat, son of Abdul Rehman Bhat."

If any body have any objection in this regard He / She Can contact Concerned department within a period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name: Ghulam Hassan Bhat**  
**S/O: Abdul Rehman Bhat**  
**R/O: Kenihama BK Pora**

**Public Notice**

I, Altaf Hussain Khanday, resident of HMT Khushipora, hereby inform the general public that the Registration Certificate (R.C.) of my vehicle bearing Registration No. JK01AG 6180 has been lost while travelling from HMT to Lawaypora.

Any person or authority having found the same is requested to kindly return it to the undersigned or inform the concerned authorities. I am applying for the issuance of a duplicate Registration Certificate for the said vehicle.

**Name: Altaf Hussain Khanday**  
**Address: HMT Khushipora, Vehicle No.: JK01AG 6180**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**Office of the General Manager**

District Industries Centre, Anantnag | (Near Head post Office, Anantnag)  
Email id: gmdic-ang@jk.gov.in | Contact No.: 01932-354422

**Public Notice**

This is to notify that the online application for CIIAC claim under IDS-2017 received from below mentioned unit holders. However, the applications were found incomplete due to non-submission of requisite documents, required clarification for unresolved queries etc. The applicants have been repeatedly advised to address these deficiencies and complete the formalities. Despite several notices and reminders the applicants failed to complete the requisite formalities /documentation.

By the medium of this notice, the promoters of the below mentioned units are here by directed to resubmit their complete applications in online as well as offline mode along with all requisite documents within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the applications/claims under the said scheme will be recommended for rejection.

- 01. M/s The Chinar Leaf Hotel, Laddi Sallar Pahalgam
- 02. M/s Prince Ultra Tuf Industries, Nadoora Dooru Anantnag

**No: DICA/IDS/2025/ 1729 | Dated: 28/10/2025**

**Sd/- General Manager**  
District Industries Centre, Anantnag

**DIPK: 7601/25 | Dated: 29-10-2025**

Government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir  
**Office of the Zonal Education Officer Narbal, Budgam**

**Notice Inviting Bids / Auction Notice**  
**No: ZEO/N/25/1377-80 | Dated: 29-10-2025**

In pursuance of Chief Education Officer Budgam's communication No. CEOB/Plg/Auct/2025/19170 dated 06-09-2025, and in accordance with the Auction Committee constituted vide letter No. CEOB/Plg/Safety Audit/25/10322-24 dated 11-07-2025, sealed bids are hereby invited from interested persons/firms for the auction of salvage material of the unsafe structure of Govt. Boys High School Narbal, declared unsafe by the R&B Department vide letter No. EE/R&B/Divn/BRU/CS/2782-84 dated 06-08-2025.

**1. Particulars of Property**

- a. Name of Property: Salvage material of the unsafe building of Govt. Boys High School Narbal.
- b. Location: Narbal, District Budgam.
- c. Assessed Salvage Value: ₹4,87,032/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty-Seven Thousand and ThirtyTwo only)

**2. Terms & Conditions**

- a. The structure will be auctioned on an "as-is-where-is" basis.
- b. Interested bidders may inspect the site on any working day during office hours up to 21/11/2025.
- c. Security Deposit: ₹10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) in the form of CDR pledged to Zonal Education Officer Narbal or can be deposited in cash on the spot, in order to participate in the auction, refundable to unsuccessful bidders.
- d. The highest bid shall be subject to approval by the Chief Education Officer, Budgam.
- e. The successful bidder shall deposit the full bid amount within 7 days from the date of approval.
- f. The successful bidder shall remove the entire salvage material from the site within 20 days his/her own risk and cost, after full payment.
- g. The auction committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- h. Any damages caused during dismantling or removal shall be borne by the successful bidder.
- i. All disputes, if any, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of District Budgam.

**3. Date, Time & Place of Auction**

- a. Date: 22/11/2025 Time: 12:00 Noon
- b. Venue: Office of the Zonal Education Officer, Narbal

All interested parties are invited to participate in the auction under the terms and conditions mentioned above.

