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India Entering ‘Ease of Doing Research’ Era: PM Modi Unveils ₹1 Lakh Crore Innovation Push

Says India Now a Global Pioneer in Digital Infrastructure, AI and space, After Todays Massive Investment

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Scheme, calling it the largest-ever investment in India's scientific and technological future and a decisive step towards making the country a global hub of next-generation innovation. Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, the Prime Minister said the government has now shifted focus from "Ease of Doing Business" to "Ease of Doing Research." He



announced that for the first time, capital will be made available for high-risk, high-impact scientific projects, with an

emphasis on deep-tech, semiconductors, clean energy, space, biotech and advanced materials. "India is no longer just a consumer of technology. We have become a pioneer of transformation through technology," the Prime Minister said, citing the success of the COVID-19 vaccine mission, Chandrayaan, and the rapid rise of digital public infrastructure. Modi said India's R&D expenditure has doubled in the past decade, patent registrations have risen 17-fold, and the country is now the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with over 6,000

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Today's Initiative Aimed at Providing Huge Relief to The Affected Families: LG Sinha

LG lays Foundation Stone for New Houses at Food-Hit Chishoti, Announcing Major Infrastructural Push for Paddar



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, NOV 3: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday laid the foundation stone for reconstruction of 19 houses destroyed in the August floods at Chishoti Paddar, assuring full rehabilitation support to the affected families.

KEY PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

- Army Goodwill School sanctioned for Paddar
- Petrol pump approved for the region
- BRO to rebuild Atholi-Machail Mata road & new bridge in Chishoti
- BSNL to install 4G towers to end mobile black spots

The houses will be rebuilt free of cost with the support of HRDS India under "Operation Sindoor". Each unit will be a three-bedroom prefabricated smart house designed to

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Congress's Blunders Cost Kashmir Peace: Amit Shah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 03: Holding the Congress rule responsible for decades of violence in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Narendra Modi-led government follows a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

Addressing election rallies in Sheohar and Sitamarhi areas of Bihar, Shah said that during Congress governments, Pakistani terrorists used to infiltrate into India frequently, but no strong action was taken. "It was the Congress government who is responsible for the decades of terrorism and violence in Kashmir, while the PM Modi government hit back at the terrorism with full force," he said.

Shah added, "Earlier, Pakistani terrorists used to sneak into India every day. Did Congress and Lalu ever respond to them? They would feed them biryani instead," he said, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The Home Minister said that the present government has changed this approach. "When Uri was attacked, we conducted a surgical strike. When Pulwama was attacked, we carried out an airstrike. And when Pahalgam was attacked, within ten days we entered Pakistan and eliminated the terrorists through Operation Sindoor," he said. "If bullets are fired from there, the answer will be with shells from here."

According to Shah, PM Modi has taken several steps in the last eleven years to eliminate terrorism. "When Congress was in power, terrorist attacks used to happen every other day, and no firm action was taken. When PM Modi came to power,

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DARBAR is Finally Back; CM Omar Gets Rousing Reception, Calls it “A Welcome Experience”

■ MUKARAM ALI

JAMMU, NOV 3: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was accorded a warm and enthusiastic welcome in Jammu on Sunday as the biannual Darbar Move offices reopened in the winter capital after a gap of four years.

The Chief Minister arrived at Shaheedi Chowk at 9:15 AM, where he was greeted by members of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and local trade bodies. He then walked through Residency

Road and Raghunath Bazar, receiving greetings from traders and citizens who lined the streets to welcome him.

At City Chowk and Kanak Mandi, Omar Abdullah was again felicitated by market associations before proceeding to the Civil Secretariat, where a ceremonial Guard of Honour marked the formal opening of offices.

Following the reception, the Chief Minister chaired a high-level meeting with the Council of Ministers and top bureaucrats to



review departmental functioning after the move.

Calling the restoration of the Darbar Move "a welcome experience," Omar Abdullah said the return of the practice had "rekindled enthusiasm across Jammu city and its adjoining areas."

He, however, stressed the need for immediate on-ground results. "All planning phases are over. It is now time to translate our decisions into tangible outcomes," the Chief Minister said, directing

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Legislative assemblies are a key pillar of our Parliamentary system: President Droupadi Murmu

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: President Droupadi Murmu today described legislative assemblies as a "key pillar" of India's Parliamentary system and said legislators are the most important link between the public and the government.

Addressing the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly in Dehradun on the Silver Jubilee of the formation of Uttarakhand

state, the President said constant accountability to the public is both a strength and challenge of the Parliamentary system.

The President said the framers of the Constitution had placed greater importance on continuous accountability by adopting the Parliamentary system.

Describing legislators as the most important link between the public and the government, she emphasised that if

MLAs remain actively engaged in solving public problems and work for their welfare, the bond of trust between the public and their representatives would be unbreakable.

The President urged members of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly to pursue development and public welfare work with complete dedication and said such work transcends party politics.

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JKBOSE Revises Class 10th Exam Date-Sheet in View of Assembly Bye-Polls

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) on Sunday issued a revised date-sheet for the Class 10th Annual/Regular (Oct–Nov 2025) examinations, rescheduling several papers in view of the Assembly bye-elections in Budgam and Nagrota constituencies on November 11.

According to the revised schedule, the examination for Vocational Subjects will now be held on November 6, while Science has been shifted to November 13.

The Urdu/Hindi paper will be conducted on November 17, followed by Computer Science on November 19. The English examination has been rescheduled for November 20, and Home Science will now be held on November 23.

The exams will culminate on November 27 with Painting/Art & Drawing subjects.

Subjects with fewer candidates, such as Music, will be held on November 25, and Additional/Optional languages including Kashmiri, Dogri, Bhoti, Punjabi, Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, Persian and Sanskrit will be conducted on

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SBI donates ₹1.55 crore to Chief Minister's Relief Fund

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 3: A deputation of the State Bank of India (SBI) today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, and presented a cheque of ₹1.55 crore as a contribution to the Chief

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Film industry knocks Kashmir again

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 03: Nearly seven months after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which led to widespread cancellations of film shoots across Kashmir, the valley has once again welcomed a film crew, this time from the South Indian film industry, marking a noteworthy revival for cinematic tourism in the region.

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Modi's India Future Ready, Emerging As Global Protagonist: Jitendra Singh

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday urged scientists to embrace global benchmarks and strategies to realise the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) here, Singh said India never lacked talent, but required an enabling environment which was provided when Narendra Modi assumed office of prime minister in 2014.

