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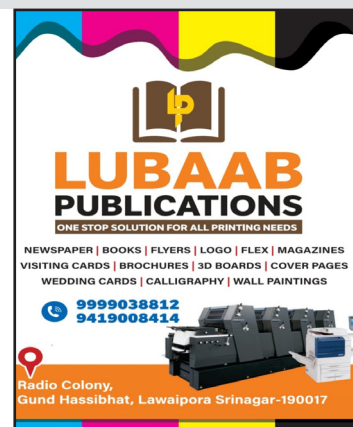
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TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



OPERATION SINDOOR: INDIA's FIERY MESSAGE TO TERROR

Indian Armed Forces Launched Devastating Counterstrike That Destroyed Multiple Terror Infrastructures in PoK: Rajnath Singh

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: "Massacre in Pahalgam was not just another act of terror, it was an assault on the soul of India. Twenty-six innocent tourists, whose only fault was to admire the beauty of Kashmir, were executed in cold blood after being asked their religion. Such barbarity once again laid bare Pakistan's deep complicity in sponsoring terrorism across the border" Defence Minister Rajnath Singh send a stern message to the neighbouring country from a rally in Bihar's Darbhanga.

But this time, India did not just mourn it acted. And it acted with precision, purpose, and unmatched resolve. Under the firm leadership of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor, a devastating counterstrike that destroyed multiple terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Defence Minister termed it as the decisive moment in India's Counter-Terror Doctrine Operation Sindoor marks a defining moment in

India's modern military history, a resolute declaration that the age of silent endurance is over. For far too long, Pakistan has operated under the illusion that it could wage a proxy war through terror and still escape consequences. Those illusions now lie buried in the rubble of its destroyed camps.

Rajnath Singh, a statesman known for his composure and conviction, channelled the nation's collective grief into a calibrated yet crushing reply. His statement that a "sizeable number of Terrorists were neutralised is a restrained acknowledgment of what insiders describe as one of India's most effective and morally grounded operations in recent times.

A Salute to the Indian Armed Forces
Behind this triumph stands the unmatched might and professionalism of the Indian Army, Air Force, and intelligence community. With surgical precision, they identified and targeted the very bases from where terror was being exported into Kashmir. The operation demonstrated India's growing ability to blend

● Turn on Page 2

More than 100 Pakistani Terrorists Eliminated During Op-Sindoor: Rajnath Singh



MHA Appoints Special Public Prosecutor for Pahalgam Terror Attack Trial

NIA Likely to File Chargesheet Soon; LeT Behind Attack That Killed 26 Tourists

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, OCT 30: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has appointed a Special Public Prosecutor to lead the trial in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack case, in which 26 people — mostly tourists — were killed at Baisaran valley near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the case, is expected to file its chargesheet within days.

According to a notification issued by the MHA, "the central government hereby appoints Mr. Shri Singh, advocate,

● Turn on Page 2

ZERO-TOLERANCE
AGAINST TERRORISM :

Two More Govt Employees Sacked for Terror Links Under Article 311

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: In a decisive action reaffirming the Union Territory Administration's Zero-Tolerance Policy Against Terrorism, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has ordered the dismissal of two government employees from service under Article 311 of the Constitution for their alleged involvement in terror-related activities.

The terminated officials include Ghulam Hussain, a teacher in the Education Department, who has been accused of acting as an Over Ground Worker (OGW) for the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit. Authorities allege that Hussain maintained close links with terrorists, facilitated their recruitment, and aided in funding activities in Reasi district.

The second employee, Majid Iqbal Dar, also a teacher and former Lab Assistant, has been accused of involvement in narco-terrorism, radicalisation

● Turn on Page 2

Uphold spirit of unity: J&K LG

Pays tribute to Iron Man of India; delegations call on Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 150th birth anniversary.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, which commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai



Patel, I extend warm greetings to the people and hope the celebration will further strengthen the spirit of oneness and peace.

Sardar Patel was the 'Architect of National Unity' and epitome of patriotism and integrity. His unwavering commitment laid the foundation of a modern India. Let us pledge to follow his ideals and uphold the spirit of unity, a

● Turn on Page 2

Govt committed to showcase brand J&K at global level: Dy CM

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Thursday launched the third edition of the 'Know Your Artisan' series under the acclaimed 'Soulful Kashmir' branding campaign at the historic Polo View Market.

Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh, was also present in the event as Guest of Honour besides Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir Mussarat Islam along with senior officials of the concerned department and artisans also attended the program.

● Turn on Page 2

CM Omar Pledges to Deliver on Every Promise Before Seeking Fresh Mandate

Says NC's Rajya Sabha Nominees Will Restore J&K's Voice in Parliament

■ DR ABDUL QAYOOM

■ HT CORRESPONDENT

HANDWARA, OCT 30: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reaffirmed that his government and the National Conference (NC) are fully committed to fulfilling every promise made to the

people of Jammu and Kashmir before seeking their mandate again. Addressing a large public gathering in Handwara, Abdullah said the NC would stand by each commitment it made before the last elections and would return to the people only after ensuring tangible results on the ground. "The promises we made to you before the elections will

all be fulfilled. Only after honouring those commitments will we come before you again to seek your trust," Abdullah declared amid applause. "Our aim is not to make empty assurances but to deliver measurable change that strengthens people's faith in governance."

The Chief Minister said the NC's priorities remain centred on ensuring fair

representation, improving livelihoods, and expanding employment opportunities. "All these are achievable only when there is true representation. We have worked hard to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir's voice is heard again in Delhi," he said.

Abdullah congratulated senior

● Turn on Page 2

BJP MLAs Walkout Of J&K Assembly Over Demand For Discussion On Floods

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: The opposition BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the Jammu and Kashmir assembly on Thursday to protest the rejection of their adjournment motion for a discussion on the situation in the aftermath of the recent floods in the Union territory.

The BJP MLAs staged a walkout after remaining standing for the entire Question Hour.

The opposition members also demanded the resignation of Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah and an apology from him for "unfulfilled promises".

As soon as the House assembled, BJP leaders stood on their feet, demanding adjournment of the Question Hour and a half-hour discussion on flood-affected areas of Jammu.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather asked the BJP members to take their seats and let the Question Hour proceed.

"We will see after Question Hour. I will allow him to speak after the Question Hour," the Speaker said.

● Turn on Page 2

Speaker permits MLAs to raise issues as special case

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather Thursday allowed the legislators to raise issues beyond the Zero

● Turn on Page 2

Legislative Assembly passes 4 Bills

Drops MLA Bandipora's amendment by voice vote

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Thursday passed four bills introduced by the government.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the "Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The Bill was moved in the House by Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar.

"A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (Act No. IX of 1989) (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 2025)," reads the Bill passed in the

House. The Bill was passed by the House through a voice vote.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the "Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Establishments (Licensing, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2025". The Bill was moved in the House by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary.

"A Bill to amend and consolidate the laws relating to regulation of employment and other conditions of service of workers employed

● Turn on Page 2

Govt. committed to strengthen Foundational Education System in J&K: Sakeena Itoo

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo addressed the Orientation Program for capacity building of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) AAYAS (helpers) at J&K State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) Bemina here today.

The programme was organised by J&K SCERT in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Association of Social Workers (JKASW) and UNICEF, under the Theme "Poshan, Pyaar Aur Parvarish - Nurturing Young Lives with Care".

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantamanu; Director General School Education

Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Secretary JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh; Joint Directors of School Education Kashmir, CEOs, ZEOs, representatives of UNICEF and J&K Association for Social Workers, Aayas from different paarts of Kashmir and other stakeholders were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds through inclusive, child-centered, and play-based learning. She added that this orientation programme is a significant step towards strengthening the foundation of quality education in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister highlighted that early education

● Turn on Page 2

Chief Secy directs for accelerated implementation of key rural development schemes

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR) Department to assess the progress of key flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), and the placement-linked skill training programme Himayat (DDU-GKY).

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Rural Development Department, Aijaz

● Turn on Page 2



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Indian Armed.....

intelligence, technology, and tactical brilliance — leaving the enemy both stunned and silenced.

This was not an act of vengeance. It was an act of justice — a message that India will defend its people and its sovereignty with both courage and conscience. The forces did not target civilians, nor did they cross the moral line; they struck only those who plotted and executed terror. That distinction defines India's military ethos — strength with restraint, power with principle.

Rajnath Singh: The Quiet Strength Behind India's Resolve

In Rajnath Singh, India has found a Defence Minister who embodies the perfect blend of firmness and foresight. His approach to national security has been clear from the start — deterrence through decisive action, but always within the bounds of ethics and international law.

He does not believe in the theatrics of war-mongering, but in the quiet assurance of capability. His leadership during Operation Sindoor has reaffirmed India's doctrine: talk peace if you can, but strike back when provoked.

A Nation That Strikes with Honour

While Pakistan continues to bleed itself through hatred and extremism, India has reaffirmed its commitment to humanity. As Singh reminded the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government does not distinguish citizens by caste or creed — whether it is welfare for farmers or assistance to women, every Indian is treated as part of one family.

That same moral compass guides India's defence policy. Even in the face of unspeakable brutality, India chose to respond decisively, not destructively. The contrast between a terrorist state and a responsible democracy could not be clearer.

The Message to the World

Operation Sindoor has done more than avenge Pahalgam. It has signaled to the world that India will neither tolerate terror nor be baited into reckless aggression. The global community has seen once again why India's military is not only mighty but also morally upright — a force that acts not out of rage, but out of righteousness.

Conclusion: Pride in Power, Faith in Leadership

As the smoke clears over the shattered terror camps in PoK, one truth stands tall: India is no longer a nation that endures injustice — it is one that answers it, with precision and principle.

Rajnath Singh's stewardship of India's defence has fortified the nation's strategic resolve and restored global respect for India's disciplined might. And as our soldiers return from yet another successful mission, the nation salutes them — and the leadership that gave them purpose.

India's enemies must remember: this is a new India — calm in peace, fierce in defence, and unshakable in its moral strength.

MHA Appoints.....

as Special Public Prosecutor for conducting trial and other matters related to NIA Case No. RC-02/2025/ NIA/JMU, on behalf of the NIA, before the NIA Special Court, Jammu, and the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification or till the completion of the trial, whichever is earlier.”

The development comes just as the 45-day extension granted to the NIA by a Jammu court on September 18 to complete its investigation is about to expire this week. Officials said the agency has examined more than 1,000 individuals, including tourists, mule and pony owners, photographers, and shopkeepers, in connection with the case.

Home Minister Amit Shah had informed Parliament on July 29 that the attack was carried out by Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The Pahalgam attack had triggered nationwide outrage, leading to a robust military response. On May 7, Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor, a series of pre-dawn strikes targeting terror camps and military installations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The appointment of a Special Public Prosecutor marks a significant step towards expediting the high-profile trial and ensuring accountability for one of the deadliest terror strikes in recent years.

Two More Govt.....

of youth, and terror financing through drug money. Officials claim that Dar maintained links with IED modules in Rajouri and continued his subversive activities even during periods of detention.

The action, officials said, underscores the administration's firm resolve to root out elements within the government system who are found aiding or abetting terrorism in any form.

CM Omar.....

party leader Chaudhary Ramzan on his election to the Rajya Sabha, describing him as the “best possible choice to represent the aspirations of the people.” He said the NC's selection of candidates reflected a conscious decision to send individuals capable of articulating Jammu and Kashmir's concerns forcefully and responsibly at the national level. “It was the need of the hour to send a strong and credible voice — someone who will not bow to pressure but will remind the Centre of our realities and our rights,” Abdullah said. “Chaudhary Ramzan is that voice.”

The Chief Minister said the NC's newly elected Rajya Sabha members would “revive Jammu and Kashmir's representation in Parliament after years of silence.”

“We have sent three great candidates to Delhi whose voices will echo where ours had gone unheard since 2022,” he said.

Abdullah accused the previous Members of Parliament of failing to represent their constituencies effectively. “We sent big names earlier, but they got affected by Delhi's pollution and their voices never reached the people,” he remarked, drawing laughter from the audience. “This time, we are confident that our representatives will raise issues with courage and consistency.”

The Chief Minister emphasised that Jammu and Kashmir requires strong representation in national institutions to safeguard its interests. “Someone must be there to remind the Centre of its commitments and the constitutional guarantees that were made to our people,” he said.

Referring to the resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly last November, Abdullah said it had reflected the collective will of the people. “That resolution, demanding the restoration of constitutional rights, was not a party decision but a people's demand,” he asserted. “It reaffirmed our unity and our determination to regain our rightful place in the democratic framework.”

Promising District Status to Handwara Omar

Abdullah said north Kashmir, particularly Handwara, has long suffered from inadequate representation in both the Assembly and Parliament.

“After 2014, Handwara's voice did not reach either the Assembly or Parliament,” he said. “Even today, the MP from Baramulla attends sessions only with the court's permission and remains disconnected from his people.”

He promised that Handwara would be granted district status once Jammu and Kashmir regains its full administrative powers. “You don't have to ask for it; it will be given. Handwara deserves that recognition, and I assure you it will happen,” he said, earning loud applause from the gathering.

The Chief Minister also welcomed former People's Conference (PC) leader Ashiq Neelum into the National Conference, describing him as “an influential political figure whose joining will strengthen the NC and bring renewed energy to north Kashmir.”

“His experience and influence will help the party grow and serve the people better,” Abdullah said.

Omar also Called for Court-Led Process in Employee Terminations Responding to reporters' questions, Omar Abdullah said the termination of government employees accused of anti-national activities should follow due legal process.

“I have always maintained that dismissals should be carried out through the court,” he said. “Everyone deserves the opportunity to defend themselves. The current practice of ending services merely on suspicion is neither fair nor sustainable.”

He said many employees terminated under suspicion were later reinstated after judicial review, which clearly demonstrated the flaws in the administrative process. “It would be better to allow the courts to identify the real culprits rather than penalising the innocent,” he added.

CM Denied Model Code Violation Charge. Asked about allegations from the Leader of Opposition that he had violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), Abdullah dismissed the claim as baseless. “I have not violated any code of conduct. These accusations are politically motivated and reflect desperation, not facts,” he said.

The Chief Minister reiterated that his government's focus remains on delivery, not distraction. “Our opponents try to provoke and divert attention, but we are focused on our promises and the people's trust,” he said.

As the gathering concluded, Abdullah reminded supporters that governance is a “sacred trust between the people and those they elect.”

“We in the National Conference understand that trust must be earned not demanded. Before we seek your votes again, we will ensure every promise is fulfilled,” he said to a standing ovation.

Uphold spirit.....

common national identity and brotherhood as a tribute to Sardar Patel.”

Meanwhile, a delegation of Dogra Samaj Trust, Mumbai led by its President Shri Krishna Pandit called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The delegation comprised of Mukesh Rishi and Priti Sapru, Film Actors; Gagan Mahotra, Vice President and Nidhi Dogra, Advisor of the Trust discussed with the Lieutenant Governor the establishment of Dogra Bhawan in Mumbai. The proposed Dogra Bhawan will act a cultural, educational and welfare hub for the members of Dogra community living in Mumbai.

The members of the delegation also put-forth several issues pertaining to promotion of business, tourism and film-related activities in Jammu Kashmir.

Baldev Raj Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi called on Lieutenant Governor.

Govt committed....

The event, organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, transformed the colonial-era landmark—renowned for its polo heritage and scenic backdrop—into a dynamic celebration of the Valley's artisanal prowess.

At the outset, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the stalls showcasing a spectrum of Kashmir's handcrafted marvels—from opulent pashmina shawls and kani brocades to intricate papier-mâché artifacts and eco-friendly namda rugs.

While speaking on the occasion, the DyCM underscored the initiative's broader significance and said that these events show the government's unwavering commitment to showcase brand J&K at the global level, preserving our rich artisanal heritage while boosting economic empowerment for our skilled craftsmen.

“By bringing these timeless traditions to the forefront, we not only honor our past but also weave a vibrant future for sustainable livelihoods,” he added.

Praising the campaign, the DyCM acknowledged that the initiative addresses modern challenges like machine-made imitations, ensuring fair opportunities especially for women-led cooperatives and forging direct market linkages to empower maximum number of artisans across the region.

He also appreciated the department for launching the event as a flagship program under the ‘Soulful Kashmir’ campaign to revive and commercialize Kashmir's world-renowned handicrafts and handlooms.

Choudhary urged all the stakeholders to get united in their support for preserving and promoting Kashmir's intangible cultural treasures.

Echoing this vision, Commissioner Secretary emphasized on intergenerational continuity and called for a future where innovation meets heritage, ensuring our youth inherit and innovate upon this legacy of excellence.