**Sd/- Zonal Education Officer Narbal**

**DIPK: 7598/25 | Dated: 29-10-2025**

# Degree College Zakura hosts Lecture on Artificial Intelligence

**HT NEWS DESK**

**SRINAGAR, OCT 29:** The ICT Committee of the Government Degree College Zakura, in a strategic collaboration with the Human Resource Development (HRD) Cell of the college, successfully organized an invited expert lecture on Artificial Intelligence (AI) today. The "Intelligence Redefined: How AI is Reshaping Education, Research, and Innovation" event featured an illuminating session by Dr. Bilal Maqbool Beigh, drawing a significant gathering of faculty members and students.

The program was inaugurated by the event coordinator, Prof. Qurat Ul Ain, who also serves as the Convenor of the ICT Committee. In her opening address, she welcomed the attendees, stating, "It is with great delight that I welcome you all to this invited talk on Artificial Intelligence, aptly titled 'Intelligence Redefined: How AI is Reshaping Education, Research, and Innovation,' which has been jointly organized by the ICT Committee and HRD Cell of the college."

She further set the tone for the discourse by highlighting the collaborative future of academia, noting, "The future of academia will not be defined by a choice between humans and AI, but by the quality of collaboration between them. By harnessing



AI's power, institutions and individuals can enhance their capabilities while maintaining the essence of critical thinking, intellectual honesty, and education that prioritize human needs and well-being."

The session was formally welcomed by the Principal, Prof. Syed Iffat Ara, who emphasized the transformative potential of AI in modern academia. She highlighted its critical role in reshaping pedagogical approaches, enhancing research capabilities, and driving institutional innovation, perfectly framing the

day's theme.

Dr. Beigh's expert lecture was both comprehensive and engaging, demystifying AI for the audience. He traced the evolution of AI from its rule-based origins to today's predictive and generative models. He elaborated on core concepts like Deep Learning and delved into practical applications, demonstrating how AI serves as a powerful tool for personalized learning, enhanced assessment, and accelerating academic research. The session was highly interactive, fostering a vibrant discussion with faculty and students, with Prof. Sajad Ahmad Magray acting as the Rapporteur for the proceedings.

The program concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Syed Toasin Rehmat, who acknowledged the contributions of the speaker, the support of the principal, and the diligent efforts of the organizing committees.

The event was hailed as a resounding success, achieving its objectives of enhancing awareness, stimulating student interest in AI, and providing faculty with new perspectives on integrating technology into their teaching and research. It marked a significant step in the college's commitment to fostering a forward-looking, technologically adept academic community.

**Office Of The Principal Childcare School Handwara**

Today on 16/10/2025 an election took place for the managing committee of the Childcare School Handwara. The election was conducted through a democratic process, besides some changes it was collectively accepted that the previous committee has pushed the institution to its new heights, all the dignitaries of the elected managing body were sworn that they will remain cooperative to each other and will collectively try to address the modern demands of the school. The elected committee comprising the following members.

S NO	NAME	Photographs	PARENTAGE	RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION	DESIGNATION	QUALIFICATION
1	Altaf Husain Qureshi		Ghulam Mohammad Qureshi	Hangah	Un Employed	Chairman	B.Sc
2	Abdul Qadoos Qureshi		Ghulam Ahmad Qureshi	Hangah	Retired Headmaster	Secretary	M.A
3	Inam-Ul-Haq		Late Haji Gulam Nabi Pir	Dudipora	Un Employed	Teacher	B.B.A
4	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir		Mohammad Ramzan Mir	Mankal Nowgam	Army Retired	Parent	10th
5	Rafiq Ahmad Qureshi		Mohammad Yaseen Qureshi	Hangah	Un Employed	Parent	M.Sc
6	Shabir Ahmad Wani		Ghulam Hassan Wani	Kargam	Un Employed	Teacher	B.com
7	Shanzawaz Qureshi		Bashir Ahmad Qureshi	Hangah	Un Employed	Principal	M.A

Principal  
Childcare School Handwara

# POLICE TELECOMMUNICATION HEADQUARTERS ACS KASHMIR

**Short Term Quotation**

Sealed short term quotations are invited from authorized dealers/suppliers for supply of commercial LPG filled cylinders of 19 Kgs to Police Telecommunication ACS Kashmir Zone for winter session 2025-26 for delivery at Zonal Police Telecom ACS Hqrs Kashmir near Shifa Hospital Magarmal bagh, Srinagar on day to day Govt. approved rates.