"India is no longer a follower, the country today beckons others to follow it. India is no longer a global player, it is emerging as a global protagonist. India is no longer the trailing India of the 20th century, it is future ready, Modi's India of 21st century," Singh said.

The minister urged scientists to embrace global benchmarks and follow global strategies to realise the goal of a Viksit Bharat (developed India) by 2047.

"The age of silos is over, the gap between

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Timeline: Chaos and Probe in Srinagar's IHPL Cricket League

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 03: What began as a glittering sporting spectacle in Kashmir featuring global cricket stars has ended in chaos, unpaid bills and a police investigation.

The privately-organised, high-profile Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) T20 in Srinagar has collapsed amid allegations of fraud, unpaid dues and the sudden disappearance of its organisers.

As per details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), police have registered a case and initiated a probe after multiple players, service providers and hotel managements accused the organisers of cheating and breach of trust.

The global names associated with the league included Chris

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‘IHPL Controversy and Political Reaction’

BJP seeks answers over ‘scam’, questions Sports Minister in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 03: Moments after police registered a case and initiated a probe into the controversy surrounding

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

India Entering.....

deep-tech startups already working in frontier sectors. He also announced that 10,000 new research fellowships will be awarded over the next five years. Among the key announcements are - ₹1 lakh crore fund for R&D and innovation 25,000 additional Atal Tinkering Labs to nurture young inventors 10,000 new research fellowships for young scientists Global AI Summit 2026 to be hosted by India

New AI Governance Framework focused on ethical, human-centric technology The Prime Minister said the 21st century is a period of exponential change and called for collective global cooperation in science and technology. He said India's rapid progress has been made possible because "when science meets scale, innovation becomes inclusive, and technology drives transformation."

Modi also pointed to the rising role of women in technology, noting that patent filings by women in India have increased from fewer than 100 a decade ago to more than 5,000 annually.

Calling science "a force that must remain ethical, inclusive and globally beneficial," the Prime Minister urged scientists and researchers to push boundaries and assured full government support: "If you have ideas, the government has funding."

While addressing national stakeholders, he said the benefits of this new research ecosystem would reach students, universities, industry and startups across all regions of the country, including smaller states and Union Territories.

The PM concluded with "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan," expressing confidence that the Conclave will define India's innovation roadmap for the coming decade.

Today's Initiative.....

withstand harsh weather. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the citizens and security personnel who lost their lives due to the tragic natural disaster.

"The catastrophic floods swept away precious lives, wiped out several homes and tore through infrastructure. I am hopeful that the three-bedroom pre-fabricated smart houses for which the foundation stone was laid today will help bring the lives of the affected families back on track," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India) for its noble initiative.

"Since SDRF relief is insufficient, I had earlier requested HRDS India to rebuild 1,500 fully damaged houses across the UT under Operation Sindoor and in the aftermath of August floods, to which they had agreed. This initiative will provide huge relief to the affected families," he said.

Each house will feature a concrete foundation and utilizing prefabricated technology, including fiber cement boards, powder-coated GI sheets, and a steel structural framework with C-channel sections. These materials have been selected for their strength, durability, and ability to withstand harsh climatic conditions, ensuring long-term resilience and suitability to the region's environment. Every reconstructed unit will be developed as a "Smart House," incorporating modern design elements for comfort, safety, and functionality.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to all the emergency responders, district administration, Army, NDRF, SDRF, Police, armed forces, local community, youth and voluntary organizations for saving precious lives, evacuating Machail Mata devotees to safety and providing timely medical care.

"I must commend the profound resilience of the people of Chishoti. Nature has tested them severely, but this strong community met the challenge head-on," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his commitment, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for complete rehabilitation of the flood-affected families and meeting the development needs of the people of Kishtwar.

"In a boost to our efforts to provide modern infrastructure to Paddar Kishtwar, Government of India has sanctioned an Army Goodwill School and One Petrol Pump at Paddar," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also announced that Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will reconstruct Atholi to Machail Mata Road and build a new bridge in Chishoti. He further said that all the black spots in Mobile Network Connection have been identified and land has been transferred to BSNL to set up new 4G towers.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the local residents and listened to their issues and demands. He directed the District Administration to connect the youth with self-employment opportunities through Mission Yuva.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ongoing works for the augmentation of facilities for the pilgrims at Machail Mata will be com-

pleted by the month of May, 2026. He also assured that the appropriate steps will be taken to meet the demand for construction of Yatri Niwas at Paddar.

A two-minute silence was observed in the memory of those who lost their lives in Chishoti on August,14, 2025.

Shri Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Paddar- Nagseni; Ms Shagun Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar; Shrimath Swami Atma Nambi, President, HRDS India; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Shridhar Patil, DIG DKR Range; Shri Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; Shri Aji Krishnan; Founder – Secretary and representatives of HRDS India; senior officials, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life attended the foundation stone laying ceremony.

Congress's.....

terrorists were eliminated by entering Pakistan," he said.

"PM Modi secured this nation and worked for its progress," he said, adding that the government has zero tolerance against terrorism.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, addressing a separate gathering, accused the Congress of creating disputes in Kashmir and said the party was responsible for the implementation of Article 370 in the erstwhile state. "Who caused disputes in Kashmir? It was Congress," he said.

Yogi Adityanath said that under Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah, Kashmir had been freed from terrorism and extremism.

"What was the compulsion that the Kashmir Valley became devoid of Hindus? It was Congress's sin that Article 370 was implemented in Kashmir. Pakistanis were settling there, while the rest of the Indians were being asked to vacate Kashmir," he said.

Both leaders said that the current government had brought a change in India's approach to national security and would continue to act firmly against terrorism— (KNO)

DARBAR is.....

departments to expedite implementation of approved projects.

Acknowledging financial constraints, he said resource issues "will be addressed appropriately," while urging officials to curb avoidable expenditure and ensure effective delivery.

The Chief Minister also informed that after completing departmental review meetings in Kashmir, similar exercises will now be conducted across districts of the Jammu division.

Omar Abdullah commended the administration for the smooth conduct of the recent Assembly session and reiterated that the focus now must be on grassroots-level governance and timely execution of works.

Legislative....

She advised them to work with special sensitivity for the welfare and development of the underprivileged sections of society and said that providing growth opportunities to younger generation should also be their priority.