Director H&H Kashmir, highlighted the importance of ‘Know Your Artisan’ campaign, saying the series not only combats counterfeit threats and promotes GI-tagged authenticity but also fosters co-existence and harmony through our composite cultural heritage, captivating audiences while driving ‘Vocal for Local’ growth.

The Director asserted that the event would provide direct sales at fair prices not only bridged the artisan-consumer divide but also promoted ethical consumption, with proceeds directly benefiting creators.

Later, the Dy CM felicitated 11 Master Artisans, whose works embody Kashmir's living legacy and are custodian of age-old techniques.

BJP MLAs Walkout.....

However, the BJP members did not relent and continued with their demand.

“Don't you want the Question Hour,” the Speaker asked, and said, “I promise I will find some way.” Rather said the adjournment motion has been disallowed as Rule 58 (12) puts a bar on admitting an adjournment motion on a subject which has already

been disallowed in the session.

Responding to that, BJP MLA from Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia, said, “You (Speaker) had promised to allow the resolution. But, you did not keep it.” The Speaker responded by saying the resolution did not come up due to the paucity of time.

“You could have extended time yesterday,” Jasrotia said.

“You should have raised this yesterday,” the Speaker shot back.

Amid the din, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma said the August rainfall affected most areas of J&K, and the people of the Union territory have expectations with this House that the MLAs will raise their issues.

“We respected the House rules ... And followed your promises. Resolutions were managed yesterday in such a way that this important resolution did not even come up. The government seems disinterested in this important issue,” Sharma said, adding that the flood-affected victims have been disrespected.

The LoP said there should have been a discussion on the issue on the very first day of the assembly session, and accused the government of running away from a discussion.

“What does the government want to hide? A scam in PWD has been unearthed in media today. Why is the government running away? They want to hide corruption,” Sharma added.

Sharma's comments led to protests by the treasury benches. With both the treasury and the opposition members on their feet, there was uproar in the House.

Ruling National Conference (NC) MLA from Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, said the BJP members “are enacting a drama” and “wasting the time of the House”.

As the accusation and counter-accusation flew, deputy chief minister Surinder Choudhary, while pointing towards the BJP MLAs, said, “Chor machaye shor” (thieves were making noise).

Another NC MLA, Salman Sagar, asked the BJP to give an account for the ten years from 2014 to 2024 — when the BJP was in power with the PDP till 2018, and then J-K was under the Centre's rule.

As the ruckus continued, BJP MLA from Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar, tried to enter the well of the House, but was stopped by female watch and ward staff.

Two BJP MLAs, RS Pathania and Surinder Kumar, were marshalled out after jumping into the well.

As the Question Hour continued amid the noisy scenes, the BJP MLAs remained standing till its culmination.

As soon as the Question Hour concluded, the BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the House.

This was the first walkout by the MLAs in the autumn session.

The BJP MLAs shouted slogans against the government, sought an apology from CM Abdullah for “unfulfilled promises”, and also demanded his resignation. (Agencies)

Speaker permits....

Hour, terming it as a special case in light of the importance of matters raised by members.

“Today I am allowing members to raise certain important issues beyond the Zero Hour. It is a one-time exception and will not form a precedent for future proceedings,” Speaker said while allowing MLAs to speak on public issues, including the plight of flood victims of September 2025.

Emphasising upon the members to make judicious use of the limited time available, Speaker said that matters can be raised in the House in a constructive and respectful manner.

Earlier, Speaker had rejected an adjournment motion moved in by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta for a discussion on the situation in the aftermath of the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir. Citing procedural rules, Speaker said the House rules (Rule 58) do not permit an adjournment motion to be taken up after it has already been rejected once in the session.

However, he said that the entire House shares the plight of flood victims of September 2025, adding that their grievances and rehabilitation issues have to be taken up in the House and addressed with equal priority.

Later, initiating the debate, Pawan Kumar Gupta highlighted the severe damage caused by recent floods in the Jammu division, including his own constituency. He pointed out that the floods have extensively damaged houses, schools and other public infrastructure. Gupta emphasized that the relief efforts so far have been both inadequate and delayed, leaving affected people in continued hardship.

Gupta said that affected people expect their representatives to raise their concerns in the Assembly, urging that there should be a broader discussion on the issue to ensure proper rehabilitation and assistance to the victims.

MLA Tril, Rafiq Ahmad Naik while speaking on the issue urged upon the government for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure in his constituency. He also raised upgradation of school infrastructure and other issues.

MLA Kathua, Rajeev Jasrotia participating in the discussion on flood relief measures said that government should frame a comprehensive plan for providing compensation to the affected population. He urged the government to take concrete steps for permanent restoration of defunct services in his constituency.

MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani said that the Omar Abdullah government is committed to fulfil promises made with the people. He said that a proper disaster management plan will be devised to minimise the losses suffered in the event of natural calamities, ensuring better preparedness and timely response.

MLA Rajouri, Ifitikhar Ahmed raised the issue of shifting of District Hospital Rajouri, filling of vacancies and promotions in Baba Gulam Shah Badshah University, besides issue of Katra Ropeway project.

MLA Banihal, Sajad Shaheen praised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for restoring Darbar Move saying it is a symbol of cultural integration, emotional unity and regional inclusivity.

MLA Karnah, Javed Ahmed Mirchal called for the resumption of chopper services for transporting mortal remains, especially during the winter months when road connectivity to snow-bound areas remains severely disrupted.

MLA Basohli, Darshan Kumar expressed concern over the lack of adequate health facilities at the local hospital, calling for the posting of specialist doctors to ensure proper medical treatment for the people of the area.

MLA Gulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, emphasized that adequate compensation be provided to the farming community and other affected people during the recent floods.

MLA, Thannamandi, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, urged upon the government to expedite the process for

compensating people affected during recent floods, ensuring that relief reaches people in a timely and transparent manner.

MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone, demanded upgradation of health facilities and other services in his constituency.

MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram urged the government to take up the matter with the Central Government for announcing a special relief package for families affected by the recent floods.

He said the extent of damage caused by the calamity warrants a special package from the Central Government to support the affected people and help them rebuild their lives.

MLA, Samba, Surjeet Singh Slathia, demanded special package for flood victims to ensure adequate relief and compensation for the families affected by the recent floods.

He said timely financial assistance would help the affected people rebuild their homes and livelihoods and urged the government to take all necessary measures in this regard.

MLA, Billawar, Satish Sharma offered suggestions regarding the implementation of flood relief measures, noting that certain policy aspects related to residents who lost land during natural calamities may be reviewed to ensure their needs are adequately addressed.

MLA Kokernag, Zafar Ali Khatana demanded the immediate reopening of the tourist spot Sinthan Top, emphasizing its vital role in local livelihoods. He highlighted the significant loss of livestock among tribal communities who migrated for their livelihood during recent floods, pointing out that these losses have been overlooked in official assessments.

MLA, Khan Sahib, Saif-ud-Din Bhat, also demanded, for immediate opening of tourist places in his constituency, as a large number of people are dependent on tourism sector for their livelihood.

MLA, Pulwama, Waheed ur Rahman Para suggested that the government may review certain aspects of the media policy, including the empanelment of new news portals and the advertisement allocation process, to make it more comprehensive and representative.

MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, raised concern upon the reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir and called for its rationalisation in line with actual representation and population.

MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan defending the reservation policy said that it is a constitutional right of the people. He emphasized that candidates from Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) are proving their mettle in competitive exams securing top ranks, a testament to their potential and resilience.

He said that many schools in backward areas, including in his constituency, lack science streams, putting students there at a disadvantage compared to those from areas with better educational facilities.

MLA, Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh emphasized the need to protect and preserve natural resources in Jammu and Kashmir. He suggested that necessary measures be taken to prevent misuse of these resources and to ensure that local residents benefit from them in a manner that supports their livelihoods and environmental conservation.

Legislative.....

in shops and establishments and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 2025),” reads the Bill passed in the House. The Bill was passed by the House through a voice vote.

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly also passed the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Amendment Bill, 2025 in the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was moved in the House by Minister for Cooperative, Javid Ahmad Dar.

“A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 (Act No. XVII of 1989) (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 2025),” reads the Bill passed by the House. The Bill was passed by the House through a voice vote.

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Bill, 2025.

The Bill was moved in the House by Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

“A Bill to establish Rent Authority to regulate renting of premises and to protect the interests of landlords and tenants and to provide speedy adjudication mechanism for resolution of disputes and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 2025),” reads the passed Bill.

The Bill was passed by the House through a voice vote.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat had moved an amendment to the Bill seeking that “In Clause 32 (2) of the Bill, the words, “thirty days” be substituted by the words, “ninety days”. However the resolution was dropped by voice vote.

Govt. committed.....

serves as the cornerstone for cognitive, emotional and social growth, and lays the groundwork for lifelong learning and success of a child. “Early childhood care is the most formative stage in child's life and Government's vision is to ensure that every child in Jammu and Kashmir receives quality early education to instil curiosity, creativity and confidence among children”, she stated.

The Minister underlined the Government's vision to strengthen early childhood care and foundational education system in J&K, highlighting the need for trained and empathetic helpers to ensure holistic development for all children, especially those from marginalized sections. She added that orientation programmes like these are vital in realizing this goal.

While speaking on the significance of orientation programme, Minister Sakeena called upon the participants and Aayas to make most of this orientation in order to acquaint themselves about the ideals of basic education and care for early childhood. She added that the Aayas are very talented and possess high educational qualifications for nurturing and supporting young children in government institutions through improved care, nutrition and psychosocial support.

The Minister lauded the efforts of AAYAS

for working dedicatedly and honestly, highlighting that they have active role to play in advancing the objectives of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which places strong emphasis on early childhood education.

Additional Chief Secretary & Director, SCERT, Shantamanu in his address applauded the collaborative efforts of SCERT, JKASW and UNICEF, highlighting that this programme defines the commitment of department to strengthen ECCE practices across Jammu and Kashmir. He encouraged educators and caregivers to adopt innovative and inclusive teaching methodologies that align with local culture, language and community needs.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Joint Director Education, Syed Shabir highlighted broad contours of this orientation programme, adding that the focus of orientation is to improve the understanding of the participants on ECCE and roles and responsibility of ECCE AAYAS.

The orientation of Aayas was facilitated by Babra Shabir (SCERT) and Ambreen Bashir (JKASW), with a focus to improve the understanding of participants on ECCE and roles and responsibility of ECCE AAYAS.

Pertinently, this orientation of Aayas marks a significant milestone in advancing Early Childhood Care and Education across Jammu and Kashmir. The partnership among the Government, JKASW and UNICEF signals expanded opportunities for ECCE Aayas to receive specialized training and resources, ultimately benefiting thousands of young learners from vulnerable backgrounds.

The process of the cascading began with the training of 65 Master Trainers across the Kashmir division, who will train 3000 Aayas at DIET level across 10 districts commencing from 3rd November to 8th December 2025 in first Phase. JKASW with the support from UNICEF will provide the technical and logistic support to train the target Aayas during the course of training.

Chief Secy directs.....

Asad: Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; and Managing Director, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta, among other senior officers of the department.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary directed the department to adopt a mission-mode approach to ensure timely completion of all pending PMAY-G houses and to expedite the sanctioning and rollout of new placement plans under Himayat. He emphasized continuous monitoring, data-based progress tracking, and adherence to set timelines to maximize the impact of rural development interventions.

The Secretary, RDD, Aijaz Asad informed the meeting that Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 95% completion under PMAY-G. Out of a total sanctioned target of 3,34,718 houses, 3,18,542 have been completed, while 16,176 are under various stages of construction.

Of these pending houses, 6,933 are currently in progress, 1,240 at plinth level and 5,693 at lintel/roof cast level and are targeted for completion by December 31, 2025. An expenditure of Rs35.08 Cr has been earmarked for their completion.

Under the upcoming PMAY-G 2.0 phase, it was added that 5,02,101 household surveys have been conducted to identify new beneficiaries. Additionally, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has approved 5,061 houses under a special project for families affected by natural calamities. Registration for this special project is scheduled to conclude by October 31, 2025.

The Chief Secretary commended the department's significant progress in rural sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin, noting that the Union Territory is on track to achieve 100% ODF+ Model status across all villages.

DG, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, apprised that out of 6,216 villages, 6,115 have already been declared as ODF+ Model — achieving 98.38% saturation. The remaining 69 villages are expected to attain ODF+ Model status by mid-November 2025.

Verification is also advancing steadily, with 5,409 villages having successfully completed the first round of verification. Verification of all ODF+ Model villages is planned to be completed by December 2025.

The meeting also reviewed progress on the formulation of key policies, including the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Policy for Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and the Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) Policy, which will regulate and license private desludging operators across rural areas.

Under the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2025–26, the department reported the completion of 738 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) and 1,905 Community Soak Pits, strengthening the rural sanitation infrastructure.

Reviewing progress under the Himayat programme, Managing Director, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta, informed that 35,682 candidates have been trained so far, with 14,734 placed in various sectors against a sanctioned target of 81,797 trainees. The cumulative expenditure under the scheme stands at Rs318.80 Cr.

Under the revamped DDU-GKY 2.0, the scheme has an approved outlay of Rs37.64 Cr. The Himayat Mission Management Unit (HMMU) has received 68 project proposals from prospective Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and will conduct a Pre-PAC meeting in the first week of November 2025 to finalize project sanctions.

Highlighting the department's outreach initiatives, the Chief Secretary was informed that during the Seva Parv placement drive, over 125 offer letters were issued to trained candidates. A Counselling-cum-Call Centre has also been established in collaboration with IIT Jammu to enhance post-placement support and guidance.

Concluding the review, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo directed all departmental heads to maintain strict timelines, ensure real-time monitoring, and adopt accountability-driven implementation mechanisms to accelerate progress across all flagship programmes.

He underscored that the primary goal of these initiatives is to deliver tangible benefits to rural citizens and strengthen grassroots governance through efficient, transparent, and people-centric development interventions.

DC Srinagar inspects progress on Sanat Nagar Flyover

Directs for expediting completion to improve traffic flow on bypass corridor

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today conducted an onsite inspection to review the ongoing construction works on Rs 30 crore (882 meter span) Sanat Nagar Flyover, a key infrastructure project aimed at decongesting traffic on the City's busy bypass corridor.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; Executive Engineer PC-Ist, Nasir Amin; Executive

Engineer PDD, Syed Wani; Tehsildar Chanpora, Kifayat Ali and other concerned.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the pace and quality of work and took stock of the remaining ongoing works being executed on the project.

The DC was informed that over 90 percent of the work on the flyover project has been completed. The approach road from the Chanapora side has been macadamized and made motorable, while work on the Hyderpora side is in its final phase.

Executive Engineer KPDC



apprised the DC that the process of utility shifting has been already completed facilitating the timely completion of the project.

The DC instructed the concerned executing agency to complete the remaining works with accelerated pace to ensure that the flyover is fully made motorable soon.

The DC emphasized that the completion of the project will significantly improve traffic flow, ease congestion, and enhance connectivity along the Chanpora-Sanat Nagar-Hyderpora-bypass corridor and benefit the commuters and local residents alike.

Webinar on Traditional Earthquake - Resistant Buildings Held

FAROOQ RATHER

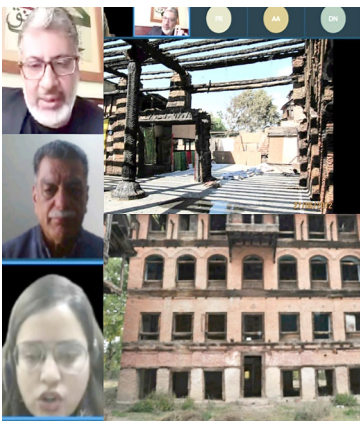
SRINAGAR, OCT 30: The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), in collaboration with the Indian Buildings Congress (J&K Chapter), organized a national-level webinar on "Earthquake-Safe Construction Practices with Focus on Traditional Taq System."

In his inaugural address, Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Head of the Resilient Infrastructure Division, NIDM, emphasized the significance of traditional and indigenous construction techniques in enhancing regional disaster resilience. He noted that such systems are also widely practiced in other earthquake-prone regions, including Himachal Pradesh and the North East.

Er. Aamir Ali, Chairman, Indian Buildings Congress (J&K Chapter), highlighted the historical evolution and durability of timber-laced masonry (Taq) structures, which have withstood several major earthquakes over the centuries. He stressed the importance of integrating traditional construction wisdom with modern engineering practices to promote safer and more sustainable buildings.

Dr. Hakim Sameer Hamdani, Design Director, INTACH Kashmir, delivered a detailed technical presentation on the Taq system, explaining how it uses brick, clay mortar, timber, and stone in a composite design. The embedded timber lacing, he said, ties the walls together, providing ductility and enabling the structure to flex and absorb seismic shocks.