The rates quoted per cylinder should be inclusive of all taxes viz SGST/CGST and other charges viz, freight, loading, unloading as applicable under rules.

The quotation must be submitted in a sealed envelope duly marked for supply of commercial LPG filled cylinders of 19 Kgs capacity addressed to Supdt. Of Police Telecommunication ACS Kashmir and should reach this office by or before 06.11.2025 upto 1430 hours. The quotations so received will be opened on 08.11.2025 in the office of undersigned in presence of quotationers who may like to attend the opening of quotations on the scheduled date. The supply has to be made immediately on placement of supply order within the prescribed time period.

The quotations shall be accompanied with the earnest money deposit (EMD) amounting to Rs 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) in shape of CDR from any branch of J&K Bank pledged to SP Telecom ACS Kashmir Zone without which no quotation shall be accepted. The quotation received after the prescribed date and time shall not be entertained. The earnest money of unsuccessful quotations will be released within one month after the opening of the quotations, whereas, in case of successful quotationer, it will be treated as a part of security deposit and will be released after successful supply of gas during the winter session 2025-26.

**No: Q-ACSK/LPG-47/2025/9261-63 | Dated: 28-10-2025**

**Sd/- Supdt. Of Police**  
Telecommunication Acs Kashmir

**DIPK: 7597/25 | Dated: 29-10-2025**

# CS reviews different welfare measures taken for the migrant populations of J&K

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today reviewed the progress of key milestones for welfare of the migrant population of J&K in a high-level meeting of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) here.

The meeting besides ACS, PWD and Principal Secretary DMRR&R was attended by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Law; Development Commissioner (Works); Relief Commissioner; CEO, ERA and other concerned officers.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP-2015) and measures for improving service delivery to Kashmiri Migrants, Jammu Mi-

grants, and other Displaced Persons (DPs).

The Chief Secretary reviewed the physical and financial progress of Transit Accommodations under construction across the Kashmir Valley. Expressing concern over earlier delays, he directed the Department to ensure strict adherence to revised timelines for all ongoing projects.

Against the target of 688 flats for the July-September 2025 quarter, 248 units have been completed. The meeting noted that 881 PM Package employees have been handed possession so far, with additional allotments to be made upon completion of critical allied infrastructure such as boundary walls, internal roads, security pickets, and basic amenities.

To optimize utilization, the Department is examining revised allotment criteria to ensure effective use of around 1,600 un-



allotted flats at select transit sites. New projects are also being initiated, including a proposed migrant housing cluster at Village Dhar Dharchon, Jammu, where feasibility studies are underway. A major infrastructure milestone in the shape of construction of the Community Hall at Mini Township Jagti, Jammu is

progressing steadily and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2026.

The meeting finalized measures to enhance the welfare ecosystem for registered migrants. This includes integration of approximately 48,000 migrant ration cards with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) data-

base through the SMART PDS Portal, operational since August 22, 2025. Over 4,500 cards have already been integrated, with special camps being organized to expedite the process.

For comprehensive enrollment under Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme, the Relief Organization has launched a Pan-

India outreach initiative. A successful camp held in the Delhi NCR region (October 12-19) registered more than 400 new families, while further camps are planned in Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, and Chandigarh beginning October 24, 2025.

A Technical Appraisal Committee under the General Administration Department (GAD) has been constituted to vet the DPR for a new Integrated Online Services Portal. The platform will digitize migrant and DP records while offering end-to-end online services through the Relief Organisation.

Further, a feedback mechanism has been added to the RRCM Portal for migrants to record remarks on property grievance reports submitted by District Magistrates. The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, will conduct random verification of at least 50 grievances per district per

month to ensure authenticity.

In a governance reform measure, powers for issuing EWS, RBA, and Domicile Registration Certificates have been delegated to ensure prompt service delivery under the J&K Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011.

The employment component of PMDP remains a major priority, with 5,880 appointments (98%) completed against the sanctioned strength of 6,000 posts. The remaining vacancies are under active follow-up with the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and concerned departments for early advertisement and filling up.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment, the Chief Secretary directed all stakeholders to maintain focus on timely completion, transparent implementation, and sustained welfare delivery for all affected internally displaced communities under DMRR&R's purview.