Emphasising that under Article 44 of the Constitution, Constitution-makers had made the provision for a uniform civil code for all citizens, she appreciated the members of Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly for implementing the Uniform Civil Code Bill in accordance with the Constitutional directive.

She expressed happiness to note that over 550 bills have been passed in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly, including the Uttarakhand Lokayukta Bill, the Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Bill and the Anti-Copying Bill.

Pointing out that Uttarakhand is blessed with unparalleled natural wealth and beauty, she said the state must move forward on the path of development while preserving these gifts of nature.

Noting that over the past 25 years, the people of Uttarakhand had achieved impressive development milestones she said the state had made commendable progress in the areas of environment, energy, tourism, healthcare, and education.

There has also been progress in digital and physical connectivity and infrastructure development.

"As a result of comprehensive development efforts, Uttarakhand has improved on several parameters of the human development indices," the President said. UNI

JKBOSE Revises.....

November 24. The Social Science paper is now scheduled for November 26.

JKBOSE has advised students to strictly follow the updated schedule and prepare accordingly. The Board has also directed Chief Education Officers, Heads of Institutions and examination staff to ensure that students are informed through all available means.

SBI donates.....

Minister's Relief Fund. The delegation was led by Jayant Mani, Deputy General Manager (Business and Operations) and Controlling Head for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his gratitude to the SBI employees for their generous contribution, describing it as "a noble gesture of solidarity and service beyond banking."

He said the donation reflects SBI's continued commitment to social responsibility and its deep bond with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Film industry.....

The movie, whose title has been kept under wraps for now, is being filmed at various beautiful locations in Srinagar and South Kashmir. The project signals a renewed confidence among filmmakers who had earlier pulled back their schedules following the attack that shook the local film and tourism ecosystem.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a casting Director associated with the project, said the shoot marks a "positive restart" for film activity in the region.

"After the Pahalgam attack, many production houses had put their Kashmir schedules on hold due to safety concerns. Being from outside the valley, even though we had initial apprehensions, once we came here, the experience has been completely positive. The people are cooperative, the environment feels safe, and the local support has been incredible," he said, expressing optimism that more crews will soon follow.

The director and lead actors of the film, currently engaged in shooting, said they initially had concerns about the situation in the valley but were "pleasantly surprised" upon arrival.

"We did have some fears before coming here, given what had happened earlier this year. But once we arrived, we found the place to be safe and welcoming. The people are very cooperative, the security arrangements are good, and we were able to work freely in a positive atmosphere," they told KNO.

Notably, the return of the film crew comes as a morale booster for local facilitators, tourism operators and artists associated with the Kashmir film industry. The valley has long been a favourite destination for filmmakers, from classic Bollywood hits to contemporary web productions, owing to its breathtaking landscapes and unique cultural charm.

Officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department welcomed the development, calling it "a positive sign of regained confidence".

Sources said more film projects, including from Bollywood and regional industries, are in the pipeline for the coming months of late November and December—(KNO)

Modi's India.....

private and public sector has been removed and the whole of government and whole of nation is the mantra to move ahead," Singh said.

The minister said the Modi government has focussed on sectors that were not explored comprehensively.

He said the prime minister had announced initiatives such as Start-up India, Gaganyaan project, Bio-E3, and Deep Ocean Mission in his Independence Day address and they had taken off successfully.

Singh said the bio economy was worth USD 10 billion dollars in 2014 and has grown to USD 200 billion within a decade.

He said while the US was the first to land on the moon, it was India's Chandrayaan that found water on the lunar surface, raising hopes for human habitation there.

"Today, the world has begun to view us with respect and honour. I believe that one day historians will also analyse why we had to wait 70 years after Independence for this joyous experience. Because this country never lacked talent," Singh said.

The minister said Modi gave top priority to science and innovation and made the country realise that the path to progress in the 21st century lies only through the achievements in the field of science and innovation.

Timeline: Chaos.....

Gayle (West Indies), Martin Gupthill (New Zealand) and Jesse Ryder (New Zealand), among other famous names of local and national cricket, announced as part of the line-up and a first for Kashmir cricket.

Notably, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) clarified that it had no role beyond ground allotment, stating the event was entirely private.

A timeline of major incidents that have unfolded over the past weeks is as follows:

October 2025: A Dream Launch

The IHPL was launched in October as Kashmir's own high-profile T20 league, promising to blend international glamour with local talent.

Backed by a Mohali-based group, Yuva Society, the tournament featured eight teams named after regions such as Pulwama Titans,

Gulmarg Royals and Kishtwar Giants and more.

The organisers claimed sponsorship tie-ups and promised significant prize money. Matches were scheduled at Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium from October 25 to November 8, among which the first few matches were held too.

Late October: Early Cracks Appear In the initial matches, players and support staff began complaining of payment delays and a lack of basic facilities. Reports suggest players were promised payments of up to Rs 3 lakh per match, but those payments allegedly never arrived.

Team managers began receiving "technical explanations" for non-payments, even as organisers continued posting promotional videos online showing celebrity arrivals and matches at Bakshi Stadium.

A player, as earlier reported by KNO, said, "They promised match fees, accommodation and travel support. But after two games, everything stopped, no payments, no clarity and no one picking up calls."

November 1–2: Matches Cancelled, Confusion Peaks

The situation deteriorated over the weekend. Matches scheduled for November 1 and 2 were abruptly cancelled, and players were reportedly told not to come to the ground due to "technical issues".

Hotel staff and transport contractors also began complaining about unpaid bills.

A local cricketer told KNO their manager said not to report to the stadium, citing "technical issues". "No one knew what was going on," he said.

Several international and outstation players left Srinagar, while others were stranded at the Radisson Collection Hotel, unsure whether to leave or stay. Some were even asked to vacate their rooms.

November 2: Organisers Vanish Overnight

On the morning of November 2, it emerged that the organisers had fled Srinagar overnight, leaving behind unpaid dues estimated between Rs 80–90 lakh. Reports said hotel managements were owed large sums for room bookings, catering and logistics. Bus drivers and event workers also claimed they had not been paid.

Staff at one Srinagar hotel told media outlets that "calls to the organisers went unanswered and the remaining event managers quietly disappeared".

One player also told KNO that catering vendors and transporters contacted them directly seeking clarity. "They thought we were part of the organising team. Everyone was in panic; no one from management was around," he said.