The webinar drew participation from over 100 academicians, engineers, architects, students, and members of the Indian Buildings Congress from across the country. The session was moderated by Azra Mahwash, Consultant, NIDM, and co-moderated by Prateek Roshan, Consultant, NIDM.



Omar Hails Ch. Ramzan's Rajya Sabha Nomination as Reward for Loyalty and Service

Says Delimitation Cut 20,000 Votes from Handwara; Ramzan Lost by Only 600

DR. AB. QAYOOM

HANDWARA, OCT 30: Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah on Thursday described senior party leader Chaudhry Mohammad Ramzan's nomination to the Rajya Sabha as a recognition of his decades-long loyalty and dedicated service to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing a public gathering in Handwara, Omar said the decision to send Ramzan to the Upper House was based on merit, commitment, and seniority. "There are many capable people in our party, but Chaudhry Mohammad Ramzan was chosen because of his capability, seniority, close relationship with the people, and unshakable loyalty to the National Conference," Omar said. "Whether he wins or loses an election, he has always stood with the people and the party." The Chief Minister noted that Handwara constituency was among the areas most affected by the recent delimitation, which he said cut nearly 20,000 votes from Ramzan's traditional strongholds. "Even after such a major cut, he lost by only 600 votes," Omar said. "If just 300 more votes had been in his favor, he would have been the MLA, perhaps even a minister in my government." Omar said the nomination was not only a tribute to Ramzan's perseverance and humility but also a message to party workers that the NC values loyalty and consistency. Highlighting the NC's tradition of sending strong voices from Jammu and Kashmir to Delhi, Omar remarked that from Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah to Dr. Farooq



Abdullah and now himself, the party has always ensured that J&K's concerns are raised at the highest level. "We have always sent our best people to Delhi to represent our state, but some of them got affected by Delhi's pollution and lost touch with their roots," he said, drawing laughter from the crowd. The Chief Minister expressed hope that the newly elected three Rajya Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir would continue the legacy of representing the people with honesty and conviction.

Reiterating the NC's commitment to fulfill its election promises, Omar said the government is focused on substance over slogans. "We are a promise-making party, and we will fulfill every promise we made to the people," he said. Omar also emphasized youth empowerment, education, and collective responsibility among party workers. "We take tough and timely decisions because we are responsible to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We do not shy away from challenges; we face them with resolve," he added.

National workshop on sharda script begins at KU

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: The Department of Persian, University of Kashmir (KU), commenced a 15-day National Workshop on Sharda Script (Basic Level) at the Main Campus.

The workshop aims to familiarise participants with the fundamentals of the ancient Sharda script, promote its preservation, and encourage research on Kashmir's rich manuscript heritage.

The event is sponsored by the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India under Gyan Bharatham initiative. The workshop will continue till November 11, featuring expert sessions on the fundamentals of Sharda script, manuscript preservation, paleography, and transcription techniques.



Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said that the University remains committed to preserving and promoting India's linguistic and cultural heritage.

"The Sharda script holds immense historical and cultural value for Kashmir. By reviving interest in it, we are not only safeguarding a tradition but also reconnecting with a vital part of our identity," she said.

Shri Samar Nanda (IAS), Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Gol, and Dr. Anirban Dash, Director, NMM, Ministry of Culture, in their virtual addresses, commended the University's initiative and emphasised the need to train young scholars in traditional scripts to expand manuscript research in India.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that the workshop provides a platform for scholars and students to engage with one of the oldest writing systems of the region and understand its relevance in contemporary manuscript studies.

Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in preserving ancient scripts and manuscripts, noting that such efforts strengthen academic and cultural linkages across institutions.

Dean, School of Arts, Languages & Literature KU, Prof. Aejaz Mohammed Sheikh, said that learning the Sharda script opens up a new dimension for understanding Kashmir's intellectual history, while Dr. Dharminder Kumar, Director, LD Institute of Indology, University of Ahmedabad, spoke about the wider significance of documenting Sharda manuscripts.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Head, Department of Persian KU, Prof. Jahangir Iqbal, said that the workshop aims to build a foundation for future research in the field of manuscript studies and script revival.

The inaugural event was attended by deans, heads of departments, faculty members, scholars, and students of the campus. The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Shadab Arshad, faculty at Department of Persian KU while vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Shah Nawaz Shah, faculty at Department of Persian KU.

Kulgam Police Commemorates 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with Awareness Events Across District

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, OCT 30: To mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Kulgam Police, under the directions of SSP Kulgam Shri Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), organized a series of awareness programmes and community activities across the district. As part of the commemoration, a cleanliness drive was conducted at various locations, along with an essay competition at Government Degree College D.H. Pora, a drug awareness programme at Public Mission School Yaripora, and an awareness session on new criminal laws at Police Station Manzgam.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from police officers, senior citizens, students, teachers, and local community members, who paid rich tributes to Sardar Patel and



reflected on his remarkable role in uniting the nation.

On the occasion, officers of Kulgam Police sensitized participants about the ill effects of drug abuse and emphasized the importance of youth engagement in nation-building. They also reaffirmed the department's commitment to eradicate the menace

of drugs through strict enforcement and continuous awareness initiatives.

Kulgam Police reiterated its dedication to the vision and ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, pledging to continue efforts toward promoting peace, harmony, national integration, and stronger police-public relations for a better and drug-free Kulgam.

Guardians Lauded as Young Voices Spotlight Police, Armed Forces in Nation Building at Bhalra Debate

AMIR IQBAL KHAN

BHADERWAH, OCT 30: Echoing with patriotic fervour and impassioned oratory, PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Bhaderwah, came alive today as students locked horns in a dynamic debate competition themed "Role of Police/Armed Forces in Nation Building." The event, steered by J&K Police District Doda in partnership with the school and NCC Wing of 10 J&K BN NCC Bhaderwah brought together students, NCC cadets, educators and dignitaries to highlight the tireless contribution of India's uniformed guardians.

The debate started with a warm welcome from Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul, Associate NCC Officer, who set the tone by underscoring how the police and armed forces anchor national security, uphold stability and foster communal harmony. "They stand guard to ensure

our progress sails smoothly," Dr. Koul pointed out.

In a keenly contested battle of words, participants stepped up to the podium and spoke out with conviction, reflecting both discipline and unyielding patriotic idealism. Adjudicators Om Parkash (Sr. Lecturer) and Wasim Qazi (Master) adjudged passionate arguments before declaring Cadet Arya Veer Kotwal and Cadet Kush Kumar joint winners. Riya Rani clinched the second position while Cadet Riya Kotwal stood third, each earning thunderous applause for their spirited performances.

Speaking on the significance of the occasion, Chief Guest Ms. Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, Vice Chairperson, District Development Council Doda hailed the collaborative effort. "Our Police and Armed Forces keep the wheels of peace and development turning. It is heartening to see the youth speaking up for their role

in nation-building," she remarked urging students to carry forward the legacy of service and vigilance.

Satish Kumar Principal of the institution felicitated the winners lauding the seamless coordination between J&K Police and the NCC in "carving out disciplined, aware and conscientious citizens." He called upon students to draw inspiration from the sacrifices and commitment of the country's defenders.

The programme was conceived by Sub Inspector Khem Raj and coordinated by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul under the guidance of Irshad Ahmed (I/C Principal) along with Dr. Nitan Singh Kotwal proposing a heartfelt vote of thanks. As trophies, certificates, and refreshments were handed out, the participants heaved a renewed sense of duty and national pride in their hearts standing testament to the enduring role of the police and armed forces in shaping the nation's destiny.

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for celebration of upcoming Prakash Diwas of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 30: In connection with celebrations of Prakash Diwas of Guru Nanak Dev Ji being celebrated on 5th November, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Thursday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the arrangements being made by all line Departments aimed to ensure smooth and seamless conduct of the celebrations marking the 556th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Af-

tab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; ACR, Umar Gulzar; Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah; SE Hydraulics, Exen KPCL, Dy SP Traffic, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, and other senior Officers.

Members of the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee were also present in the meeting who briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the requirements for the occasion.

At the Outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of arrangements related to cleanliness & sanitation, parking & traffic management,



water and power supply, medical facilities, and other necessary logistics to ensure the seamless celebration of the Prakash Diwas.

The DC emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance. He directed the Officers of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to carry out special sanitation drives at Gurdwara Chhatti Padshahi, Rainawari and other prominent Gurdwaras in the City. He further asked for taking elaborate measures to curb dog menace around the Gurdwaras.

The Traffic Police Depart-

ment was asked to chalk out a comprehensive traffic management and parking plan to avoid congestion near prominent Gurdwaras, including Gurdwara Chhatti Padshahi, Rainawari.

Similarly, the KPDC and Jal Shakti Department were instructed to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply during the celebration days, while the Health Department was told to deploy medical teams with ambulances at the venue.

During the meeting, the DC issued directions to the concerned Officers to ensure that all kinds of facilities are made available on the auspicious occasion.

DC Kulgam flags-off farmers on exposure visit to Palampur Agriculture University

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today flagged off a group of 47 progressive farmer-entrepreneurs on a six-day exposure-cum-training programme under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) 2025-26.

During the tour, the farmers will visit Palampur Agriculture University (HP) to upgrade their skills and technical know-how regarding the commercial promotion of medicinal plants like lavender, as well as cluster-based floriculture entrepreneurship aimed at generating employment opportunities for unem-



ployed youth.

While interacting with the farmers, the DC said that the objective of the tour is to make them aware of the latest technical advancements and progressive farming practices being adopted in the medicinal plants and floriculture sectors.

On the occasion, the Chief Agriculture Officer advised the participants to share and disseminate the knowledge gained during the tour among fellow farmers back home, enabling them to adopt modern agricultural techniques to improve their yields and income in these sectors.

The District Agriculture Officer, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer, SMS (SDL), Agriculture Extension Officers, and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

FSW of D&FCO issues prohibition orders to 5 butchers for Violating FSS Rules & Regulations

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Ensuring strong cognizance of the Hygiene and Sanitary violations by the Retail Meat Shops, the Food Safety Wing (FSW) of the Drugs and Food Control Organization (D&FCO), J&K has taken strict action against 05 fresh meat sellers who were found keeping carcasses of meat hanging outside

the shops at Hazooribagh and Nowgam by issuance of prohibition orders by Designated Officer in District Srinagar.

These Butchers were found repetitive offenders violating the FSS Rules and Regulations, despite being given warnings and sufficient time period in previous inspection drives. Under these orders, the sale and slaughtering activities within their shops have been pro-

hibited until further notice.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, Smita Sethi, chaired a meeting with the Kashmir Butchers Association, led by its President, Khazir Mohammad Regoo, along with other office bearers.

The association members were briefed about the issues at hand which mainly related to sanitary and Hygienic conditions to be

followed by the retail meat shops as mandated under Schedule IV of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses), Regulations 2011.

During the meeting, the Association also submitted their representation of the issues faced by them and they requested the authorities to grant an additional grace period of 15-day to

implement all hygienic and sanitary requirements mandated under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 which was granted on the condition that, upon its expiry, strict action shall be initiated against any defaulters as per the relevant provisions of the FSS Act which may include suspension and cancellation of licenses other than penal action as per the Act.

ADC Budgam Reviews Arrangements for Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pad Yatra

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 30: In connection with the celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), being observed across the country on October 31 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, today convened a meeting of officers to review the arrangements for the Pad Yatra being organised in the district.

The Pad Yatra, scheduled to be held tomorrow, will commence from the parking space of the Municipal Council Budgam and culminate at the DC Office Complex, Budgam. The event aims to pay tribute to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a decisive role in uniting the country and laying the foundation of a strong and integrated nation.

During the meeting, the ADC took a comprehensive review of all arrangements including route management, traffic regulation, security deployment, medical facilities, sanitation, water supply, public address systems, and overall logistics. He emphasized on ensuring active participation of students, youth clubs, government employees,



and civil society members to make the event more vibrant and impactful.

The ADC directed all concerned departments — Police, Municipal Council Budgam, Education, Health, Youth Services & Sports, and Information — to work in close coordination to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the Yatra. He instructed the Police Department to deploy adequate personnel along the route and regulate vehicular movement during the event, while the Health Department was asked to keep medical teams and ambulances ready to tackle any emergency

situation.

Highlighting the significance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, the ADC said the day serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the nation's collective commitment to unity, integrity, and security, inspired by the ideals and vision of Sardar Patel. He urged all participants to take part with enthusiasm, discipline, and patriotic spirit, reflecting the essence of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."

The ADC also reviewed the arrangements for administrative supervision, cultural performances, and awareness activities that will be held as part of the celebrations to spread the message of national unity among the younger generation.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Budgam, Assistant Commissioner Development (ADC), District Information Officer (DIO) and senior officers from Police, Municipal Council Budgam, Education, and other concerned departments.

The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Budgam are expected to witness enthusiastic participation from students, officials, and local residents, symbolizing the spirit of harmony, brotherhood, and national integration.

District Level Training on IHIP under IDSP held at Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, OCTOBER 30: A day-long training programme on Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) under the Integrated Disease Surveillance programme (IDSP) was organized by the Department of Health at Shopian today, aiming to strengthen disease surveillance and reporting mechanism across the district. During the training, health officials and field functionaries were sensitised about the effective use of the IHIP portal for timely reporting, data management and analysis of communicable diseases.

Chief Medical Officer, Shopian, Dr. Arshid Hussain Tak emphasized the need for regular updation of surveillance data and coordination between field staff and health Institutions for prompt disease control measures.



State Surveillance Officer, Dr. Hashmat Sultan, while appreciating the health functionaries of district Shopian for its best performance, stated that the IHIP initiative is a major step towards strengthening the district's public health surveillance system, enabling early detection of disease outbreaks, prompt response and evidence-based decision-making.

Resource persons highlighted the importance of early detection, rapid response and accurate data entry in preventing outbreaks and ensuring better public health outcomes, with modules on data entry, validation, dashboard use, outbreak alerts and inter-departmental coordination mechanisms.

The programme is part of ongoing efforts to modernize the health information system and ensure efficient data reporting at all levels. The trainers stressed on timely and accurate reporting of health events through IHIP which will play a crucial role in disease prevention and control.

Officials from the District Surveillance Team, Block-level Surveillance Teams and other concerned attended the training.

Two-Day District Level Youth Festival Begins in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: The District Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar kick started a two-day Inter-Zonal District Level Youth Festival for the year 2025-26 under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) initiative at Government Girls Higher Sec-

ondary School (GHSS) Zaidial.

Participants from all eight sports zones across Srinagar are taking part in the festival, with over 150 young individuals showcasing their talents across a wide range of activities, including declamation, story writing, painting, poetry writing, folk singing and dancing, and an innovative



science mela.

An atmosphere filled with enthusiasm and creativity marked the beginning of the festival as participants took a pledge to contribute to a Nasha-Mukt (drug-free) India.

The event aims to nurture leadership qualities, cultural awareness, and scientific curiosity among the youth.

JKTPO organizes Export Awareness cum E-Commerce On-boarding Drive at Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) today organized an Export Awareness cum E-Commerce On-boarding Drive as part of its annual activity calendar for the year 2025-26.

The workshop, held in collaboration with the District Administration Srinagar, One District One Product (ODOP) Team, Department for Promotion

of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and Government e-Marketplace (GeM), aimed to empower local MSMEs, artisans, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and entrepreneurs by providing them with crucial insights into export schemes, policies, and the growing opportunities in digital commerce.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager, JKTPO, Shahid Ali Beigh, highlighted the piv-

otal role of JKTPO in facilitating district-level interventions to promote ODOP sellers and enhance their access to e-commerce platforms. He stressed that such initiatives are key to realizing the vision of transforming every district into a vibrant export hub.

Senior Consultant, GeM, Maqbool Shah, gave a detailed presentation on the functioning of the GeM portal, explaining the documentation process, registration procedure, and the range of benefits available to

sellers once onboarded.

Similarly, Dr. Azra Mufti, Business Development Consultant, APEDA, shed light on the role of APEDA in promoting agricultural and processed food exports, while elaborating on the mandatory requirements for exporters to register with the authority.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from over 120 participants, including artisans, exporters, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

from Srinagar district. The participants actively engaged in discussions and expressed keen interest in registering their products on the GeM platform to expand their business reach.

The drive forms part of JKTPO's larger initiative under the District as Export Hub Scheme and ODOP programme, which seeks to enhance market linkages, boost exports, and ensure that local producers gain direct access to national and global markets through digital trade platforms.

The workshop also featured expert-led technical sessions on various topics such as export financing options, credit risk insurance schemes, branding strategies for international markets, and leveraging digital tools for global visibility.

It was informed that similar workshops and outreach programmes are being planned across all districts of the Union Territory to strengthen the export ecosystem and build the capacity of local entrepreneurs to explore

global trade opportunities.