## Satish Sharma lays foundation stone for key developmental projects in Tangmarg

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**TANGMARG, OCTOBER 29:** Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Transport, Information Technology, and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, today laid foundation stone for several key development projects during his visit to Tangmarg.

At Kunzer Cricket Ground, the Minister inaugurated new construction works aimed at expanding sports infrastructure in the region. He also laid foundation stones for various developmental initiatives in Sarai and adjoining areas of Tangmarg.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, along with senior officers of district administration and concerned departments.



Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is fully committed to strengthen sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kash-

mir. "Our youth possess immense talent. It is our responsibility to provide them with modern sports facilities so that they can hone their skills and bring laurels to the Jammu and Kashmir," he stated.

He further announced that an indoor sports stadium will soon be established in Tangmarg and upgradation of existing grounds and sports amenities will be taken up in a phased manner.

Highlighting the government's broader developmental agenda, the Minister said, "all ongoing projects will be completed within the stipulated time to ensure maximum benefit to the public." He also revealed that smart bus services will be introduced soon to enhance connectivity and transport facilities, particularly in remote and hilly areas.

Responding to media queries regarding the regularization of Rehbar-e-Kheel employees, Minister Sharma said that the matter is under active consideration of the government.

## Enforcement Wing inspects agri-input stores in R.S. Pura Sub Division

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**JAMMU, OCTOBER 29:** The Enforcement Wing of the Department of Agriculture today conducted a joint inspection in the R.S. Pura Sub Division particularly in the Arnia area. The inspection team was led by Assistant Director Law Enforcement Jammu Kuldeep Singh, accompanied by Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer R.S. Pura, Arun Jaral, Subject Matter Specialists Dheeraj Khajuria and Rahul Sawhney and Law Enforcement Inspector Jammu, Nazish Altaf.

The inspection was initiated following complaints from various firms regarding overcharging of fertilizers and the forcible sale of Nano Urea and Nano DAP along with other fertilizers. The team carried out surprise checks at multiple agri-input units and closely monitored the ongoing situation.

During the inspection, dealers were cautioned against violating the provisions of the Fertilizer Control Order, Seed Act and Insecticide Act.

They were instructed to desist from any



forcible sale of Nano Urea or Nano DAP to farmers and to ensure that fertilizers are sold strictly at approved rates.

Notices were served to the violators, granting them a reasonable period to rectify their deficiencies, failing which recommendations for cancellation of licenses would be made to the competent authority.

A number of farmers present at the agri-input units during the inspection were assured by the enforcement team that no coercive sale practices would be tolerated. Simultaneously, the department demonstrated the benefits of Nano Urea and Nano DAP to encourage voluntary adoption of these innovative products among farmers.

## Capacity Building Training on 'Roll-out of e-Office 2.0' held at DC Office Rajouri

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**RAJOURI, OCTOBER 29:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, a capacity building training programme on the roll-out of e-Office 2.0-up to the block and tehsil level was held at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Rajouri. The training was conducted under the close supervision of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC highlighted that the implementation of e-Office 2.0 would significantly enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in functioning of government offices. He said the system will promote a paperless environment and ensure faster processing and tracking of files and applications, thereby improving service delivery to the public.

The training session witnessed the participation of district officers, master trainers, nodal officers and e-desk officials nominated by different departments. The participants were sensitized about the features, workflow and operational procedures of the upgraded e-office platform to ensure smooth and uniform implementation across all administrative units.

The initiative marks another step towards the digital transformation of governance in the district, in line with the vision of achieving a transparent and efficient administrative setup.

## DC Srinagar visits SMHS and Super Specialty Hospitals to review Traffic Decongestion & Management measures

Takes stock of proposed plan of Nawab Bazar-Kak Saraie Corridor

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR OCTOBER 29:-** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday conducted a visit to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, Super Specialty Hospital and Dental Hospital at Shreen Bagh to assess parking facilities, explore modalities for alternate vehicular route and implement sustainable parking solutions along the corridor of main City Hospitals.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle North, Shabir Ahmad; DSP Traffic Police, Suhail Ahmad; Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Dr Andleeb; Med-

ical Superintendent, Super Specialty Hospital, Dr Rubina; Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoom; Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool, and other Officers and Engineers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took an onsite assessment for dedicated and designated parking facility and alternate vehicular route in and around the main City hospitals to prevent roadside congestion and facilitate smooth access for patients, attendants and emergency vehicles.