November 3: FIR Registered, Probe Launched

On November 3, the Jammu & Kashmir Police confirmed to KNO that a case has been registered under relevant sections of law at Rajbagh Police Station.

A senior police officer told KNO that an FIR has been lodged and a detailed probe is underway to trace the organisers and verify financial transactions to better understand the situation.

November 3, Evening: Political Reaction and Fallout

Soon after the case was filed, political leaders demanded accountability. The BJP's Kashmir unit sought answers from the government, calling the IHPL a "fraud that has embarrassed Kashmir".

It is believed the IHPL's downfall is a setback for Kashmir's growing sports ecosystem, especially at a time when the valley was emerging as a promising venue for national and international sporting events.

Notably, as the IHPL stands unrecognised by the BCCI or the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), questions are being raised over accountability, financial transparency and player safety in such privately-run tournaments, while no official statement has yet been issued on the matter—(KNO)

BJP seeks.....

the Indian Heaven Premier League (IHPL) T20 in Srinagar, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday sought answers from the government, terming the episode a "setback" for budding cricketers in Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur, speaking to reporters, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the recent controversy has once again highlighted the dismal state of cricket affairs in the region, alleging that "frequent irregularities and mismanagement" have become common since political changes in the region.

"Following recent political transitions, cricket in Jammu and Kashmir has suffered repeated setbacks, particularly under the National Conference government," Thakur said while speaking to the media, as per KNO.

He added that they want to ask the Sports Minister of J&K about the current situation of cricket in the Union Territory. "It directly concerns the future of our local youth who are turning to the sport with hope. The government's actions are putting their future at risk," he said.

He urged the administration to ensure a transparent investigation into the IHPL matter, stressing that accountability must be fixed "to restore confidence among young players and the sports community".

Commenting on the Darbar Move to Jammu, Thakur said, "The Chief Minister alone cannot move the Darbar unless the Lieutenant Governor permits it. The National Conference has a habit of taking credit for administrative decisions such as this move."

Earlier, a senior police officer told KNO that an FIR has been registered in connection with the IHPL controversy after players complained of unpaid dues and abrupt cancellations—(KNO)



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Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of School Education department across Jammu division

Calls for effective, transparent utilisation of public funds

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 03: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the performance and functioning of School Education department across Jammu division. The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakwal; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Chowdhary; Chief Education Officers of all districts of Jammu and other concerned officers of School Education department. During the meeting, the Minister assessed the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes, infrastructure development projects, academic reforms, and digital learning initiatives aimed at improving

the quality of education across government schools. During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the efficient and transparent utilisation of public funds to strengthen the education ecosystem. She stressed that every rupee allocated for education sector must be spent judiciously and with measurable outcomes. She directed officers to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects, particularly those related to school infrastructure, ICT labs, teacher training, and learning enhancement programmes. She asked them to address bottlenecks on priority and submit regular progress reports to the department. The Minister called for the adoption of transparent monitoring mechanisms and periodic audits to prevent fund lapses and ensure that benefits



reach the grassroots level. She further instructed officers to strengthen community participation through School Management committees and promote accountability at every administrative tier.

Highlighting the government's focus on inclusive and equitable education, the Minister also underscored the importance of bridging learning gaps, enhancing the teaching-learning process, and improving

student learning outcomes, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. Reiterating the Government's commitment to transforming the education sector, the Minister assured that the

government would continue to support initiatives that empower teachers, modernize classrooms, and create a robust learning environment for all students. "Education is the foundation

of any progressive society. Transparent utilisation of funds and effective monitoring of schemes will ensure schools becoming centres of excellence," the Minister stated. While reviewing other aspects of the department, the Minister strictly instructed the CEOs that school children shouldn't be sent to Government functions, particularly during peak academic and examination session, without prior approval and permission of respective Directors. The Education Minister further asked the CEOs to take reviews in their respective districts from the Assembly Constituency level and prepare all data accordingly so that the MLAs are provided timely information. She also asked them to take MLAs onboard while initiating any new developmental projects in their respective districts.

ZEO Trehgam Hosts Key Orientation For School Heads Kupwara

■ KHURSHEED HUSSAIN

KUPWARA, NOV 03: One day orientation programme for Hols of MS and PS was organized under the chairmanship of Worthy Zonal Education Officer, Trehgam, Mr. Abdul Ahad Lone to review the overall academic and administrative functioning of schools across the zone. The programme focused on a comprehensive agenda covering key areas such as grand enrolment drive, academic progress, co-curricular and cultural activities, infrastructure development, NEP 2020 and administrative efficiency. The progress of Summative Assessment, evaluation status, and implementation of remedial measures for low-performing students were discussed in detail. Special emphasis was laid on strengthening FLN initiatives, effective lesson planning, and maintaining teacher diaries. Worthy Zonal Education Officer urged all schools to ensure active participation in national and zonal-level programmes including INSPIRE Manak, Viksit Bharat Buildathon, Kala Utsav, and Science Drama Contest. The importance of promoting eco-club and sports activities, as well as thematic morning assemblies, was highlighted to foster holistic development among students.

Administrative and data-related matters such as UDISE+ verification, attendance monitoring, and timely submission of monthly progress reports were also reviewed. The programme further addressed issues related to infrastructure, including school building conditions, sanitation, and safety measures. Worthy ZEO stressed strict adherence to hygiene and record-keeping norms under the Mid-Day Meal scheme, along with optimal use of ICT facilities for digital learning. Strategies for 100% enrolment and retention, strengthening of SMCs, and ensuring discipline and punctuality among staff were also discussed.

During the programme Mr. Ab. Rehman Mir, Senior Assistant, briefed the participants about the various administrative and financial aspects of schools, including the status of uniform direct bank transfer and related updates. Mr. Saleem Anwar Malik, ZNO UDISE reviewed the progress of UDISE data updation and provided hands-on guidance to Hols for ensuring timely and accurate completion of the process. Mr. Mohammad Altaf Khan, ZNO Enrolment, Science Drama and ULLAS emphasized the importance of making the Grand Enrolment Drive a grand success by involving all stakeholders and ensuring 100% student enrolment across the zone. Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khatana, ZNO INSPIRE MANAK and FLN urged the Hols to register and nominate eligible students for the Inspire Award scheme to promote innovation and creativity among learners. Mr. Parvaiz Iqbal Shah, also spoke on the occasion. He appreciated the efforts of the Zonal team for organizing such meaningful programmes and appealed that such interactive sessions be held on a monthly basis. Worthy Zonal Education Officer expressed sincere gratitude to Hol UPS Bunpora Trehgam for the excellent arrangements and logistical support extended during the programme.