Srinagar district, renowned for its world-famous Kashmiri Silk Carpets, Papier Machie, and Walnut Wood Carvings, has these crafts identified under the ODOP initiative by the District Administration in collaboration with the Handicrafts Department.

The event was attended by Assistant Director Handicrafts, Srinagar, along with officers from the District Administration, representatives from JKTPO, and other concerned departments.

Javid Dar inaugurates Mission YUVA Model SBDU at Baramulla

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 30: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Pan-chayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated the Mission YUVA, Model Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) here today, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, self-employment, and youth empowerment across the district.

MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Director Employment cum Mission Director Mission YUVA, besides officers, entrepreneurs, and a large gathering of locals were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said that the establishment of the Mission YUVA SBDU at Baramulla marks a major step towards empowering youth with access to guidance, training, and financial linkages for starting their own ventures. He said that the government is committed to nurture entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities through innovative schemes and institu-



tional support.

The Minister further said that the SBDU will serve as a one-stop support hub for entrepreneurship, offering services like business advisory, DPR preparation, credit facilitation, and capacity-building programs. He urged the youth to make full use of the Mission YUVA platform to convert their ideas into successful business en-

terprises and contribute to the region's economic growth.

MLA Baramulla, in his address, commended the government's efforts towards youth empowerment and lauded the district administration for implementing initiatives that encourage innovation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. He emphasized that the Employment department

should organize more awareness programmes under Mission YUVA to reach out to unemployed youth and motivate them to avail the benefits of such schemes.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, in his remarks, said that the district administration is fully committed to support aspiring entrepreneurs by providing timely assistance, mentoring, and

convergence of departmental schemes to ensure better outcomes.

Director Employment cum Mission Director Mission YUVA highlighted that the program aims to create a robust ecosystem for entrepreneurship by offering end-to-end support from idea generation and project planning to financing and capacity building, enabling youth to build sustainable livelihoods.

Earlier, the Minister inspected various stalls installed by young entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA, showcasing their innovative products, business ideas, and services. He interacted with the beneficiaries, appreciated their entrepreneurial spirit, and assured full government support to strengthen local enterprise development.

The Minister also distributed cheques worth 23 lakh among selected entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA and handed over sanction letters to ten beneficiaries for establishing new enterprises. Certificates were also distributed among entrepreneurs who successfully completed the Hybrid Capacity Building Training Course under the Mission.

Mega Fruit Mandi on 300 Kanals being established in Kulgam: Agriculture Minister

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Minister for Agriculture Production, Javid Ahmad Dar today said that a mega fruit mandi at Aar Mohala, Kulgam on 300 kanals is being established and the transfer of land in favour of the department is under process.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi regarding compensation for crop losses to farmers in Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the department has already established two Fruit and Vegetable Markets in the district Anantnag, at Batengo and at Jablipora, which are functional and adequately cater to the marketing needs of the growers and traders of the entire district. He also added that in Kulgam district one mandi namely Apni Mandi has been established at Nunmai, which is at developmental stage.



WMDA, Ganderbal Police conduct sanitation drive around Manasbal Lake

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

MANASBAL (GANDERBAL), OCTOBER 30: The Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA), in collaboration with the District Police Ganderbal, today conducted a mega sanitation drive around the picturesque Manasbal Lake to promote cleanliness, environmental conservation, and community aware-



ness among people.

The drive was aimed to preserve the lake's ecological balance and sensitize locals and visitors about the importance of maintaining a pollution-free environment so that tourist get a pollution free experience.

Officers and officials of the WMDA, Police, residents and volunteers participated enthusiastically in the cleanliness campaign, which covered the lakefront, Manasbal Park and adjoining pathways.

CEO, WMDA, Ahsanul Haq Chishti said that the sanitation drive is part of the ongoing conservation and rejuvenation programme being implemented to protect Manasbal Lake. He appreciated the active participation of District Police Ganderbal and the local community for their valuable contribution towards maintaining the lake's pristine charm.

He also urged citizens to adopt sustainable waste management practices and to take collective responsibility for keeping Manasbal Lake clean, vibrant, and ecologically healthy for tourists to make their visits memorable.

DC Pulwama reviews progress of RDSS Stresses timely execution of projects

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting at Administrative Complex Pulwama to review the progress of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district. During the meeting, the DC reviewed the progress achieved under various components of the RDSS including feeder segregation, augmentation of sub-stations, erection and metering. A detailed presentation was presented highlighting the physical and financial progress, timelines of ongoing works, and the status of tendered and completed projects across different divisions. The DC emphasized the importance of expediting all works under RDSS to ensure reliable and quality power supply to consumers. He directed the concerned officers to adhere to stipulated timelines, maintain proper coordination with the executing agencies, monitor daily progress and resolve bottlenecks, if any, on priority. The DC Directed Project Implementation Agency (PIA) PGCIL



and TKC to prepare an action plan for daily monitoring of execution and submit daily progress report.

The DC further instructed the field staff to ensure public convenience during implementation and to carry out site inspections for monitoring work quality and safety compliance.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Executive Engineer KP-DCL Division Pulwama and Awantipora; Executive Engineer, STD, Pulwama, and representatives from Project Implementing Agency, Project Monitoring Agency along with sub-let contractors.

JKEDI Pulwama Organizes Felicitation Ceremony for ESDP Trainees at ITI Pampore

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 30: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Pulwama today organized a felicitation ceremony at ITI Pampore to felicitate the aspiring entrepreneurs who successfully completed their four-week Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Program (ESDP).

The event was attended by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pul-

wama; Raiyees Manzoor, Superintendent, ITI Pampore, Er. Ejaz Ahmad, Assistant Faculty, JKEDI along with other faculty members from ITI Pampore.

The training program, aimed at equipping participants with essential entrepreneurial and managerial skills, was conducted under the ongoing initiative to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among youth.

During the ceremony, training certificates and other benefits were



distributed among the trainees who successfully completed the program. The participants were encouraged to utilize the knowledge and skills gained during the training to establish their own ventures and contribute to the local economy.

The event concluded with an interactive session, where trainees shared their experiences and expressed gratitude to JKEDI and ITI Pampore for providing them with a valuable learning platform.

DLSA Budgam organizes awareness Program on ADR and other Legal Schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, OCTOBER 30: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, organized an Awareness Programme on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Rights of Senior Citizens, and the Ill Effects of Child Marriage and Child Labour in collaboration with Government Higher Secondary School, Gogipathri Nilnag, Chadoora.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabasum, under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, O.P. Bhagat, and the active guidance of Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak. Secretary, DLSA Budgam, was the Chief Guest on

the occasion. In her address, she deliberated upon the key themes of the programme and highlighted that the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism primarily aims to provide a swift, cost-effective, and non-adversarial method for resolving disputes through mutual consent, cooperation, and understanding between parties. She emphasized that ADR helps reduce the burden on the judiciary while ensuring fair, accessible, and efficient delivery of justice.

Speaking about the Rights of Senior Citizens, she underlined the importance of protecting and promoting their welfare, dignity, and security in old age by shielding them from neglect, abuse, and exploitation. She emphasized that these rights aim to enhance the physical,

emotional, and social well-being of senior citizens, preserve their independence, and encourage their active participation in community life, enabling them to live with respect, comfort, and self-worth. She encouraged participants to adopt and promote ADR mechanisms as effective tools for dispute resolution.

The District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, deputized Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel as resource persons for the programme. They delivered insightful presentations on various legal schemes and sensitized participants about their objectives and implementation.

In his address, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, elaborated on the concept of mediation,

describing it as a voluntary, confidential, and cooperative process of dispute resolution. He explained that mediation involves a neutral third party, known as the mediator, who assists disputing parties in reaching a mutually acceptable settlement. Unlike a judge or arbitrator, the mediator does not impose a decision but facilitates communication, promotes understanding, and guides parties toward an amicable resolution. He emphasized that the primary objective of mediation is to ensure a fair, speedy, and cost-effective resolution of disputes while preserving relationships, maintaining confidentiality, and fostering mutual respect. He also highlighted the importance of pre-institution mediation, arbitration, and other non-litigious

methods as effective tools for promoting peaceful and efficient dispute resolution. Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Budgam, spoke on the Rights of Senior Citizens. He stressed the importance of safeguarding the dignity, welfare, and legal rights of elderly persons, highlighting the provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. He explained that this law ensures social and economic security for senior citizens by placing a statutory duty on children and legal heirs to provide maintenance and by facilitating the establishment of old-age homes and welfare measures. He urged society to show greater compassion, respect, and care toward the elderly, recognizing them as valuable members of the community who deserve

protection and support in their later years. He emphasized that older persons should have the opportunity to realize their full potential and access the educational, cultural, spiritual, and recreational resources of society. He underscored that senior citizens deserve to live in dignity and security, free from exploitation and any form of abuse.

He further referred to recent Supreme Court judgments affirming that tribunals established under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 possess the authority to order the eviction of children or relatives who neglect their senior citizen parents. The Court has also ruled that such tribunals can revoke property transfers, including gift deeds, if the recipient fails to fulfill their duty of

care. These rulings, he noted, reaffirm that laws concerning the welfare of senior citizens must be interpreted liberally to uphold their right to dignity, care, and secure living. Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, also addressed the gathering. He emphasized the ill effects of child marriage and child labour, highlighting their grave consequences and the need for strong legal safeguards to protect children. He pointed out that child marriage deprives children, especially girls of their right to education and health, leading to early motherhood, domestic violence, and emotional distress. Similarly, child labour exposes children to exploitation, physical and mental harm, and denies them the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe environment.

HT EDITORIAL

Avoid unnecessary blowing of sirens on roads

Some years back the Supreme Court of India issued directions seeking minimal use of the sirens by the government vehicles running on the roads across the country. The apex court had in fact made clear that sirens can be used by the ambulances while ferrying patients from one place to hospital or from one hospital to another hospital. It was observed that the unnecessary blowing of sirens impedes the movement of ambulances.

The apex court also observed that sirens can be used in some other situations but the condition for the same is that the situation should be of a dire nature or emergency. The directions might have been used in the different parts of the country but as far as the Kashmir valley is concerned there are very few takers. Every now and then there is blowing of sirens by official vehicles on the roads and as a result of the same the purpose of blowing sirens is not met.

In such a situation the blowing of a siren by an ambulance gets neglected by the motorists and the drivers pay no consideration. This often results in delay of arrival of a patient to a hospital and there are occasions when the same turns out to be fatal. Most of the drivers driving the official vehicles are not aware about the directions of the apex court or they violate the norms according to their own wish. These people need to be made aware about the importance of the blowing of a siren.

The official as well as other motorists should be counselled for minimizing the usage of sirens and it should be made clear to them that any violation in this regard would attract severe punishment. It is imperative to impose a penalty or take punitive action against the drivers found to be breaking the rules. Since law is equal for one and all it must be ensured that nobody takes the law into his or her hands. It is also important to impart education to the legislators in this regard.

Since each and every conscious citizen wants to follow the rules and regulations it should be kept in mind that the traffic rules and regulations are followed in letter and spirit. The motorists as a whole, especially those driving the official vehicles should give way to the ambulances so that there is no delay in the arrival of patients to the different hospitals.

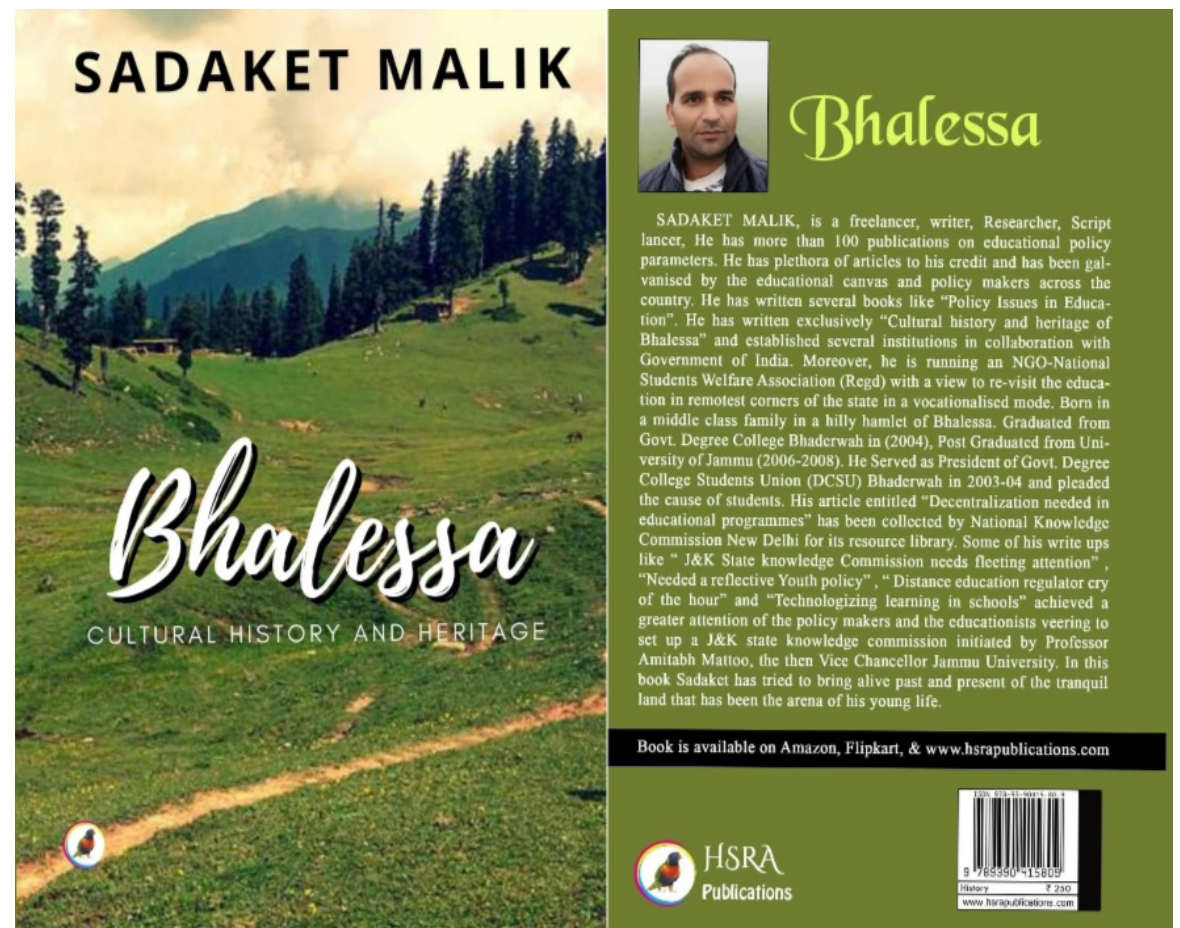
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Book Review: Bhalessa Cultural Heritage and History by Sadaket Ali Malik



Mohammad Arafat Wani

In our era, in the neglected creases of the Himalayas, amidst whispering jungles and concealed ridges of Jammu and Kashmir, another such voice has been heard. Sadaket Ali Malik, a boy of the land from the distant hills of Doda, has written not only a book but a cultural declaration. His book Bhalessa Cultural Heritage and History, brought out in 2021 by HSRA Publications (ISBN: 9789390415809), is a candle of remembrance and reclamation. In 164 pages, he has done what decades of neglect by the state and absence from academia could not. He has imparted identity, clarity, and dignity to Bhalessa. The book does not aim at fame through polemic. It does not scream. It breathes with sagacity, recalls with fidelity, and summons attention with the soothing authority of truth



There have been very few occasions throughout the ages when the written word has moved beyond the role of recalling events and actually turned into a sacred vessel of remembrance, revolution, and continuity of culture. Such literature has not only reflected the past; it has shaped the collective psyche of civilizations. While Abul Fazl compiled the Ain-i-Akbari, he was not merely collating facts on the Mughal Empire. He created a vibrant edifice of rule and culture, demonstrating the intellectual strength of his era. When Al-Beruni traveled along the Indian subcontinent, his book Kitab fi Tahqiq ma'lil-Hind came to be a lasting record of cultural dialogue, presenting an unprecedented window into Indian philosophy and science with modesty and accuracy. And when Kalhana wrote Rajatarangini, he added to historical recounting poetry, spiritual depth, and human feeling, weaving a tapestry of Kashmiri past that lives through centuries. They were not professional chroniclers but visionaries by vocation. Their writings were acts of obligation issuing from the conviction that civilizations are lost not by conquest but by forgetting.