The DC took stock of the comprehensive plan project worked out to decongest the Nawab Bazar-Kak Saraie Corridor through the Suner Kul route, aimed at ensuring smooth ambulance and vehicular movement.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned departments



to work out the modalities and plan of the first phase focusing on

providing an alternate route and connectivity, traffic regulation, parking management and improved pedestrian movement to enhance convenience for the hospital staff, patients and attendants alike.

Emphasizing inter-departmental coordination, the DC urged the Hospital Administration, Traffic Police, and R&B department to work in synergy to streamline traffic flow in the hospital zone and ensure hassle-free access for patients and emergency vehicles.

During the visit, DC also interacted with local Residents and Traders and assured them that the District Administration is committed to improving facilities and easing traffic congestion along the heavy load hospital junction particularly from Nawab Bazar-Kak Saraie corridor.

## Kathua Admin finalises arrangements for Padyatra to commemorate Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel

DC reviews preparations for smooth conduct of the event

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KATHUA, OCTOBER 29:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of the officers from line departments to review arrangements for the Padyatra being organized on November 1, 2025 to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as part of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations.

The meeting discussed in detail key aspects for smooth

conduct of the event including route plan, security arrangements, traffic regulation, sanitation, medical aid, water supply and participation of students and citizens.

It was decided in the meeting that the Padyatra would commence from Government Degree College Boys and culminate at Government Degree College Women.

The DC directed all departments to make coordinated efforts for the successful organization of the Padyatra, emphasizing

ing that the event symbolizes the ideals of unity, integrity and national integration championed by Sardar Patel. He called for wide public participation and awareness activities to make the event more impactful.

The Education Department was asked to mobilize participation of students and NSS volunteers, while the Youth Services and Sports Department was directed to facilitate active involvement of youth clubs and sports associations. The Police



and Traffic authorities were instructed to ensure foolproof security and seamless traffic movement along the Yatra route.

The DC directed the Municipal Council to ensure cleanliness and sanitation along the route and the Health Department to deploy medical teams and ambulances for emergency support. The Information Department was asked to give adequate media coverage and highlight the message of unity and patriotism associated with the

occasion.

Earlier, Nodal Officer from GOI Khushal Gupta Deputy Director (MY Bharat, Kathua) briefed the meeting about the SOPs and protocols for the commemoration events under Sardar@150 campaign.

Among others, SSP Kathua, ADC Kathua, ACD, CPO, SDM Hiranagar, CEO, CMO, CEO MC Kathua besides officers of Youth Services & Sports and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

# NITI Aayog releases two reports under Services Thematic Series

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29** : BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, today launched two inaugural reports under the 'Services Thematic Series' which are one of the first dedicated assessments of services sector from the macro lens of output and employment.

The first report is 'India's Services Sector: Insights from GVA Trends and State-Level Dynamics,' examines national and state-level trends to understand how services-led growth is unfolding across regions and whether states with lower initial shares in services are catching up with more advanced ones, which is an important indicator of balanced regional development.

The report said that the services sector has become the cornerstone of India's economic growth, contributing nearly 55pc of national GVA in 2024-25. It also noted that the spread of services-led growth is becoming more regionally balanced.

On the other hand, inter-state disparities in the services sector shares have modestly widened, which is clear evidence that structurally lagging states are beginning to catch up. This emerging pattern of convergence suggests that India's services-led transformation is



gradually becoming more broad-based and spatially inclusive.

Highlighting the sectoral level trends, the report recommends prioritisation of digital infrastructure, logistics, innovation, finance, and skilling to accelerate diversification and transformation.

Moreover, at the state level, it recommends developing tailored service strategies based on local

strength, improving institutional capacity, integrating services with industrial ecosystems, and scaling up urban and regional service clusters.

Another report titled 'India's Services Sector: Insights from Employment Trends and State-Level Dynamics' examines services sector employment to present a multi-dimensional view of

India's services workforce across sub-sectors, gender, regions, education, and occupations.

This report goes beyond aggregate trends to reveal the sector's dual character, which is modern and high-productivity segments that are globally competitive yet limited in employment intensity, and traditional segments that absorb a large number of workers

but remain predominantly informal and low-paying.