STRESS-FREE EXAMINATIONS ACROSS KASHMIR DIVISION Director School Education Kashmir, Mr. Naseer Ahmad Wani (JKAS), Leads Extensive Monitoring Drive

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 03: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to ensuring the smooth, fair, and student-friendly conduct of the ongoing examinations across the entire Kashmir Division. In a proactive move to uphold transparency and excellence, Mr. Naseer Ahmad Wani (JKAS), Director School Education Kashmir, personally led a comprehensive monitoring exercise in Srinagar, accompanied by Chief Accounts Officer (CAO) Syed Mubashirah and Chief Education Officer (CEO) Srinagar, Gh. Mohi-ud-din Bhat. The Director visited key examination centres including GHSS Kothibagh, Presentation Convent Hr. Sec. School Rajbagh, High School Natipora, and

School Hyderpora, where he interacted with students and staff, reviewed the arrangements on ground, and extended his best wishes for a smooth and stress-free examination experience. During the visit Director School Education Kashmir, Mr. Naseer Ahmad Wani (JKAS) said: "We are here to assure our students that the administration is fully dedicated to their success. I extend my best wishes to all students appearing in the examinations." "I appeal to all concerned staff to ensure a smooth and stress-free examination in every nook and corner of the Kashmir Division. Our top priority is to maintain a fair, transparent, and supportive environment." Meanwhile, under the direct supervision of DSEK, multiple teams from the Directorate fanned out across all districts of



the Kashmir Division to maintain strict vigilance and uphold uniform standards of conduct. Joint Directors visited several examination centres, including those in remote and far-flung areas of Kupwara and Anantnag, ensuring consistency and adherence to established protocols. Dr. Iqbal Hussain Mir (JKAS), Personnel Officer DSEK, conducted a detailed review of arrangements across various centres in District Budgam, expressing satisfaction over the effective and disciplined conduct of the examinations. The Directorate remains resolutely committed to maintaining transparency, discipline, and a student-centric atmosphere throughout the examination process—ensuring that every student is provided a fair opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities.

JKAACL Hosts Seminar to Commemorate 101st Birth Centenary of Sarwanand Koul Premi

■ HT NEWS DESK

KOKARNAG, NOV 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised a day-long seminar and Mehfil-e-Mushaira at Government Degree College, Kokarnag, to commemorate the 101st birth centenary of Late Sarwanand Koul 'Premi', a revered poet, scholar, and social reformer. The event, held in recognition of Premi's enduring literary and social legacy, was presided over by Dr. M. Shafi Ayaz, President, Maraz Adbi Sangam. Distinguished guests present on the occasion included Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Khanday, Principal, Government Degree College Kokarnag, and Jawaid Iqbal Khan, Editor (Kashmiri), JKAACL. The programme commenced with a welcome address by the Head of the Kashmiri Section, JKAACL, who warmly greeted the participants and reflected upon the remarkable life and literary contributions of Sarwanand Koul Premi. Dr. Gulzar Ahmad, Assistant Editor (Kashmiri), conducted the proceedings throughout the seminar and presented a concise yet insightful introduction to the life and works of Sarwanand Koul Premi, maintaining an engaging flow of the event. In his address, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Khanday lauded the Academy for organising such meaningful literary



programmes in academic institutions, observing that such initiatives help strengthen the bond between education and culture. The seminar featured a keynote address by Dr. Lone Imtiyaz, who presented a detailed paper highlighting Premi's multifaceted personality as a poet, freedom fighter, and humanist. A research-oriented paper was also presented during the event, further enriching the academic value of the seminar and offering deeper insight into Premi's literary and social contributions. A vibrant Mehfil-e-Mushaira followed the scholarly session, adding a poetic spirit to the proceedings. The poets who recited their works included Sagar Salam, Mudasir Rida, Atiq Siddiquee, Jawaid Sagar, Pakeeza Hina, Fayaz Hali, Abu Shaheed, Yehya Tauseef,

Masoom Jehangir, Muntazir Gulzar, Muntazir Bilal, Jafar Kashmiri, Murtaza Bismil, Dr. Arsh Kashmiri, Sajid Fayaz, and Mudasir Ahmad. The event drew an enthusiastic audience comprising students, faculty members of the college, and noted literary personalities, including Parvinder Kour, Parveena Akhtar, and Veena Koul Ganjoo, a relative of Late Sarwanand Koul Premi. Her presence added an emotional touch to the proceedings, reflecting the deep personal and cultural connection shared by the family and the literary community. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Maqbool Sajid, who expressed sincere gratitude to the guests, participants, and audience members for their active participation and support in making the event a success.

CEO Ganderbal Inspects Examination Centres in Zone Ganderbal, Kangan and Hariganiwan

■ HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, NOV 03: The Chief Education Officer Ganderbal Mr. Oneel Kumar Bhat visited today to various examination centres established across Zone Ganderbal, Kangan, and Hariganiwan to monitor the ongoing Class 10th Annual Regular board Examinations. During the visit, the Chief Education Officer took a detailed review of the arrangements made for the smooth and transparent conduct of the examinations. The officer interacted with the supervisory staff and other officials present at the centres and instructed them to ensure strict adherence to all guidelines and procedures prescribed by the Board authorities. The officer emphasized the need to maintain fairness and discipline during the examination process and directed the concerned staff to provide all necessary facilities to the appearing students for a conducive examination environment. The Chief Education Officer was accompanied by Headquarter Assistant Mr. Rafeek Ahmad, who assisted in the inspection of the centres and in assessing the overall arrangements. The visit concluded with directions to all concerned officers and supervisory staff to remain vigilant and ensure that the examinations are conducted in a smooth, transparent, and orderly manner throughout the district.

Satish Sharma inspects departmental offices on opening day of Darbar Move

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: On the first day of opening of the Darbar Move at Civil Secretariat here, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today conducted comprehensive inspection of all the offices functioning under his Ministry.

The Minister, accompanied by senior officers of the concerned departments, visited various sections and reviewed the working of the administrative units including the offices of FCS&CA, IT, Transport, and Youth Services & Sports. He took stock of the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of official business in the Secretariat and assessed the readiness of staff and infrastructure following the shift to the winter capital.