In our era, in the neglected creases of the Himalayas, amidst whispering jungles and concealed ridges of Jammu and Kashmir, another such voice has been heard. Sadaket Ali Malik, a boy of the land from the distant hills of Doda, has written not only a book but a cultural declaration. His book Bhalessa Cultural Heritage and History, brought out in 2021 by HSRA Publications (ISBN: 9789390415809), is a candle of remembrance and reclamation. In 164 pages, he has done what decades of neglect by the state and absence from academia could not. He has imparted identity, clarity, and dignity to Bhalessa. The book does not aim at fame through polemic. It does not scream. It breathes with sagacity, recalls with fidelity, and summons attention with the soothing authority of truth.

Bhalessa is not merely a place within the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a cultural landscape made invisible in official discourses, overlooked by schoolbooks, and ignored by developmental imaginations. But in its silence there is a civilization. This land finds voice through the words of Sadaket. Not as relic or museum artifact, but as living, throbbing, changing part of India's soul. Malik is no detached observer. He is Bhalessa's witness, its chronicler, its champion. He brings not just scholarship but belonging. As a writer, teacher, social reformer, activist, he has the experience to combine narrative with the passion of justice and the elegance of perception.

The early chapters of the book describe Bhalessa's geography, but this is not dry reportage. Each riverbed, hill, forest, and valley is given the status of a character in a sacred narrative. One does not learn about Bhalessa. One starts sensing it. Its tough landscape, previously considered peripheral, is presented as being at the heart of the resilience and rhythm of its people. Nature in Malik's prose is alive. Not landscape, but lifeblood.

What ensues is a smooth and well-thought-out voyage through layers of time, society, and spirituality. The book moves with grace from historical roots to modern-day socio-political issues. It ventures into administrative frameworks, communal dynamics, and the evolving nature of education. It ventures into the forgotten and existing cultural heritage of the people — their music, language, customs, and conflicts. Malik does not simply chronicle. He crafts an experience. Every chapter succeeds the previous one with the narrative structure of a symphony where data intersects devotion and facts are contained in feeling.

Central to this work is Malik's respect for the intellects and souls that were born in Bhalessa. The book is a literary shrine to the intellectuals, teachers, and religious leaders who defined the identity of the land in spite of its marginalization. From Prof Umar Din to Ghulam Rasool Azad, from Munshi Muhammad Anwar to Ghulam Nabi Azad, Malik brings to life their memories. Most touching is his obituary to Alhaj Ghulam Qadir Gani Puri (RA), that towering figure of spirituality whose life of learning and serving others becomes,

in Malik's words, a lighthouse in the fog of forgetfulness. The tone is earthy. Never holier-than-thou, always genuine.

Two chapters give a glimpse of Malik's vision more than any other. The ones on tourism and education. Here, he dreams not with naivety but with rational reasoning. He asks the country to look at what has been overlooked for so long. The untouched beauty of Bhalessa's peaks, meadows, and streams, which if nurtured, could improve its economy as well as self-esteem. But tourism in this context is not suggested as exploitation but invitation. A means of entering into conversation with an unrecollected beauty. Education, however, is presented not merely as upliftment but as defiance. In an area ravaged by state indifference, Malik demonstrates how schools have become bastions of hope and teachers — foot soldiers of dignity. His account in these pages is both a critique and a blueprint.

Malik's methodology of digital preservation is an indicator of his deep consciousness of the shifting tides of memory. By creating a Wikipedia page and a separate website for Bhalessa, he has provided assurance that the legacy of his native land will not get lost in the ocean of unrecorded history. In this, he follows the line of thinkers who knew that in the 21st century, to be searchable is to be noticed and to be archived is to be remembered. His effort is momentous. The first such digital move by a native scholar for the region. It opens a new chapter in local historiography.

The book's organization is natural but controlled. It has the rhythm of a mountain stream. Flowing, consistent, life-giving, but never stagnant. The style is neither abstruse nor naive. It spans the ordinary reader and the intellectual. Its strength is in clarity, not abstractions. The vocabulary is refined, the tone sympathetic, the message clear.

What remains longest in the reader's mind, however, is the emotional undertone. Under each statistic, each footnote, each respectful profile is a grief. The sorrow of exclusion. But Malik never lets pain turn into resentment. He converts tears into determination and invisibility into vision. His affection for Bhalessa is not wistful. It is imperative. He knows that history, when forgotten, does not lie dormant — it perishes. And thus he writes not to conserve the past but to challenge the future.

By Malik's hand, Bhalessa ceases to be a distant place and becomes an incandescent presence in the great tapestry of India. Its character is not merely defined by ritual but by the gentleness of its people, the interfaith tolerance that characterizes its roads, and the dignity with which its citizens live, labor, and aspire. Malik demonstrates that cultural pride, when based on respect and memory, is the corrective for marginalization.

This book is a necessity. It is in the hands of every historian student, every policymaker with a belief in inclusive politics, every teacher with a belief in silent revolutions, and every reader who has a belief that no corner of the world, however small, lacks greatness. It is not a regional book. It is a national imperative. It cries out not in loudness but in reason, telling us to remember, to rethink, and to rebuild.

Bhalessa Cultural Heritage and History is not a book. It is a radiant gift. It is the spark of an extinguished lamp relit by the hands of one who did not forget. Sadaket Ali Malik has given the region of Bhalessa not only a voice but a visionary. He has shown the world that one pen, inspired by duty and love, can stir the world awake. For this gift, he is not just worthy of recognition. He is worthy of reverence. Along with Al-Beruni, Abul Fazl, and Kalhana, his position is among those who remembered so that we would never forget.

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Jayanta Mahapatra Gave Indian English Poetry A Global Height



Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

He wrote in Odiyan but he even when he wrote in English Odisha is pervasively in his imagination. Odisha for him is India and the picture that he portrayed of Odisha is in reality the picture of India itself. What is more interesting that he commands more respect overseas than at home. This poet is Jayanta Mahapatra who elevated Odiyan Poetic literature nay Indian English poetry to a global height. Seven out of his 25 collection of poems were published abroad. His work appears in prestigious international anthologies including The Vintage Book of Contemporary World Poetry (Random House, New York, 1996) and The Poetry Anthology 1912-2002 (Ivan R. Dee, Chicago, 2002). He focused in his poetry the regional perspective of Orissa though that symbolised India as a whole and he lifted it to a global height.. In Door of Paper: Essays/Memoirs, he wrote about his work, his thoughts on poetry, the creative process, social issues like hunger and poverty, and natural disasters like the cyclone in Orissa where he lives. His book of poetry, The Lie of Dawns: Poetry 1974-2008, gives us picture of bleakness and barrenness. I recall what he told me in Pondicherry explaining the reasons why his Chandrabhaga stopped as a literary periodical for want of money. In the land of Kalidas and Tagore all other magazines -graphic or fashion or movie magazine get huge funding not the literary ones. His fame as a original thinker spread among the admirers of h his poetry. The anthologies that he published were all replete with these characters. They include 'Close the Sky', 'Ten By Ten', 'A Rain of Rites, Relationship, Life Signs, A Whiteness of Bone, and Shadow Space. Besides being a poet, he was also a regular translator and rendered into English Odiyan writing of the poets like Gangadhar Meher, Sahi Routray, and Jnanpith awardee Sitakanta Mahapatra. Besides Chandrabhaga, he edited Kavya Bharati, and worked for the poetry section of the Telegraph. Even after being the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award and Padma Shri Award, and finally the SAARC Literary Award, he was not at all serious about awards. He rejected the Padma Shri Award in protest of increasing intolerance in the country. It was a bold step for a poet. He focused in his poetry the regional perspective of Odisha though it always symbolised India as a whole and he lifted it to a global height.

I had an opportunity to meet Jayanta Mahapatra in Pondicherry University Hall where he launched my poetry book Oleander Blooms I still recall the day when Jayanta Mahapatra who in a long interview told me that, he had been a chronic patient of asthma and recurrent migraines. Moreover, after the passing of his wife, he was internally shaken and weakened. However, he never lost his zest for life. At 95 he suddenly left us leaving behind him a treasure house of poetic gems. I feel the deepest grief but still feel proud that I met one of the bravest poets who was also widely known as one of the Trio who laid foundation of Indian English poetry the other two being A.K Ramanujan and R Parthasarathi. I like Mahapatra's poems as they demonstrate remarkable concern for both structure and linguistic versatility in both Oriyan and English, yet this legendary poet of Indian English literature was all through an Odiyan poet..

Being a boy from the village and especially a backward Orissa village, he knew the rural poverty and hunger He did not think that the situation in the village had really changed. Poverty compels the parents to sell daughters and even today the tradition continues. In his autobiography his narrative reflects his anger. Mahapatra's poetry is remarkable for depth of feelings and true poetic imagination which embraces a wide variety of such themes. His poetry evokes intense emotional benefits out of things around him. His poetic imagination transforms the events into verse. Patna University was one of the best universities of India in his eyes. He was studying in that university. He was living in a small mess, small verandah, and small rented building. They were about ten students and were rented small rooms from a professor of the engineering college, Prof. Ojha. The building in which they were staying was near to the Mahendru Ghat and law college. In 1949- 50 he completed his Masters in Physics and in between he had to leave Patna because of the riots. A young aspiring man from Tinkonia Bageecha, Cuttack of Orissa who loves his mother tongue wrote what he felt from his own heart and from his own inside. This is later his advice also to the budding poet. In an interview with me he once told that this speaking from inside helps any writer. At first he was writing stories in the beginning, but these stories were not published, they were all rejected. What Thomas Hardy did with his Wessex novel in British literature, Jayanta Mahapatra did almost something like that transformation of the regional into the global with his poetry in India. Poems of Jayanta Mahapatra - the doyen of Indian English Poetry demonstrate remarkable concern for both structure and linguistic versatility in both Odiyan and English, yet he was all through an Odiyan poet..

The sense of failure and suffering is very much needed for being a writer. If



one has enough money to eat or a good house and a car, no one will be eager to write. 'If you have no problems, why will you write?' Jayanta Mahapatra asked me at the first meeting. Unless we have reasons to think we cannot write, ideas will not come to our mind. For ideas we need the poetry because in poetic language images supplement our ideas. He was eager to use new ideas which never come to literature before. Mahapatra's poetry is remarkable for depth of feelings and true poetic imagination which embraces a wide variety of such themes. His poetry evokes intense emotional benefits out of things around him. His poetic imagination transforms the events into verse. Being a contemporary of Ramanujan, Nissim Ezekiel and Parthasarathy, he stressed on the morality and the inner workings of the human mind when he was depicting love, sex and marriage in his poetry. M.K Naik correctly observes "Mahapatra's poetry is redolent of the Odishan (Orissan) scene and the Jagnath temple at Puri figures quite often in it." Jayanta Mahapatra uses symbols rooted in his native state of Odisha to explore themes of tradition, spirituality, and the universal human condition. His symbols often juxtapose the region's ancient glory with the contemporary plight of its people, creating a microcosm for a larger Indian - and human - experience. The holy city of Puri is a prominent setting in Mahapatra's work, particularly in his famous poem "Dawn at Puri". Similarly in the poem Taste for Tomorrow he depicts a scene at Puri with crows making a noise. It has a very wide street with its lepers and religious people thronging at the door of the temple. Puri figures prominently in various poems of Mahapatra. The temples of Puri and Konark also have an impressive room in his poems. Cuttack

, Bhuvaneswar and Puri form the background of his several poems. He once voiced this dilemma: "I am in love with English, And then my schooling was in English and I learnt my language from British English Masters - mainly from English novels; so blame H. Rider Haggard and Edgar Rice Burroughs and Ballantyne from whom I caught the first delight of words gravid with meaning. Further I feel I can express myself better in English than in Oriya. And I have done a lot of translations in verse from Oriya." In some other poems such as The Orissa Poems, Orissa Landscapes and Evening in Orissa Village Mahapatra deals with Odishan landscape, its culture and the ancient history of Odisha. These poems have powerful Odishan idioms and usages and Mahapatra's treatment of the landscape imagery makes the readers feel that they are transported to that region of the country. The poem 'Evening Landscape by the River' gives a graphic description of a gloomy scene where the poet visualizes his own death. This self assimilation is really wonderful in his poetry. His psychological and philosophical themes are found in poems like The Exile, The Abandoned British Cemetery at Balasore, Total Solar Eclipse The Logic and Grass. In the Total Solar Eclipse he offers a critique of the superstitious approach of the Brahmin priest regarding the Eclipse. The realistic effect in The Moon Moments is clear in the feeling of the social concern "These women talking outside have clouds passing across their eyes." The poet says, "How can I stop the life I lead within myself - They started, pleading questions in my hands lying in my lap while the gods go by, triumphant" The Exile is again a philosophical poem known for its realistic elements" It is an exile / Between good and evil / Where I need the sting of death"

The poet can depict the silence of the cemetery in the poem and he can himself say, What appears to disturb me is the triumph of silence in the mind. 'Jayanta Mahapatra's poem "Ash" uses the physical remnants of his deceased father's cremation as a metaphor for mortality, memory, and the transient nature of life. The poem reflects on loss and the inevitability of death, contrasting these with the fleeting beauty of nature and the hopeful, yet uncertain, search for continuity. The speaker finds solace in the cycles of nature, while simultaneously acknowledging a sense of melancholic finality. 'Jayanta Mahapatra is a modern poet known for post colonial themes, his focus on Indian social issues, and a unique discursive style. His masterful use of imagery to create a vivid, post-colonial Indian landscape from the experience of the post-colonial era, addressing themes of identity, culture, and social issues with a voice shows the distinct colonial influences. The poet is known for tackling difficult subjects such as poverty, violence, religious bigotry, and the exploitation of women and children with a sense of sympathy and urge. But each time his poetry is strongly rooted in the local context of Odisha, using its culture, landscape, and life as a central subject for his verse. Thus Jayanta Mahapatra stands out clearly as an observer of the reality around him. He was less interested in building a perfect millennium, rather he was interested in ensuring the continued existence of man. His characters are from the lower hierarchy of the society - cobbler, starving street kids, slum residents, prostitutes, and a hurting woman. In Pondicherry when I talked to him personally he asked me why I write in English and not in mother tongue. This shows how like Tagore he preferred to write in his mother tongue. Many still surmise, that he studied Physics and yet became the legendary figure in laying the foundation of Indian English Literature with R Parthasarathy and A.K. Ramanujan. More surprising thing is that he hardly mentioned the name of the English Poets - British or American literature like Shakespeare or Whitman, Eliot or Yeats. The simple logic he used to give that he did not study English literature. Here the question of inspiration is important. For Jayanta Mahapatra the main source of inspiration comes from the people of his state, nay the country. The socio-political injustice that he witnessed all around him led him to write and that one may call poetry or literature. Even if you don't want to agree, you may not. But that was his inspiration for writing.

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Language versus Indians



VIJAY GARG

In India, a multilingual nation, language is not only the means of communication but also symbolizes cultural identity, tradition and community unity. The theme of 'Language vs Indianity' reflects the complex relationship between this linguistic diversity in India and a sense of national unity. The controversy revolves mainly around the demand to establish a language as national identity and the need for preservation of regional languages. Language diversity: The power and identity of India The Constitution of India recognises 22 languages in its 8th Schedule, including Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, Telugu

etc. This linguistic diversity is the country's greatest strength, nurturing India's unique sense of "unity in diversity."

Cultural symbols: Each language brings with it a unique literature, folk art and lifestyle that weaves the magnificent bonds of Indian culture.

Regional Unity: Their native language is an integral part of their identity for the inhabitants of a region. The preservation of the mother tongue is important for maintaining their regional identity. official language vs. national language: status of Hindi The debate is often focused on the status of Hindi.

Official Language Status: According to Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi has official language status. It is mainly used for administrative and government functions.

No national language: There is no official national language of India. All languages are given equal respect in the Constitution.

Disputes: There have been calls to make Hindi mandatory or declared a national language throughout the country from time to time. In Hindi-speaking states it is seen

as a symbol of national unity, while in many non-Hindi-speaking States (especially South India) it is viewed as an attempt to impose on regional languages and cultures. The essence of Indianity and the role of language Indianity is not limited to one language. It is an inclusive idea that embraces different cultures, traditions and languages.

The basis of integrity: India's unity lies in respect for its diversity. Making or imposing a single language can offend regional sentiments and endanger national unity, as evidenced by the history of linguistic disputes in the 1950s and 60s.

Contact Language: While some see Hindi as a contact language, others consider English to be a neutral medium that provides an equal platform between different linguistic groups and connects with global opportunities.

Gandhi and Private Languages: Mahatma Gandhi said that "the nation is dumb without language" but it did not mean to be at the sacrifice of other Indian languages. The famous lines of the poet Bharanidhar Harishchandra: "Your language is progress, the root of all

progress, without private language-knowledge, does not disappear." Reflects the importance of mother tongue, which is the basis for knowledge and progress Conclusion: Balance and coexistence The struggle of 'language versus Indianity' is really a matter of intimacy and self-esteem. The predominance of one language is not required to maintain Indianity, but coexistence and respect for all Indian languages.