The report highlighted that while services remain the mainstay in India's employment growth and post-pandemic recovery, challenges still persist.

Employment generation is uneven across sub-sectors, informality remains widespread and job quality continues to lag behind output growth. Basically, Gender gaps, rural-urban divides and regional disparities underline the need for an employment strategy that integrates formalisation, inclusion and productivity enhancement at its core.

To bridge this gap, the report outlined a four-part policy roadmap focusing on formalisation and social protection for gig, social protection and MSME workers, targeted skilling, and digital access to expand opportunities for women and rural youth.

It also suggests investment in emerging and green economy skills and balanced regional development through service hubs in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

By positioning the services sector as a purposeful driver of productive, high-quality, and inclusive jobs, the report underscores its centrality to India's employment transition and its pivotal role in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, the report added. UNI

## India's green building market projected to grow at CAGR of 10.50pc by FY32: Equirus Capital

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29** : India's green building market is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.50pc to reach Rs 7,46,895 crore (USD 85 billion) by FY32, according to a report of Equirus Capital.

Equirus Capital, a full-service investment bank and financial advisory firm, said that this growth is attributed to the rising investor and tenant demand for certified sustainable spaces amid limited supply. The investment firm said, "Between 2020 and H1FY25, the supply of certified green spaces entering the market was nearly three times higher than that of non-certified properties, while absorption in certified buildings was 1.75 times greater."

Equirus Capital highlighted that certified buildings offer lower operating costs, higher returns, and stronger brand and occupier value, which reflects a growing shift towards sustainable real estate across major Indian cities.

The investment firm also cited several examples illustrating the financial and operational benefits of green buildings. Highlighting the state wise trend, the report said that In Bengaluru, IGBC Platinum-Certified luxury residences achieved a 12pc resale premium contrast to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-certified office complex in Gurugram, which recorded 18pc higher rents and 10pc lower vacancy rates.

On the other hand, Developers such as Brigade Group, DLF, and Ajmera Realty are prioritising sustainable construction with projects like DLF's The Crest and Ajmera Treon achieving top-tier certifications.

Globally, India ranks third for LEED-certified spaces, supported by its climate commitment announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 to net zero emissions by 2070 and reduce carbon emissions by 50pc by 2030, the report added. UNI

## LTIMindtree secures USD 100 mln multi-year deal with leading manufacturer of chemicals and polymers

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29** : LTIMindtree, a global technology consulting and digital solutions company, today announced a multi-year, just above USD 100 million strategic investment with a US-based leading global manufacturer of chemicals and polymers, a LTIMindtree statement said.

Under this agreement, the global technology firm will deliver comprehensive IT services covering different aspects, including business applications, infrastructure operations, end-user support, software asset governance, and project execution.

Venu Lambu, Chief Executive



Officer and Managing Director of LTIMindtree, said, "This partnership reinforces LTIMindtree's role as a trusted transformation

partner driving digital innovation and enabling an AI-centric delivery model. Our focus remains on empowering our clients

to grow and thrive in a rapidly evolving industry landscape."

The partnership is specially designed to drive intelligent efficiencies, leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation, and streamlined processes. It will also emphasize enabling cost optimization, vendor consolidation, and continuous innovation to foster service delivery and deliver strategic outcomes.

"We're honored by our client's trust in LTIMindtree. This partnership underscored our shared commitment to building a future-ready IT ecosystem powered by innovation, efficiency, and excellence," said Ramesh Kannan, Chief Business Officer of Energy and Utilities, LTIMindtree. UNI

## DFS secretary administers integrity pledge to all staff



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29** : The Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), today administered the Integrity Pledge to all DFS staff. The DFS posted on X, "Today, the Secretary of Financial Services administered the #IntegrityPledge to all DFS staff, reinforcing the values of vigilance, integ-

riety, and accountability in public service. This Pledge strengthens the foundation for a more transparent and responsible India. A step forward for transparent governance."

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) is a government department under the Ministry of Finance that oversees India's banking, insurance, and pension sectors. UNI

## India's Index of Industrial Production records growth of 4.0pc in September

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29** : The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth rate for the month of September 2025 is 4.0 pc, an official statement said today.