During the inspection, Satish Sharma interacted with officers and employees, enquired about their requirements, and instructed them to maintain the highest



standards of discipline, punctuality, and efficiency. He emphasized on the importance of citizen-centric approach in governance, stating that our focus must always

remain on prompt service delivery, accountability, and transparency in every aspect of administration.

He further directed the departmental heads to ensure effective

coordination between field offices and the Secretariat so that public grievances are addressed in a time-bound manner.

The Minister also reviewed key

ongoing initiatives under each department, particularly digital service expansion under the IT Department, consumer protection measures under FCS&CA, road safety awareness campaigns under the Transport Department, and sports development programs being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the government's commitment to responsive and efficient administration, Satish Sharma said that the reopening of the Secretariat marks the beginning of another productive session of governance aimed at accelerating the pace of public welfare and infrastructure development. He called upon all officers to rededicate themselves to the mission of good governance and ensure that every government initiative reaches the grassroots level effectively.

The Minister expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made in various offices and assured that all necessary support will be extended to further strengthen departmental functioning.

DC Bandipora Inaugurates 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan' Felicitates Officers under Aadi Karmayogi Programme

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 03: The District Administration Bandipora today organised a felicitation ceremony under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh to acknowledge the exceptional performance of officers and field functionaries under the Aadi Karmayogi Programme.

The event was held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan: Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp', a 15-day campaign being organised across the district to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Sahib.

The campaign aims to promote saturation of government welfare schemes, enhance awareness among tribal communities, and strengthen participatory governance through active community engagement.

During the felicitation ceremony, the DC lauded the district's achievement of national-level recognition for outstanding performance under the Aadi Karmayogi initiative.

The DC urged officers to continue their dedication towards inclusive development and invited innovative suggestions for strengthening the Village Development Programme under Aadi Karmayogi.

On the occasion, a presentation by the District Programme Manager, NHM, highlighted how the Aadi Karmayogi Village Development Programme was compiled reflecting 17 ministries, encompassing vision formulation, situation analysis, village mapping, transect walks, Seva Kendras, painting competitions, gram sabhas, and awareness activities such as Run for Awareness and Candle Marches. The district's comprehensive and participatory approach, he said, turned the initial vision into a successful model of tribal development.

Similarly, the Block Development Officer, Gurez, presented the block-level progress, showcasing activities like village orientation, wall paintings, Seva Kendras, special gram sabhas, and identification of infrastructural gaps under the programme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that each tribal village should have one village map painting displayed prominently and ensured that all tribal populations are included in the fortnight-long campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.

Among others, the event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Huson Shaw; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool; District Programme Officer ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, AD FCS&CA, District Information Officer and other district and sectoral officers, besides representatives from various departments and field functionaries.

One-Day Sensitization Workshop on PCPNDT Act held at Samba

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 3: A one-day sensitization workshop on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act was organized today under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jagdish Singh in the presence of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Vidhi Bhatial; Assistant Director DHS Jammu, Dr. Summi Thakur; Law Officer, Shivali Gupta; Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Nodal Officers and public and private sonologists, gynecologists, pediatricians, proprietors and NGO representatives.

The workshop aimed to enhance awareness and understanding among medical practitioners, health officials and other stakeholders regarding the provisions, rules and regulations of the PCPNDT Act. The Act seeks to prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques and curb the practice of sex selection, thereby promoting gender equality and protecting the rights of the girl child.

Addressing the participants, ADC Jagdish Singh emphasized the importance of strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act and called upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards eradicating gender-based discrimination. He highlighted that effective monitoring and compliance at every level are crucial to uphold the spirit of the Act.

CMO Dr. Vidhi Bhatial elaborated the key objectives of the Act, including the regulation of diagnostic techniques, ensuring accountability of registered medical practitioners and promoting awareness about gender-sensitive practices in healthcare. She urged the medical fraternity to maintain transparency in record-keeping and adhere to the legal provisions to prevent any violations.

Dr Simmi Thakur presented a Powerpoint presentation on the importance of this act, while Shivali Gupta conducted detailed sessions on the legal framework, reporting procedures and responsibilities of clinics and ultrasound centers under the PCPNDT Act.

The workshop also featured interactive session and case-based learning to help participants understand the practical aspects of its implementation.

The workshop concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen coordination between the health department and enforcement agencies to ensure the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act in the district and to uphold the objective of safeguarding the girl child

VIGILANCE AWARENESS PROGRAMME HELD AT TSO OFFICE RAMGARH

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 03: As part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week-2025, a programme was organized today at the Tehsil Supply Office (TSO), Ramgarh under the supervision of the Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and overall guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Samba.

The event commenced with the integrity pledge, wherein the officials, staff members and Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in public service. The pledge ceremony reflected the collective resolve of the department to strengthen integrity mechanisms and ensure corruption-free service delivery.

The participants were sensitized about the importance of maintaining the highest standards of hon-



esty while performing professional duty. FPS dealers and beneficiaries were reminded of their pivotal role in promoting transparency in the Public Distribution System (PDS) by ensuring that ration is lifted and distributed strictly as per entitlement. Beneficiaries were urged to promptly report any irregularities, overcharging or malpractice observed in the ration distribution process.

The programme concluded with

a collective affirmation to uphold this year's theme – "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" – highlighting that integrity and vigilance are not merely administrative duties but shared moral obligations of every citizen and stakeholder.

The event was attended by departmental officials, FPS dealers and local beneficiaries, who appreciated the initiative and expressed their commitment to support a transparent and corruption-free system.

DC Udhampur discusses activity plan for celebration of 150 Years of Vande Mataram

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 03:

To discuss the modalities for the commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride Vande Mataram in the district, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of officers from the line departments in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Commissioner

Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other district officers.

At the outset, ADC Prem Singh gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the objectives and framework of the campaign. He informed that the commemoration will be organized in four phases, with the first phase scheduled to commence on November 7. He added that the initiative envisages a series of activities to celebrate the timeless message of unity and national pride embodied in the National Song Vande Mataram.



The DC asked the officers to chalkout department-wise action

plans for organizing awareness activities and outreach programmes across the district. She directed the officers to submit their respective action plans at the earliest. "The celebrations shall be people-centric, reflecting the patriotic spirit and cultural vibrancy of Udhampur district," she added.

The heads of departments and educational institutions were asked to ensure maximum public participation through meticulous planning, effective coordination and creative execution of the proposed events.