Encouragement of multilingualism: Effectively implementing policies such as the tri-lingual formula in education, which promotes mother tongue/regional language, Hindi (in non-Hindi states), and English can be a balanced approach.

Cultural preservation: It is the preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity that strengthens, not weakens Indians. The true identity of India lies in its multiplicity, where each language and culture contributes to the national consciousness. In today's age, when English has grown in influence and the use of regional languages is declining in urban life, the question arises whether Indians should be combined with language.

Does the English-speaking Indian get away from his India? Maybe not. Indianity lies not only in language but also in thought, behaviour and values - respect for others, acceptance of diversity, and the spirit of Vasudev Kuttakam.

Yet, language is the basis of our identity. When we don't respect our mother tongue, our cultural roots begin to weaken. Language is not just a medium of communication, but an emotional and cultural heritage. Thinking and creating in the mother tongue deeply connects a person to his environment.

So "Language vs Indians" is not a conflict, but a coexistence relationship. Every Indian language has its share of Indianship. Indians are not tempted by a single language, but in the beatings of every one.

In the end, true Indians are those who respect every language, and understand that India's real power lies in its linguistic diversity - the very diversity which does not divide us but unites us.

Vijay Garg retired Principal MALOUT Punjab

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Tobacco on the rise in Jammu & Kashmir: A growing public health challenge



Mohammad Hanief

Tobacco use has quietly become one of the most serious public health challenges facing Jammu and Kashmir. Despite awareness campaigns, government regulations, and warnings printed on every packet, tobacco consumption continues to rise across the region. From bustling city streets to quiet villages, smoking and other forms of tobacco use have become deeply embedded in daily life — cutting across class, gender, and age.

Recent national health surveys place Jammu and Kashmir among the states and union territories with the highest rates of tobacco consumption in India. The latest data from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2) and the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) show that 23.7 percent of adults in the region use some form of tobacco. Of these, 20.8 percent are active smokers, while 4.3 percent consume smokeless forms such as gutkha or snuff. These figures point to a worrying trend that shows little sign of slowing down.

The gender gap in tobacco use is substantial but telling. Nearly 35 percent of men in Jammu and Kashmir are smokers, compared with just 5 percent of women. While female smoking remains relatively uncommon, changing lifestyles and urban influences could shift this pattern in the future.

Equally striking are the district-level disparities. In some areas, tobacco use has reached alarming levels. Kupwara, at more than 56 percent, tops the list, followed by Shopian (52 percent), Bandipora (49 percent), and Anantnag (48 percent). In contrast, Jammu district reports significantly lower rates, suggesting that while intensity varies, tobacco use has spread across nearly every corner of the Union Territory.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this crisis is the growing prevalence of smoking among adolescents and young adults. A recent survey conducted in Srinagar revealed that nearly one in four school-going students — about 23 percent — are active smokers. The findings expose how early experimentation with tobacco often evolves into addiction, locking young people into a habit that may last a lifetime.

Despite the ban under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), students continue to report easy access to cigarettes and other tobacco products, often sold by local vendors near schools. The sale of single cigarettes allows minors to purchase discreetly, while the increasing popularity of hookah



lounges — offering flavored tobacco marketed as a social pastime — has normalized smoking among the youth.

The long-term implications are profound. Early exposure to tobacco drastically increases the likelihood of chronic addiction and related health problems. In a region already burdened by unemployment and psychosocial stress, tobacco often becomes a coping mechanism — an illusion of relief that leads to greater physical and mental harm.

Tobacco's deep cultural roots in Kashmir further complicate the problem. For generations, the hookah has been a familiar presence in rural households, symbolizing hospitality and communal bonding. While modern cigarettes have replaced traditional hookahs, the underlying acceptance of smoking has endured. This social tolerance makes it difficult to stigmatize tobacco use or enforce restrictions, especially within close-knit communities where smoking is seen as a harmless social habit.

The health consequences are devastating. Tobacco is a leading cause of preventable deaths and a major contributor to cancers, heart disease, and respiratory illnesses. Hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir are witnessing a steady increase in cases linked to tobacco use, particularly among middle-aged men. The economic cost is equally staggering. It is estimated that residents spend hundreds of crores of rupees each

year on tobacco products — a sum that does not include the medical bills, lost income, and long-term care that follow.

Although officials claim a slight decline in tobacco consumption — around two to three percent over recent years — the reality is far more complex. While urban centers show some improvement due to enforcement and awareness, rural and semi-urban areas remain deeply affected. Moreover, a drop among older smokers is often offset by rising use among younger people, threatening to undo any progress made.

The government has launched several initiatives under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP). Cessation centers have been established, awareness campaigns intensified, and fines introduced for smoking in public places. Educational institutions regularly host anti-tobacco events, and advertisements warn about the health risks. Yet, enforcement remains inconsistent. Smoking in public spaces is still widespread, and sales near schools continue largely unchecked.

One major obstacle is easy availability. Cigarettes and bidis can be found in almost every neighborhood shop, often sold without regard for age or distance from schools. Their affordability also keeps demand high, particularly among lower-income groups. Many users underestimate the dangers of “occasional smok-

ing,” while cultural acceptance discourages people from quitting.

The problem extends beyond smokers themselves. Second hand smoke exposes countless non-smokers — including children and women — to harmful toxins at home and in public. Surveys indicate that more than half of adolescents in Jammu and Kashmir are exposed to secondhand smoke in public places, increasing their vulnerability to respiratory diseases and heart conditions.

Addressing this growing crisis requires sustained, multi-dimensional action. Stricter enforcement of existing laws must become a priority. Public smoking should be penalized more consistently, and sales of tobacco near educational institutions must be completely banned. Increasing taxes on tobacco products can make them less affordable, especially for young consumers.

Equally vital are education and awareness efforts that go beyond slogans. Schools, colleges, and community organizations must play a central role in teaching young people about the dangers of tobacco. Campaigns should highlight not only health risks but also the social and economic costs of addiction.

There is also an urgent need for accessible cessation support. Many smokers express a willingness to quit but lack guidance or counselling. Expanding cessation centers, integrating tobacco control into primary healthcare, and using digital tools for follow-up support can greatly improve outcomes. Community and religious leaders, too, can help by promoting a culture that discourages smoking and emphasizes self-discipline and health.

Accurate data and regular monitoring are essential for informed policymaking. Without updated statistics and local-level studies, interventions risk being sporadic and ineffective. Coordination between government departments, educational institutions, and health professionals can ensure that tobacco control efforts remain focused and evidence-based.

Tobacco addiction is not merely a personal habit; it is a social and economic epidemic. The rising rates of tobacco use in Jammu and Kashmir threaten to undermine years of progress in public health and place an enormous strain on the region's healthcare infrastructure. Every cigarette smoked and every hookah lit carries a cost — one paid not only in money, but in years of life and the health of future generations.

The fight against tobacco will not be won overnight, but it can be won through persistent effort and collective resolve. Jammu and Kashmir stands at a critical crossroads: either allow this silent epidemic to tighten its grip, or act decisively to protect the health and well-being of its people. The choice, and the responsibility, belong to all.

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Breaking The Mobile Shackles



Surinderpal Singh

In the modern age of science and technology where smartphones are considered as an integral part of daily life, maximum students are finding themselves captured to their devices. Although mobile technology offers numerous educational benefits the over-reliance on smartphones can lead to distractions, decreased productivity and even increase the number of mental health issues. As number of psychological sick students has increased the experts are emphasizing the importance of addressing mobile dependence and provide actionable strategies to regain control.

The Current Scenario

Recent studies across the globe have indicated that teenagers are spending an average of 7-9 hours per day on their phones on social media, gaming and streaming services rather than focusing on academic responsibilities. This trend has raised concerns among educators and parents alike, prompting a discussion about the implications of excessive screen time on students' academic performance and overall well-being.

Expert across the globe has recommended that While smartphones can enhance learning, they also serve as a significant source of distraction. It's crucial for students to develop healthier relationships with their devices.

Recognising the Problem



The first step in combating mobile dependence is awareness. Students should reflect on their mobile usage patterns and identify triggers that lead to excessive screen time. Keeping a journal or using apps that track screen time can help students understand how much time they spend on their phones and what activities consume that time.

Practical Strategies for Reducing Dependence

1. Set Clear Boundaries:

Students should establish specific times for phone usage. For instance, students can designate certain hours as “phone-free” periods during study time or family meals.

This practice encourages focused work and fosters better communication with peers and family members.

2. Utilize Technology Wisely:

Instead of scrolling through social media mindlessly, students can leverage their phones for educational purposes. Apps that promote productivity, such as task managers or study aids, can help turn smartphones into tools for success rather than distractions.

3. Engage in Offline Activities:

Encouraging students to participate in extracurricular activities or hobbies can divert attention away from screens. Whether it's joining a sports team, attending art classes, or volunteering in the community,

these activities promote social interaction and personal growth.

4. Practice Mindfulness:

Incorporating mindfulness techniques into daily routines can help students manage their impulses to check their phones. Meditation, deep-breathing exercises, or yoga can enhance focus and reduce anxiety associated with constant connectivity.

5. Create a Support System:

Students should communicate their goals regarding mobile usage with friends and family. Forming accountability groups can provide mutual support and encouragement. Peer pressure can be a powerful motivator; when friends commit to reducing screen time together, they are more

likely to succeed.

6. Limit Notifications:

Constant notifications can create an overwhelming urge to check phones frequently. Students can customize their notification settings to minimize distractions, allowing them to concentrate better on their studies.

7. Establish Tech-Free Zones:

Designating certain areas in the home or school as tech-free zones—like bedrooms or classrooms—can help students focus on their tasks without the temptation of their devices.

The Role of Educators and Parents

The educators and parents play a crucial role in guiding students toward healthier mobile habits. Schools can implement digital literacy programs that educate students about the risks of excessive phone use and teach them how to use technology responsibly. Meanwhile, parents should foster open discussions about mobile dependence and model healthy behavior by limiting their own screen time.

As students navigate the complexities of modern education, it is essential for them to cultivate a balanced relationship with technology. By implementing these strategies, they can reduce their dependence on mobile devices and enhance their academic performance and mental well-being. In doing so, they not only prepare themselves for success in school but also develop skills that will serve them well into adulthood.

As the saying goes, “Technology is a tool; it's how we use it that matters.” By taking proactive steps now, students can ensure that their smartphones serve as allies in their educational journey rather than obstacles to their success.

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



Rahul Sahai Attends Czech Republic National Day Celebration at Embassy in New Delhi

HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, OCT 30: On the special invitation of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu & Kashmir, attended the celebration of the National Day of the Czech Republic held at the Czech Embassy in

New Delhi. The event was hosted by H.E. Mrs. Eliska Zigova, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to India, and Mr. Peter Ziga, and witnessed the gracious presence of ambassadors from various countries, senior diplomats, industrialists, and other eminent citizens of India.

During the occasion, Rahul Sahai presented an idol of Shri

Mata Vaishno Devi to H.E. Mrs. Eliska Zigova as a token of goodwill and cultural respect from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He explained the significance of Maa Durga, the goddess symbolizing strength, protection, and prosperity, and extended a warm invitation to the Ambassador to visit Jammu & Kashmir, the land of Shri

Mata Vaishno Devi, known for its spiritual heritage, scenic beauty, and growing industrial potential.

Sahai also shared insights from his recent visit to Brno, Czech Republic, where he attended the MSV International Engineering Fair—one of Europe's leading industrial exhibitions. He highlighted the immense opportunities for

collaboration between Czech industries and J&K's emerging manufacturing and engineering sectors, particularly in areas such as automotive components, machinery, technology transfer, and skill development.

The Czech Republic, known for its strong engineering base, innovation, and industrial precision, offers

vast potential for bilateral cooperation with Indian states like Jammu & Kashmir, which is now open for global investment under progressive industrial policies. Mr. Sahai emphasized that partnerships between Czech companies and J&K entrepreneurs can lead to mutually beneficial outcomes in technology, renewable energy, education,

and tourism.

Sahai appreciated the efforts of Ambassador Eliska Zigova for strengthening India–Czech relations, and reaffirmed the commitment of the Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu to play an active role in building sustainable trade and investment linkages between the two regions.

Natrang Honours Six Prominent Artists for Their Exceptional Contribution to Visual Arts

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, OCT 30: In a grand celebration of creativity and excellence, Natrang, Jammu and Kashmir's leading cultural organisation, honoured six eminent artists for their outstanding contributions to the field of visual arts at Kala Kendra where an art exhibition entitled 'Contemporary J&K Art Show' was organized by Natrang in association with Kala Kendra Jammu. The honours were conferred by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, President Natrang who was joined by the Secretary Kala Kendra Dr. Javed Rahi, at a special ceremony that drew artists, scholars, and art lovers from across the region. The six artists—Reecha Gupta, Amit Singh Slathia, Rohit Verma, Sukhjeet Singh Kukal, Suresh Kumar Sharma, and Jang S. Verman—were felicitated for their exceptional achievements in painting, sculpture, and art education. Their collective work reflects the creative spirit and cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir while also contributing significantly to the national and international art landscape.

Addressing the gathering, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur

lauded the awardees for their lifelong dedication to the arts and their pivotal role in strengthening the cultural identity of the region. In his address, he said "These six artists represent the creative soul of Jammu and Kashmir. Through their vision, dedication, and perseverance, they have carried our artistic legacy to the national and global stage. Each of them, in their own way, has contributed to preserving our cultural ethos while inspiring new generations of artists. Natrang is proud to celebrate their achievements, which serve as a beacon of creativity, commitment, and excellence." He further added that recognising such artists not only honours their individual accomplishments but also reinforces the importance of art as a transformative force in society.

Reecha Gupta, Gold Medalist in B.F.A. (Painting) from the University of Jammu, has earned wide recognition for her sensitive and symbolic depictions of womanhood and identity. A recipient of the Senior Fellowship in Painting from the Ministry of Culture, the Artist State Award, and the Lalit Kala Academy Research Scholarship, she has also been celebrated with honours such as Women of Substance and Great Women



Achievers.

Mr. Amit Singh Slathia, an accomplished Visual Artist, Academic, and Researcher, currently serves as Assistant Professor and Head of the BFA Programme at UID-NCR, GD Goenka University. Holding an MFA from the University of Rajasthan and a BFA from the University of Jammu, his interdisciplinary practice integrates art, education, and social engagement. His acclaimed installations, including Santa Cloth, and his numerous awards, including the Junior Fellowship and State Art Awards, testify to his innovation and leadership in visual arts education

Rohit Verma, presently faculty in Painting at IMFA, University of Jammu, has participated in over fifty prestigious art camps nationwide. An alumnus of IMFA and Lucknow University, he has twice received the J&K State Award and four Certificates of Merit, establishing him as one of the most active and respected contemporary painters from the region.

Sculptor Sukhjeet Singh Kukal, a graduate of Jammu University and the College of Art, New Delhi, has earned numerous distinctions including the National Award by Lalit Kala Akademi, AIFACS Awards, and international recognition for his residencies

and workshops in France. His sculptural work embodies both technical excellence and emotional depth.

Applied artist Suresh Kumar Sharma, trained at IMFA Jammu, has participated in several national exhibitions including those by Lalit Kala Akademi and AIFACS. He has been honoured multiple times by leading institutions such as the Indian Red Cross Society, Lions Club, and J&K Police for his creative and humanitarian contributions to society.

Veteran artist, writer, and art critic Jang S. Verman has distinguished himself as a multifaceted figure in the Indian art world. Having participated in hundreds of exhibitions and art events across India and abroad—including Sweden, South Korea, Vietnam, and Malaysia—he is also celebrated for his writings on art and culture that have enriched public understanding and appreciation of visual arts.

The event concluded with a pledge to have more such felicitations of both senior and younger generation of J&K artists and a collective commitment by Natrang to continue fostering creative talent and promoting cultural exchange.

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the name Pandith Pesticides & Fertilizers situated at Aglar Pattan. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Aamir Nazir Pandith
S/o Nazir Ahmad Pandith
R/o Aglar pattan
Cell No. +91 84929 25963)**

Public Notice

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

IT is hereby notified that I have applying for Birth certificate in Block Development office Nutnussa namely Faroze Ahmad Dar DOB 09/03/1964 s/o Ab Aziz Dar

R/o Kawi Tehsil handwara, District:kupwara.If anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Block Development office Nutnussa within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained

**FAROZE AHMAD DAR DOB 09/03/1964
S/O Ab AZIZ DAR
R/o KAWARI TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA**

Public Notice

I want to correction in my name as in 10th class record from ZUBER IQBAL to ZUBAIR IQBAL.In the future i will be known as ZUBAIR IQBAL.If anybody having any objection in this regard may contact CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION Jammu within a week,after that no objection will be entertained.