The optimistic rate is driven by 4.8pc growth in the manufacturing sector.

'Manufacture of basic metals' and 'Manufacture of electrical components' reported growth rates of 12.3pc and 28.7pc respectively.

Moreover, the growth rate of Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity for the current month is (-) 0.4pc, 4.8pc, and 3.1pc, respectively.



The Quick Estimates of IIP stands at 152.8 against 146.9 of September 2024, and the indices of Industrial Production for Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors for the current month stand at 111.2, 154.3, and 213.3, respectively.

As per the use-based classification, the indices stand at 143.3 for Primary Goods, 122.0 for Capital Goods, 169.4 for Intermediate Goods and 197.6 for Infrastructure/ Construction Goods for the month of September.

Further, the indices for consumer durables and consumer non-durables stand at 146.5 and 141.5, respectively, the statement added. UNI

## Global public debt expected to rise above 100pc of GDP by 2029: IMF Fiscal Monitor Report

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, OCT 29** : Global public debt is projected to rise above 100pc of GDP by 2029, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fiscal monitor report today.

The IMF, an intergovernmental organization which focuses on global monetary cooperation, said, "Global growth remains lackluster, and public debt is high and rising with increasing defence spending, aging populations and higher interest rates putting additional strains on public finances."

This Fiscal Monitor report explores how enhancing spending, efficiency, and strategically reallocating resources - particularly towards infrastructure, human capital, and research and development can improve growth prospects without increasing overall spending.

"The public debt landscape is very diverse, and countries differ widely in their deficit and debt levels. Many major economies have public debt greater than (or projected to go over) 100 pc of GDP. Although the number of countries with debt above 100pc will be steadily declining in the next five years, their share in world GDP is expected to rise. Among the group of twenty, these are Canada, China, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States," it said.



These countries typically have deep and liquid sovereign bond markets and often broad policy choices, resulting in their fiscal risk being considered moderate. In contrast to these, many emerging markets and low-income

countries face tougher fiscal challenges, despite their relatively low debts.

The number of countries with public debt below 60 pc of GDP increased to more than 100 in 2021 and is projected to continue to

increase, although their GDP share in the world represents less than 30pc.

IMF noted that fifty-five countries are experiencing debt distress, despite their debt ratios often falling below 60pc of GDP.

On the revenue side, countries with insufficient tax capacity should aim at gradually surpassing tax revenues above 15pc of GDP for growth takeoff. The growth dividends from such an approach are estimated to be in double digits over the long term but unfortunately, more than seventy developing countries still have tax-to-GDP ratios below this level.

Moreover, rising debt was accompanied by falling interest rates, leading to an overall stable interest bill on the budget. Looming expenditures on defence, natural disasters, disruptive technologies, demographics, and development add to public spending demands.

All these pressures and demands came together with sharp political red lines against tax increases and diminished public awareness of fiscal limits.

The report recommends the prioritization of fiscal policy, which is crucial to support debt sustainability and prepare fiscal buffers to use in case of severe adverse shocks, including financial crises.

Fiscal policy is structural policy, and deploying it can improve growth prospects and reinforce complementarities and synergies with the private sector. The government can also change the composition of public spending while keeping the overall envelope fixed. UNI



# Suryakumar Yadav calls India's problem of plenty 'a good headache'

■ ESPNCRICINFO

**NEW DELHI:** India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav agreed that selecting a squad of 15 can sometimes get challenging, with multiple options in the race for one slot, but said that the players understand the team's needs and have their focus on one simple goal: to help India win matches.

"It's a good headache to have so many options, [whether] fast bowlers, [or] spinners," Suryakumar said ahead of the first T20I against Australia in Canberra. "From the top to No. 7, everyone is flexible; anyone can bat anywhere. It is a little difficult during squad selection, but in this team, the atmosphere is such that everyone knows that the goal is to win."

"If we want to win the match, then never mind the combination. So, even if someone has done well in the last two matches, but he is not fitting in the combination for the next game - for example, if we want to play an extra spinner or play an allrounder instead of a fast bowler - the player understands. We have reached that situation."

Suryakumar jokingly suggested that he maintains "a good friendship with everyone", making it easier to tell them when they are not playing. But he has asked all 15 members of the squad to be ready at all times.