Mission Director HADP reviews programme implementation across J&K

Stresses promotion of Nutri-Cereals, Agri-processing ventures

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: Mission Director HADP/JCIP Sandeep Kumar today chaired a meeting to take a comprehensive review of the progress of the programme in the Union Territory. The meeting was held here in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture - Krishi Bhawan.

The Mission Director reviewed the physical and financial achievements under different HADP projects being implemented in both public and private sectors.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta; Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed; Director Horticulture Kashmir Vikas Anand and Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning) Jammu Priyanka Parihar, along with Technical Officers

HADP (Agriculture and Horticulture) Jammu, technical staff of Mission Directorate HADP, representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Jammu.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Chief Agriculture Officers and Chief Horticulture Officers of all districts of Jammu and Kashmir; Technical Officers HADP Kashmir; representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Kashmir and other officers from Kashmir attended the meeting through video conferencing (VC).

During the deliberations, Sandeep Kumar emphasized the need to achieve 100 percent expenditure targets by the end of the current month to ensure timely implementation of project activities. While reviewing the progress under the Promo-



tion of Nutri-Cereals (Millets) component, he directed to establish millet mills in those ar-

reas where millet cultivation is expanding and the beneficiaries have an actual need.

He also took a detailed review of the Kisan Sathi Portal activities and instructed to clear all

pending approvals immediately. He further directed to remove inactive applications systematically and register those genuinely in need of support. The Mission Director also stressed the importance of regular photo documentation with GPS coordinates to be shared with the Mission Directorate for real-time monitoring. Highlighting the importance of GI tagging of indigenous millet varieties, he urged SKUAST to expedite the process. SKUAST-Jammu informed that work is already underway on seven such millet varieties. The Mission Director also emphasized the development and sharing of Packages of Practices (PoP) and technology transfer by SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir with their respective Directorates for

wider farmer adoption.

Sandeep Kumar further underscored the need to establish canning units under HADP to enhance the shelf life of agriculture and horticulture produce, thereby increasing farmers' income. He also highlighted the significance of exposure visits of farmers at the national level, enabling them to learn about new technologies and innovative practices. He directed that consolidated reports of such exposure visits be submitted to the Mission Directorate in a timely manner.

The Mission Director laid special emphasis on strengthening Research and Development (R&D) efforts to ensure the availability of improved seed varieties, which would enhance yield and productivity across the UT.

DC Ramban reviews progress under District Capex Budget 2025-26

Stresses on 100% physical, financial achievement

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOV 03: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26. The meeting aimed to en-

sure achievement of 100% physical and financial targets, effective, transparent and timely implementation of all approved developmental projects of RDD, PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Education, Health, Urban Local Bodies and other departments across the district.

Assistant Commissioner Development, officers from the line departments and engineers from REW, PWD, PDD, PMGSY, besides Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other executing agencies were in attendance. The Deputy Commission-



er reviewed the status of ongoing developmental works and discussed the implementation of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) Plan. Detailed deliberations were also held on new project proposals, requirements for ongoing works and local developmental priorities.

The DC directed the Executive Engineer REW to take up allotted works immediately and expedite the process for allotment for the remaining approved works. He also asked the development departments to construct Community Sani-

tary Complexes (CSCs) at prominent public locations and conduct regular cleanliness drives in their respective areas to promote hygiene and sanitation.

Further, the BDOs were directed to complete all SOS works, both physically and financially, as the requisite funds have already been released.

Emphasizing timely execution and accountability, the Deputy Commissioner underscored that achieving developmental goals requires close coordination among departments.

GCOE Jammu organises anti-tobacco awareness campaign

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

W JAMMU, NOVEMBER 03: NCORD Committee of Government College of Education Jammu, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Psychological Counseling Cell organized an Anti-Tobacco Campaign aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

The event was held under the leadership of Principal of the College, Dr. Jyoti Parihar. She commended the organisers and students and ensured that such initiatives will be a part of curriculum.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members who carried placards, banners and slogans highlighting the message of "Say No to Tobacco" and "Health is Wealth." The event sought to sensitize the community about the physical, mental and social hazards of tobacco use, aligning with national efforts to achieve a tobacco-free India.

The program was organized under the con-venorship of Dr. Ramzan Ali (Convenor NCORD) Dr. Subhra Jamwal (NSS PO) and Dr. Ambica. (Convenor Psychological Counselling Cell), who coordinated the efforts of the students and volunteers to ensure the event's success. The convenors emphasized the importance of such initiatives in shaping responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.

Speaking on the occasion, the convenors applauded the active participation of students and highlighted the role of educational institutions in nurturing awareness and behavioral change. The rally concluded with an interactive session where students shared their reflections and pledged to advocate for a tobacco-free environment. The event formed part of the college's ongoing commitment to community outreach, mental health promotion and holistic education. The college administration appreciated the collaborative efforts of NCORD, NSS and Psychological Counseling Cell for making the initiative impactful and engaging.

DLIC approves 458 cases under JKCIP & IDDS at Ganderbal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 03:

A meeting of District level Implementation Committee (DLIC) was convened today here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore to take thorough review of submitted applications and subsequently approve the cases under Jammu & Kashmir Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP) and Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS).

The department heads submitted various cases for consideration, which were scrutinized as per the scheme guidelines. After deliberation, the committee approved 458 cases viz. 441 under JKCIP and 17 under IDDS for financial as-



sistance and technical support.

On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the officers to facilitate beneficiaries and expedite field-level activities so that the objectives

of agriculture and allied sectors schemes are effectively achieved.

Earlier, the DC reviewed the set targets, achievements so far, and identified implementation



gaps. He directed the concerned departments to take proactive measures to bridge any deficiencies and ensure maximum acceptance of application and farmer

coverage under these schemes.

He directed all sectoral heads to expedite and achieve targets of farm and farmer registrations under KKG.

He also directed the Lead District Manager to dispose-off pending cases under Kisan Credit Card.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, AGMNABARD, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, Area Marketing Officer Horticulture (P&M), District Nodal Officer JKCIP and Cluster Head J&K Bank, besides others concerned.

DC Ganderbal chairs District Steering Committee meeting for Green India Mission

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 03:

A meeting of District Steering Committee for Green India Mission (GIM) was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore here.