**ZUBAIR IQBAL
RAJBAGH Srinagar.**

Violation of Earth Lifting Terms in Baramulla; Vehicles Seized

UMAR RASHID

BARAMULLA, OCT 30: Serious violations have been detected in the earth lifting operations from Baramulla's "Singapore" area to Hadipora, where several truckloads of extracted material were allegedly diverted and dumped at unauthorized sites.

As per official sources, permission had been granted for lifting 708 metric tonnes of earth material strictly for a specific purpose and destination. However, instead of following the approved route, multiple dumpers were seen unloading the material near the Baramulla railway station, in clear violation of the permit conditions.

Sources said that although the permission was issued under a particular name for transportation to a designated site, some individuals allegedly sold the extracted material to local buyers, converting the permitted activity into unauthorized commercial trade.

Confirming the violations, District Mineral Officer (DMO) Baramulla, Zulfikar Mohammad Shafi, said the department had seized one vehicle involved in the illegal operation. "We have seized the vehicle for violating the terms. Anyone found misusing permission or transporting material without authorization will face strict action," the DMO said.

"Those who adhere to the rules and have valid permits may continue their work as per norms," he added.

Authorities have initiated a probe to identify others involved in the misuse of permits, warning that stern action will be taken against violators.

J&K Bank accelerates progress under Mission YUVA

Observes "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day" across J&K, disburses 1250 cases

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: Reaffirming its commitment to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's flagship program aimed at empowering youth through self-employment and entrepreneurship, J&K Bank today observed "Mission YUVA Disbursal Day" across the UT to fast-track disbursements under the initiative.

Marking the successful conclusion of the single-day disbursal exercise, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee pressed a symbolic button culminating in 1250 disbursements under Mission YUVA against a set target of 1000.

The event was attended by Chief General Manager (Business Development) Sunit Kumar, General Managers Rakesh Magotra and Nishikant Sharma, DGM Aneet Kanwal Singh, and other senior officers at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters. Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri, Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta participated in the event virtually besides all the Zonal Heads of J&K.

The MD & CEO congratulated all the operational heads and frontline teams for surpassing the day's milestone and lauded their commitment



towards the successful implementation of the program.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "J&K Bank has been playing a pivotal role in implementing Mission YUVA across Jammu & Kashmir. Today's focused and highly successful disbursal drive reflects our commitment to ensuring that every sanctioned case swiftly turns into a productive asset on the ground."

"While we make consistent efforts to achieve our numerical targets, it is equally important that we work tirelessly to realize the broader vision of the Government behind this transformative initiative. To that end, a robust and continuous monitoring mechanism must be ensured by all stakeholders, in letter and spirit, so that every sanctioned case truly translates into a sustainable livelihood opportunity," he added.

MD & CEO also remarked that the Bank was well on course to meet the objectives of Mission YUVA, which stands as a testament to the unprecedented coordination and synergy between the Government and the Bank.

Meanwhile, the Bank has so far sanctioned around 8000 cases under Mission YUVA, reflecting its steadfast commitment to empowering the youth through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Notably, as part of the special drive, all branches across Jammu and Kashmir proactively reached out to beneficiaries to complete pre-disbursement formalities and ensuring readiness for same-day credit. The Bank's zonal-heads actively monitored progress throughout the day, providing on-the-spot support to branches to ensure smooth and timely credit flow.

RS. 2.27 CRORE TO BE SPENT ON DEVELOPMENT WORKS IN BLOCK CHOWKI CHOURA: SURESH SHARMA

HT NEWS DESK

AKHNOOR, OCT 30: BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Pandit Suresh Sharma held a review meeting with officials of the Rural Development Department in Block Chowki Choura. During the meeting,

detailed discussions were held on the ongoing works under the PRI Capex, BDC Capex, and DDC Capex for the financial year 2025–26 in various panchayats. Suresh Sharma directed the officials to expedite the tendering process and ensure timely completion of all works planned across the panchayats.

He informed that development works worth ₹2.27 crore are being carried out under the PRI, BDC, and DDC Capex in the panchayats of Dhanna Jalara, Ghangal, Chowki, Choura, Juthal Balsaro, Kaneri, Ghar, Mazor, Rah, and Salyote. He emphasized maintaining high-quality standards in all works being

executed. Suresh Sharma also noted that despite the end of the monsoon season, several roads in rural areas remain blocked due to heavy rains and directed the concerned officials to reopen them at the earliest. He further discussed the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY),

stressing that no eligible beneficiary should be left out from receiving a permanent house. The progress of works under the MGNREGA scheme was also reviewed. Block Development Officer Abhilash Sharma, engineers, and village-level workers of the department were present during the meeting.

Chief Secy listens to several public welfare issues raised by GCC

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30, 2025: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held an interactive meeting with the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), a collective of eminent retired civil servants from Jammu and Kashmir led by former Advisor to the Governor, Khurshid Ahmad Ganai.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary patiently heard the concerns and suggestions put forth by the group regarding critical developmental, environmental, and civic issues in the Union Territory.

He appreciated the GCC members for their constructive engagement and assured that several of their suggestions are already under active consideration or implementation at

various levels.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to take note of the valuable inputs offered by the retired officers, recognizing their deep institutional knowledge and field experience. He emphasized that such consultations help strengthen governance by aligning departmental initiatives with ground realities and public expectations.

Prominent officers who attended the meeting included the Additional Chief Secretary, PWD; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF); Secretary, Health; Vice Chairman, LCMA; Commissioner, SMC; Chairperson, J&K Pollution Control Committee; and Chief Engineers of PWD, Jal Shakti, and Irrigation & Flood



Control Departments.

The Group highlighted several priority areas requiring focused attention, particularly the scientific management of solid waste across Jammu and Srinagar cities. They underlined the need for a comprehensive waste treatment strategy, including the quan-

tification and scientific disposal of legacy waste accumulated over the years.

The members also urged the administration to expedite flood mitigation measures for Srinagar, including the enhancement of the Flood Spill Channel's carrying capacity and the dredging of Wular Lake to increase

its water-holding potential. They described these steps as essential for protecting lives and properties in flood-prone areas.

Further, the GCC stressed the importance of preserving and rejuvenating the region's water bodies including lakes, wetlands, and springs calling them natu-

ral assets that define Kashmir's ecology, heritage, and scenic identity.

In the sphere of urban mobility, the group advocated for engineering-based traffic management rather than a purely enforcement-driven approach. They suggested that identified bottlenecks be systematically removed through better road design and planning interventions as suggested by the group.

The meeting also saw discussion on health infrastructure, with specific suggestions for the reuse and optimization of the GB Pant Hospital facilities and the augmentation of M&CCH Anantnag to enhance healthcare delivery in South Kashmir in this important sector.

Among the GCC members

who attended the meeting were Naseema Lankar, Lateef-uz-Zaman Deva, Kifayat Hussain Rizvi, S. Madni, G.J. Nehvi, A.R. Khan, Khaliq-uz-Zaman Bhat, Abdul Majeed Bhat, Iftikhar Hakeem, and Iftikhar Drabu.

Concluding the interaction, the Chief Secretary reiterated his appreciation for the GCC's informed perspectives and assured that their recommendations would be appropriately forwarded to the respective departments for examination and time-bound action.

He also encouraged continued engagement between the GCC and government departments to ensure that expert knowledge and experience meaningfully contribute to the UT's development journey.

SWD Organizes Community Awareness on women centric schemes in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women- Mission Shakti Srinagar organized Community Awareness on various women centric schemes, Legal Services, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Skill Programmes and various livelihood Schemes among the Local Community members at Tankipora today.

The Objective of organizing such a Community awareness programme was to bring the local community members under the umbrella of different schemes for enhancement of the quality of life.

As part of the initiative, a special session on Stress and Mental Health Issues among Women was also conducted with the participation of ASHA workers from Block Hazratbal. The session highlighted that around one in five women experience common mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.

The resource persons from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar underlined the need for organizing such awareness sessions regularly, as stress significantly impacts women's overall health, leading to issues like anxiety, depression, and sleep disorders.

They also shared various stress management strategies, including regular exercise, healthy eating habits, mindfulness, and social engagement, to promote mental well-being among women.

GCW Parade students excel at Everest BKCC Season 7

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 30: The students of the Department of Home Science, Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, brought laurels to the institution by securing top positions at the prestigious Everest Better Kitchen Culinary Challenge (Everest BKCC) Season 7, hosted at the Food Craft Institute (FCI), Jammu.

The remarkable achievement was made possible under the dynamic leadership of the college Principal, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo. Despite the ongoing internal assessments at the college, Dr. Tickoo graciously permitted and encouraged the students to participate, recognising the immense value of such platforms in enhancing practical knowledge

and industry exposure. His unwavering support, vision and commitment to holistic student development were instrumental in making this participation a resounding success.

The event was further strengthened by the dedicated mentorship of Prof. Tazim Akhtar and Dr. Shazia Bashir, who served as Teachers In-Charge. Their hands-on guidance and encouragement during the preparation and competition played a pivotal role in shaping the students' performance and confidence.

GCW Parade Ground's Team Everest Kasuri Methi, represented by Asifa Zohra and Shabnam Kousar, secured the First Position in the culinary challenge. The college also celebrated success in the Better Kitchen Bakery Champion category with Archi Sharma and



Rishita Sharma winning Second Position and Taniya Sharma and Tanisha Chadha securing Third Position.

The Everest BKCC Season 7, organized by Better Kitchen Magazine, is India's largest culinary

competition for hotel management students. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between education and industry by nurturing young talent and promoting Indian regional cuisine on a global platform. The Jammu round featured a dis-

tinguished jury comprising Chef Rajib Mitra (Radisson Blu), Chef Sudhin N. Gaikwad (Taj Vivanta), Chef Nayan (Amantran) and Mohinder Singh (Radisson Blu) among other dignitaries.

GCW Parade Ground extends heartfelt gratitude to Principal Jyoti Bhatti and the entire team at FCI Nagrota for their warm hospitality and for providing such a vibrant and enriching platform. Their support and encouragement greatly contributed to the students' memorable experience and success.

The Department of Home Science remains committed to fostering skill-based learning and professional excellence and this achievement stands as a testament to the college's dedication to empowering students through experiential education.

DC Doda dedicates 6000-Litre Water Tanker to public

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh today flagged off a newly procured 6000-litre capacity water tanker for public service in Doda. The event was held in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Superintending Engineer (SE) Jal Shakti Department, Executive Engineer (XEN) PHE Division Doda and other officials of the Jal Shakti Department.

The newly introduced water tanker was procured by the Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Doda to address the pressing issue of drinking water scarcity in certain areas of the district. The initiative aims to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water to the local population, particularly in regions facing temporary shortages due to technical faults or seasonal challenges.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Harvinder Singh said that the District Administration is committed to im-

proving water infrastructure, ensuring that every household has access to clean and adequate drinking water. He further emphasized government's continuous efforts under the Jal Jeevan Mission and other water conservation initiatives to provide sustainable solutions for the people of Doda. He also appealed to the public to use water judiciously and support the administration's initiatives aimed at achieving long-term water security in the district.

DC Poonch reviews preparations for Vande Mataram and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

POONCH, OCTOBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting in the conference hall of the DC Office to review preparations for the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



The Deputy Commissioner discussed in detail various arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Vande Mataram celebrations. The programme will feature cultural performances, the Vande Mataram song, debate, drawing, painting, essay and singing competitions aimed at fostering patriotic spirit and public participation.

The Forest Department has been asked to undertake plantation drives and related activities, while the District Youth Services and Sports Department has been tasked with organizing sports events. The District Social Welfare Officer was also directed to engage actively and ensure the successful conduct of the celebrations.

Meanwhile, preparations for the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas were also reviewed in detail. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of the day in promoting unity, integrity and national integration as envisioned by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Key aspects discussed included route plans, security arrangements, traffic regulation, sanitation, medical aid, water supply and public participation. It was decided that the Run for Unity will commence at 7:30 AM from DAV Public School (near SK Bridge on Jhullas Road) and culminate at the Sports Stadium Poonch. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the successful organization of the event. He called for wide public participation and awareness activities to make the celebrations more impactful and memorable.

District Development Commissioner Samba reviews progress under Mission YUVA

Approves 67 fresh loan assistance cases



■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, OCTOBER 30: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba Ayushi Sudan today reviewed the progress and implementation of Mission YUVA programme in the district. At the outset, the DDC approved 67 new cases for sponsorship to different bank branches. While reviewing the Mission YUVA initiative, she emphasized the need to identify at least three trainers from each Government Degree College and University to strengthen the training ecosystem.

The Assistant Director Employment, Samba was directed to organize training programmes for Cluster Coordinators and Data Entry Operators under NRLM and to establish a Model SBDU structure within one month as per the approved norms.

Further, Degree Colleges were instruct-

ed to create awareness among the youth and college students regarding YUVA App installation and registration for various employment opportunities under Mission YUVA. She also directed the Cluster Head, J&K Bank, to minimize the gap between the sanctioned and disbursed cases and to ensure timely sanctioning of all pending cases.

The DDC emphasized enterprise registration and uploading of vacancies by employers on the YUVA portal.

Highlighting the important role of YUVA Doots in the implementation of the programme, she directed them to publicize advertisements for SBDU/Motivators/Trainers for hybrid training courses to ensure maximum application registrations. They were also instructed to accelerate registration of applications for loan cases under Mission YUVA.

MAM College hosts essay, slogan writing competitions themed "Our Duty, Our Dignity, Vigilance for Prosperity"

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, OCTOBER 30: Government MAM College Jammu in Collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council, Department of Science and Technology, UT J&K today observed the Vigilance Awareness Day with the objective to promote integrity, transparency and accountability in public life.

The event was organized under the guidance of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Government of India.

The Chief Guest of the program was Registrar Cluster University Jammu Dr Ankur Mahajan and the special guest of the event was Assistant Director JKSTIC Shruti Khanna.

The celebration commenced with the welcome address by Prof. Varsha Kapoor. The Principal of the College Prof Archana Kaul administered the Integrity Pledge, with the participants reaffirming the collective resolve to uphold moral values and combat corruption in all spheres of life.

As part of the observance, two activities were organized including Essay Writing & Slogan writing competition highlighting the significance of vigilance and responsible citizenship.

The events reflected the theme "Our Duty, Our Dignity, Vigilance for Prosperity," emphasizing that true prosperity can only be achieved through honesty, discipline,

and a sense of moral duty.

Vidhi Sharma (Government College of Education), Anirudh Sharma (Government MAM College Jammu) and Ridham (Government SPMR College of Commerce) were adjudged as 1st, 2nd and 3rd in essay writing competition respectively, while Sonika-shi Sharma (SPMR College Jammu), Marusha Rajput (SPMR College Jammu) and Kajal Devi (Government College of Education) were adjudged as 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Slogan Writing competition, respectively. The Jury consisted of Prof. Seema Sudan, Dr. Prem Singh and Prof. Shivali Gupta.

In her address, the Chief Guest underlined the importance of integrity in professional and personal life. She stated that vigilance is not merely an administrative requirement but a moral duty that strengthens the foundation of a just and prosperous society. The special guest of the event Shruti Khanna highlighted the major pros and cons of vigilance.

The judges of the events were Dr. Seema Sudan and Dr. Prem Singh. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr Jeevan Dhar, Convenor of the event, appreciating the active participation of students and staff in promoting the values of transparency and ethical conduct. Other faculty members present were Prof. Ruth K. Masehi, Prof. Menaka Rajput, Dr. Harbhajan Singh, Prof. Dheeraj Kumar, Prof. Vibhutti, Prof. Swati and Dr. Deewika Sharma.

Nvidia partners with Nokia to pioneer AI platforms for transitioning from 5G to 6G

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 30: Nvidia and Nokia today announced a strategic partnership to add Nvidia-powered, commercial-grade AI-RAN products to Nokia's industry-leading Radio Access Network (RAN) portfolio, a Nokia statement said.

This collaboration is intended to enable communication service providers to launch AI-native 5G-advanced and 6G networks on NVIDIA platforms.

The Semiconductor major Nvidia will invest USD 1 billion in Nokia at a subscription price of USD 6.01 per share, and it's subject to customary closings.

This collaboration addresses the need of the fast-growing AI-RAN market, which is expected to exceed a cumulative USD 200 billion by 2030.