"See, only 11 people can play, 15 cannot play, but according to me, anyone can get an opportunity at any time," he said. "In the Asia Cup, Rinku Singh did not get the opportunity till the final, but

he got a chance at such a time, when he needed 3-4 runs to win [the match] and he hit the boundary. I keep telling everyone to keep preparing and you never know when your opportunity can come. It can come in an important game; anything can happen." Suryakumar was also glad to have Jasprit Bumrah back in the India squad after the fast bowler was rested for the ODI series and expected him to be the "guy who will take charge" against Australia, particularly in the powerplay.

"As you saw in the Asia Cup, he took the responsibility of bowling two overs minimum in the powerplay," Suryakumar said. "It is good that he is raising his hand. It is going to be a good challenge against the Aussie team in the powerplay."

"The way he has played his cricket for the last so many years, he has kept himself right on the top, and he knows how to prepare for a good series. He knows how to come and play cricket here. I think he has visited this country the most of all the guys. So all of them have spoken to him. He is very open and very helpful in that, but yeah definitely when he takes the ground, starting from tomorrow, it will be a good thing. Good to have him in the squad, when we play in Australia."

India haven't had recent success in Australia. They lost the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 in December-January and then went down in the ODI series 2-1 earlier this month. But Suryakumar doesn't feel the recent losses will have any bearing on the T20I series, particularly considering India's form, having lost just two of their last 15 T20Is.

## JKAP-8th Bn to Host Volleyball Tournament Under Civic Action Programme 2025-26

■ HT SPORTS DESK

**R.S. PORA, OCT 29:** The match was played between Govt. Degree Collage R.S.Pura Vs Simbal Volley Ball Club.

The Chief organizer of the tournament (Commandant JKAP-8th Bn) while addressing the participants highlighted the role of Jammu and Kashmir Police in developing the cardio bonding and bridging the gap between Police and Public. He emphasized the role of sports in character building and for keeping the youth away from social evils.

Sh. Suram Singh, JKPS (SSP) Commandant JKAP-



8th Bn encouraged the participants to actively participate in such constructive activities and assured that the Police Department will continue to organize similar events in future too, under Civic Action Programme.

Today's match was also witnessed by a huge gathering including the staff members of the teams as well as other respectable personalities and they appreciated the efforts of JKAP 8th Battalion for providing a platform to engage youth through sports. The programme was conducted in a cordial and disciplined manner, reflecting the spirit of unity and cooperation between police and public. At the end the players were awarded individual certificates by Sh. Bhopinder Singh-DySP JKAP-8th Bn. The matches of the tournament will go ahead on regular basis and will culminate in the 1st week of November-2025. The said tournament is being held both for boys as well as for the girls. The other GOs' of the Battalion also played their roles to make the said tournament successful.

## Ashleigh Gardner ranked in top three among ODI batters, bowlers and allrounders

■ ESPNCRICINFO

**INDORE:** Ashleigh Gardner's storming Women's World Cup 2025 has put her at a level seldom, if ever, attained by any allrounder, of any gender, in any format, in the history of the sport. She sits, following the latest update to the ICC rankings, among the top three batters, bowlers and allrounders in Women's ODIs.

Gardner has been one of the most important drivers of Australia's unbeaten run in the tournament so far, scoring 265 runs at an average of 88.33 and a strike rate of 128.01, and taking seven wickets with her offspin at 30.00. Four visits to the crease have brought her two hundreds, both coming in tense situations. When she walked in against



New Zealand, Australia were 113 for 4, which soon became 128 for 5. She smashed 115 off 83 balls to lead them to a total of 326. Then, in a chase of 245 against

England, Gardner entered with Australia 86 for 4. She scored an unbeaten 104, off just 73 balls, and put on an unbroken 180 with Annabel Sutherland to clinch victory with a whopping 57 balls to spare.

Those knocks have propelled Gardner up six slots, from No. 8 to No. 2, in the latest update of the ICC's ODI rankings, with only India's Smriti Mandhana above her. Gardner has, meanwhile, kept hold of her top spot among allrounders and the No. 3 spot among bowlers.

England's Sophie Ecclestone sits on top of the bowlers' chart with Australia legspinner Alana King, who took a World-Cup-record 7 for 18 against South Africa, in a career-best second place, having shot up five spots.

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