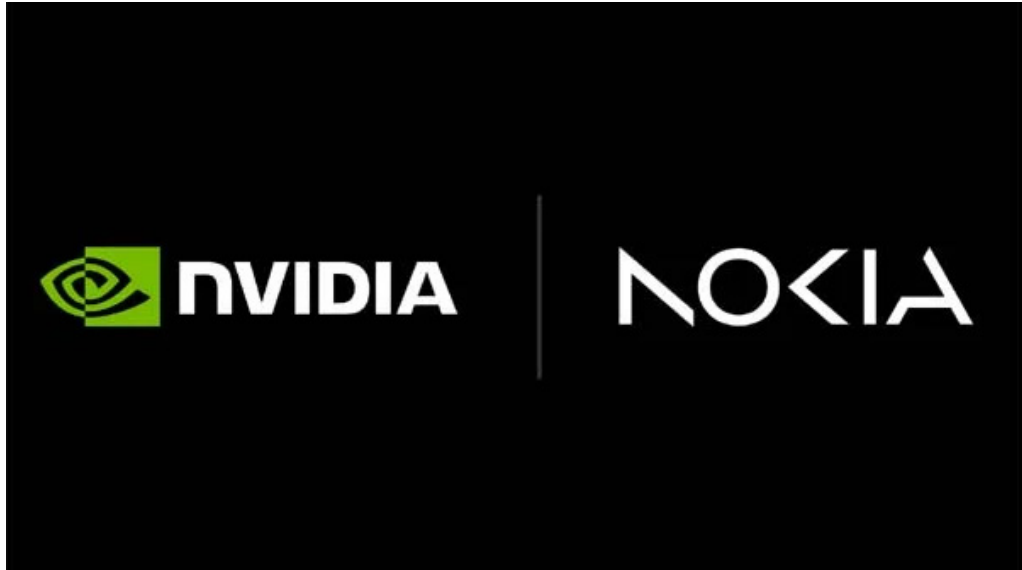
Together, Nvidia and Nokia are also laying the strategic infrastructure and opening up a new high-growth frontier for

telecom providers by delivering distributed edge AI inferencing at scale.

Moreover, T-Mobile will also collaborate with Nokia and Nvidia to drive and test AI-RAN technologies as part of the 6G innovation and development process, which reinforces its global leadership in driving wireless innovation.

Jensen Huang, Founder and CEO of Nvidia, said, "Telecommunications is critical to national infrastructure—the digital nervous system of our economy and security. Built on NVIDIA CUDA and AI, AI-RAN will revolutionize telecommunications—a generational platform shift that empowers the United States to regain global leadership in this vital infrastructure technology."

"Together with Nokia, and America's telecom ecosystem, we're igniting this revolution, equipping operators to build intelligent, adaptive networks that will define the next-generation of global connectivity," Huang added.



Nokia's and Nvidia AI-RAN platform unifies AI and radio access workloads on a software-defined, accelerated infrastructure, boosting performance, efficiency, and monetization while enabling a smooth and

cost-effective path to 6G.

New capabilities are added through software updates, future-proofing investments for 6G and beyond. It also focuses on enabling rapid innovation cycles at the pace of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

It is serving as the growing

generative AI and agentic AI traffic on the same site as RAN functions by applying AI algorithms to improve spectral and energy efficiency, as well as overall network performance.

Justin Hotard, President and CEO of Nokia, said, "The next leap in telecom isn't just from

5G to 6G—it's a fundamental redesign of the network to deliver AI-powered connectivity, capable of processing intelligence from the data center all the way to the edge. Our partnership with Nvidia and their investment in Nokia will accelerate AI-RAN innovation to put an AI data center into everyone's pocket. We're proud to drive this industry transformation with Nvidia, Dell Technologies, and T-Mobile US, our first AI-RAN deployments in T-Mobile's network will ensure America leads in advanced connectivity that AI needs."

Nokia will accelerate the availability of 5G and 6G RAN software on the NVIDIA CUDA Platform, which is a parallel computing platform and programming model developed by Nvidia.

It enables the use of Nvidia Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) for general-purpose processing to accelerate applications.

This partnership will enable Nokia's mobile network custom-

ers to transition seamlessly from today's RAN networks to future AI-RAN networks.

John Saw, President of Technology and Chief Technology Officer of T-Mobile, said, "With America's best networks, T-Mobile remains committed to advancing next-generation technologies that redefine the customer experience. Our collaboration with industry leaders like Nokia and Nvidia marks an important step toward shaping the future of connectivity as we develop the innovations that will empower the 6G era."

"Building on the foundation established by AI-RAN Innovation Center in 2024, this strategic initiative reinforces T-Mobile's leadership in driving the US wireless industry forward. Beginning in 2026, T-Mobile will conduct field evaluations and testing of advanced AI-RAN technologies to ensure they meet the evolving needs of our customers as we move toward 6G," UNI

Government finalises framework for transfer of M2M SIM ownership

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 30: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) today issued an office memorandum notifying the framework for transfer of M2M SIM ownership from one M2M Service Provider (M2M SP)/Licensee to another M2M Service Provider (M2M SP)/Licensee, an official statement said.

Basically, this framework establishes a formal procedure for M2M SIM ownership transfer to ensure a smooth and compliant transition without service discontinuity. This is applicable to all M2M SIM Service Providers (M2MSPs)/Licensees.

Currently, there's no provision for a change in the name of M2M SIMs under the prevailing guidelines, so M2M services for the affected end consumers may get disrupted whenever there is a situation that necessitates a change of M2MSP.

An 'M2M (Machine-to-Machine) SIM Card' refers to a specialized SIM for devices to communicate with each other automatically over cellular networks without human intervention.

The streamlined process introduced by government for M2M SIM Ownership transfer has key steps including : (i) Transfer request to be raised by M2M Service User/Third Party (ii) No Objection Certificate (NOC) by Transferor (Existing M2MSP/Licensee) (iii) Understanding by Transferee (New M2MSP/Licensee) (iv) Verification, KYC and update by Access Service Provider.

Importantly, each M2M SIM must at all times remain mapped to an M2M SP/Licensee, and there shall be no discontinuation of M2M service to the user, the statement added.

The introduction of this framework underscores DoT's sustained efforts to safeguard end-user interest while supporting the operational flexibility of service providers. This will also make India's M2M and Internet of Things (IoT) services reliable and future-ready. UNI

SEBI Puts Vedanta Group's Sterlite Electric IPO On Hold

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, OCT 30: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has officially announced that it has placed Vedanta Group company Sterlite Electric's proposed initial public offering (IPO) on hold.

SEBI has kept the company's IPO observations "in abeyance", without specifying any reason for its decision, according to an update on the SEBI's official website.

The company had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI earlier in October 2025. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of up to 77.93 lakh

equity shares and an offer for sale of up to 77.96 lakh shares, aggregating to a total of 1.56 crore equity shares.

Sterlite Electric, which operates in the power transmission and distribution segment, manufactures and supplies a wide range of overhead conductors, power cables, optical ground wire, as well as provides master system integration services. It has customers in over 70 countries, including the USA, Brazil, Sweden, South Africa, Egypt, the UAE, Chile, and Peru.

The company is majority-owned by Twin Star Overseas, while Vedanta Ltd held a 1.51



per cent stake as of March 2025. The company's promoter, Anil Agarwal, who is Chairman of the Vedanta Group and Twin Star

Overseas Ltd, is scheduled to participate in the Offer For Sale (OFS) along with other shareholders.

Proceeds from the proposed IPO issue are meant to be utilised for repayment or prepayment of borrowings, funding capital expenditure requirements, and general corporate purposes.

Twin Star Overseas Ltd is the promoter offloading the stake through the Offer for Sale (OFS) route. It holds 69.46 per cent of the pre-IPO equity capital in Sterlite Electric. The Mauritius-registered firm is a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Ltd and acts as a parent organisation for companies like Sterlite Technologies Ltd, Sterlite Electric Ltd, and Serentica Renewables India 9 Ltd. UNI

All new Hyundai Venue to redefine compact SUV segment

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, OCT 30: Passenger car makers Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) is all set to redefine the country's compact SUV segment with the launch of the all-new Hyundai Venue.

The all-new Hyundai Venue is set to make its debut on November 4, a HMIL release said here today.

Customers can book the new SUV with an initial booking amount of Rs 25,000 at any Hyundai dealership across India.

HMIL Whole-Time Director and Chief Operating Officer Tarun Garg said "The all-new Hyundai Venue is designed to thrill, engineered to perform and built to inspire. With cutting-edge powertrain options, advanced drive and traction control modes and sporty paddle shifters, the new SUV delivers unmatched



performance both in bustling city streets and winding country roads, reflecting the company's unwavering commitment to innovation and our promise of transforming mobility into a truly exhilarating experience."

"We are confident that the all-new Hyundai Venue will not just meet expectations but set new benchmarks in India's compact SUV segment", he said. UNI

Amazon cuts 14,000 jobs

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW YORK, OCT 30: Ecommerce major Amazon said it would cut 14,000 corporate staffers this year in a mass layoff aimed at readying the company for wide adoption of AI technology.

The company noted that it would be hiring in key areas and would prioritize those who lost their jobs for those roles. But the company also said it wasn't done with layoffs, reports CNN.

"We expect to continue hiring in key strategic areas while also finding additional places we can remove layers, increase ownership, and realize efficiency gains," said Beth Galetti, Amazon's senior vice president of people experience in a memo to employees that the company put on its public blog.

Reuters, which on Monday first reported Amazon would lay off staff, said the job cuts could ultimately



reach 30,000.

Galetti said Amazon needs to operate more leanly to achieve CEO Andy Jassy's vision of operating like the world's biggest startup. Jassy wants the company to remain nimble so it can adapt and change quickly as AI upends the technology sector.

"What we need to remember is that the world is changing quickly. This generation of AI is the most transformative technology we've seen since the Internet, and it's enabling companies to innovate much faster than ever before," Galetti said. "We're convinced that we need to be organized more leanly, with fewer layers and more ownership, to move as quickly as possible for our customers and business."

Amazon has over 350,000 corporate employees, according to a 2024 survey filed to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, so the cuts represent about 4 percent of the company's overall staff.

Layoffs will begin Tuesday. Most employees will be given 90 days to look for new roles internally, while people that can't get new jobs at Amazon will be given severance pay and additional benefits. UNI

India's GDP growth this fiscal at 6.5pc, with risks tilted to downside: Crisil

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCT 30: India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth this fiscal is projected at 6.5 per cent, with risks tilted to the downside, according to a CRISIL report, released today. This is mainly driven by strong domestic consumption, a good monsoon, tax relief, and anticipated interest rate cuts.

Pointing towards the downside, CRISIL noted that exports to the United States (US) shrank by 11.9 pc year-on-year in September as higher tariffs kicked in. The rating agency also showed some optimism if a trade deal with the US were concluded soon.

Also, the rating agency attributed the subdued growth in primary goods, which led to the steady industrial growth as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) at 4pc year-on-year in September from 4.1pc in August.



The Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) said, "The September quarter, however, saw a strong 4.1 per cent growth compared with 2 per cent in the June quarter, which is driven by the infrastructure and construction goods (11.5pc vs 6pc),

consumer durables (7pc vs 2.7pc) and primary goods (2pc vs 1.4pc) segments."

CRISIL sees an interplay of downside and upside risks of growth. The downside risks stem from an uncertain global environment, and upside risks from

the improvement in domestic demand conditions post the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rationalisation.

Moreover, domestic demand, particularly private consumption, is expected to underpin India's growth, which is driven by tax

relief, rate cuts, and soft inflation.

The income tax cuts announced in the union Budget 2025-26 and GST rationalisation are expected to boost discretionary spending.

Moreover, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) interest rate cuts so far in 2025 have already lowered broader lending rates in the economy, such as money market rates and bank lending rates.

CRISIL expects another rate cut this year amid low inflation and risks to growth. RBI has also cut the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 25 basis points (bps) in September and October each.

With two more cuts of 25bps each slated by the end of November, banking liquidity is expected to get a boost.

Inflation is expected to stay benign this fiscal on the back of low crude prices and the GST rationalisation, giving household budgets elbowroom for discretionary spending. UNI



De Kock Rediscovered Purpose After Break

Now a senior voice in a new dressing room, de Kock comes into the Proteas set-up with fresh perspectives

■ **FIRDOSE MOONDA**

ST LUCIA: Quinton de Kock had to walk away from his childhood dream of becoming an international cricketer to realise he hadn't quite fulfilled as much of it as he wanted. And he did it quietly.

After South Africa lost last year's T20 World Cup final in heart-wrenching fashion by seven runs to India, de Kock, in his words, "disappeared".

He hadn't retired from T20Is, hadn't said any goodbyes, and simply wasn't named in any of South Africa's squads. Rob Walter, now the former white-ball coach, spent press conference after press conference saying he hadn't spoken to de Kock and had no idea of his future plans until, eventually we stopped asking.

Everyone - with good reason - assumed, de Kock was done. He popped up in T20 leagues as one spring came and went, but by the time another arrived, de Kock had spent enough time in the cold.

"I missed the camaraderie and the whole thing of representing the Proteas," de Kock said in his first media interaction post-comeback. "I'd played so much for the Proteas over the years that I kind of forgot about that feeling, as a kid that's grown up to be a Proteas cricketer."

"After having a bit of a break from the team, that childhood dream came back."

Many players say this kind of thing when they walk away: the achievements will blur

into the background and it's the friendships they'll miss. Some keep them going at league level, and de Kock has, but not many return to make new connections. De Kock has decided that's what he wants.

"What I've really enjoyed is all the new faces," he said. "There's only a handful of the guys who are still here from when I left. Now I'm playing with a whole bunch of youngsters, new guys, new coaching staff, so it's quite refreshing. I'm making some new friends now and there's a new style within the team."

Those words may sound strange to those, like many of us, for whom de Kock is still the uber-talented 20-year-old who burst into South Africa's squad in late 2012. But 13 years have passed, de Kock is 32 and is South Africa's 10th most-capped international across all formats. Not much has changed about his public persona - he still "just doesn't watch cricket," - and didn't say much about the women's team making their first ODI World Cup final, but he's no newbie. He is a senior and he intends to behave like one.

"Apart from trying to win games, I'm going to try to help youngsters grow in their careers. Obviously, I play a lot more international cricket than a couple of the guys on the team, so I'm just here to help them out where I can," he said. "When I started, one of the big guys that I stuck close to, and is now one of my very good friends is Dale Steyn."

"He taught me a couple of lessons along the way that really helped my career. A couple of the youngsters have been asking me

questions and how to improve their game, so I'm happy to be here and help where I can, kind of like what Dale did for me. If I make an impact in their careers, it will be great. It's very different, me coming back as one of the older guys. I've always been used to being one of the young guys in the team. So it's a bit of a shell shock."

Equally, it will take some getting used to that de Kock, a former captain, is not guaranteed a place on reputation alone and he knows it. "I don't think the door is completely open for me," he said. "I still need to come here and score runs."

After only two matches, the comeback's sample size is small but de Kock hasn't had it all his way. He was out for 1 against Namibia earlier this month and made a good-looking 23 off 13 balls against Pakistan in the first T20I. Both times, he sliced the ball to fielders, which may indicate a little patience is required. De Kock's time away, mostly spent as father to a young daughter, is likely to have taught him some. With the calendar head, he has more than enough matches to show it.

South Africa play two more T20Is against Pakistan followed by three ODIs. Then, after two Tests in India (which won't feature de Kock), they will play three ODIs and five T20Is in India in preparation for next year's T20 World Cup. If de Kock is included in the India series, it would be a strong sign that he is being considered for the World Cup, but he isn't thinking that way yet.

ESPNCricinfo



District Baramulla Handball Championship Begins at indoor Stadium Baramulla

■ **AASHIQ HUSSAIN**

BARAMULLA, OCT 20: District Baramulla Handball championship begins today at indoor Stadium Baramulla organised by District Baramulla handball Association in collaboration with J&K Handball Association under the aegis j&k sports council. The inaugural match was played between KIC Sopore and Welkin Handball Club in which KIC Defeated Welkin Handball Club by 6 goals in second match of the day played between Hill Crest School Kreeri and and Shining star Patan in which Hill Crest School defeated Shining star by 3 goals

in Third match of the day which was played between Al Murad Juniors and KIC Sopore in which KIC Defeated AL Murad Juniors by 5 goals.



Renowned Calligraphy Artist Jameel Ansari Honoured by CM Omar Abdullah

■ **HT NEWS DESK**

SRINAGAR, OCT 30: At a graceful function held at the SKICC, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah formally released the biography authored by the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Health, and Social Welfare, Ms. Sakina Itoo, chronicling the inspiring life and political journey of her late father, Wali Mohammad Itoo.

On the occasion, renowned calligraphy artist, designer, essayist, and journalist Jameel Ansari was



honoured by the Chief Minister for his outstanding dedication, artistic excellence, and significant contribution to the creative design and presentation of the biography.

The event was attended by several cabinet ministers, dignitaries, and members of the literary and artistic fraternity, who lauded Ansari's remarkable craftsmanship and his role in elevating the aesthetic appeal of the publication.

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