The mission themed 'Climate Resilience through Forest Landscape Restoration' is aimed to increase forest/ tree cover in the division, improving ecosystem services and increasing the forest based livelihood income of households living in and around the forests.

During the meeting, DFO Ganderbal gave a detailed presentation regarding the progress of works under Annual Plan of Operation (APO) under Green India Mission for the year 2024-2025.

After thorough deliberations, the committee recommended to forward the proposal (APO) under Green India Mission to be executed in Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal 2025-26 to the next steering com-



mittee.

During the year 2024-25, the Annual Plan of Operation was approved for an amount of Rs. 36.87 Lakh for Village Forest Committee - Rezan, Kullian and Sonamarg where under 69 Hectares of degraded forest area was tackled with plantation of 40 thousand numbers of plants including 89 thousand numbers of patch sowing and grass slips.

Health check-up camp for Women held at Village Thanala- Bhaderwah

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 03: Mission Shakti Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Social Welfare Department Doda in collaboration with the AYUSH Department organized an awareness and health check-up camp at village Thanala-Bhaderwah today.

A team of medical professionals, including Dr. Jabina and Dr. Shakir conducted thorough health check-ups and provided free medicines to the local community. Para-medical staff also extended their support to ensure smooth and efficient service delivery.

From the Sankalp Hub, Dr. Sanya Khan (Gender Specialist), Humerah Balwan (Gender Specialist) and Younus (Financial Literacy Expert) imparted awareness about the women-centric welfare schemes, financial literacy and government support programs aimed at enhancing the socio-economic status of women.



The programme focused on women's health, empowerment, self-reliance, financial inclusion and access to government benefits. The event received positive participation from the community, highlighting the growing awareness and engagement towards women's rights and well-being.

Capacity Building Workshop on child protection mechanism held at Rajouri

DC stresses on shared responsibility to safeguard Child Rights

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 3: The National Development Foundation (NDF), in collaboration with the District Administration Rajouri and in partnership with UNICEF India, today organized a Capacity Building Workshop for District Functionaries on the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Mission Vatsalya.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the child protection mechanism in the district and enhance the understanding of various stakeholders involved in ensuring the safety, care and well-being of children.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma was the Chief Guest.

Addressing the participants, the DC called upon the stakeholders to adopt a collective and coordinated approach to safeguard the rights of children. He said that parents and guardians serve as the first line of defense for children and must ensure their physical, mental, psychological and intellectual develop-



ment while also inculcating a sense of social responsibility in them.

Highlighting the pivotal role of institutional mechanism, the DC stated that the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) bear the fundamental responsibility of protecting children from neglect, abuse and exploitation. "If children are handled with care and atten-

tion at the right time, a criminal mindset will never develop," he remarked.

The workshop featured informative and interactive sessions by key speakers including Shaheen Khan (CPO), ALC Pradyot Gupta, Advocate Ashfaq Lone, Principal BHSS Rajouri Muslim Wani, Programme Manager NDF Sunny Kumar and CWC Member Suresh, who enlightened the participants about different aspects of child protection laws and welfare schemes.

The sessions focused on enhancing the capacity of frontline officers to implement child protection frameworks effectively and ensure a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment for every child in Rajouri district.

POICDS Harpal Singh, DySP Satish Kumar, CPDO Israr Shah and other district and sectoral officers also attended the workshop.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a collective resolve to strengthen the child protection system at every level through coordinated efforts and sustained community awareness.

DC Rajouri reviews preparations for commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride — Vande Mataram

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 3: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of district officers in the Video Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the preparations for the grand commemoration of 150 years of the National Song - Vande Mataram.

The meeting discussed the activities planned to be organized across the district to mark this historic occasion and rekindle the spirit of patriotism and national pride among citizens.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the line departments and educational institutions to actively participate in the celebrations. He stressed that the commemoration should be observed in a befitting manner with wide public participation, so that the message of unity and devotion to the nation reaches every household.

As part of the celebration plan, special assemblies will be held daily in schools, featuring the singing of Vande Mataram and discussions on its historical significance. In addition, mass singing events will be organized in schools and public places across the district.



A range of literary and cultural activities such as essay writing, debate and quiz competitions will be conducted to engage students and youth in exploring the patriotic essence of Vande Mataram. Exhibitions and Craft sessions will also be organized in Anganwadi centres, highlighting the creative expression of children.

The DC said that all public offices including Tehsil Offices, BDO Offices, Police Stations, PHCs and CHCs would participate by organizing thematic events and displaying messages of national pride to mark the 150-year milestone.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all officers to mobilize enthusiastic participation from every section of society so that the commemoration of Vande Mataram becomes a true celebration of India's unity, diversity and enduring national spirit.

The meeting was attended by SSP Gaurav Sikarwar; ADC Kalakote Tanvir Ahmed; ADC Kotranka Dil Mir; ADC Rajouri Chander Parkash; ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma; ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa; ACR Rajouri Mohd Jahangir Khan; SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain and other district and sectoral officers.

HT EDITORIAL

Free bus service for females hits a roadblock as government suffers losses

The Jammu & Kashmir government recently admitted that the smart city bus service running on the different routes in Srinagar and other districts is running into losses since the female passengers are using the service free. In April this year the government introduced the free ride for the females using the smart city buses both in Srinagar and Jammu cities. The move was hailed by the people in general and especially by those working for the rights of the women.

Six months down the line the government has made it public that it is suffering huge losses since females are charged nothing in the smart city buses. The free bus ride has turned out to be a hit and one can witness huge rush of females in the smart buses. At times the female passengers outnumber the male passengers and this can be seen even in the late hours of a day.

As the free bus ride is a hit among the females across the union territory it would be difficult for the people at helm to roll-back the services. If such a step is taken then it would be a betrayal and the National Conference would go back from one of the promises made by the party before the 2024 assembly elections. In its election manifesto, the National Conference had promised that free bus service would be introduced for the women folk of the union territory.

The NC government took almost six months to introduce the free bus service for the women and six months down the line there are chances that the step might be rolled back. It would not be an easy step for the government since the females have expressed joy and happiness over the move. They are quite elated over this development and once it is decided that the scheme would be rolled back there are chances that the government may face a backlash.

The introduction of free bus service for the women folk was done with pomp and show in both the Srinagar and Jammu cities. The step was viewed as a welfare measure of the NC government aimed to give relief to the females of the union territory. Since free bus service is available to the women in the different states and union territories of the country, the Jammu & Kashmir government decided to follow suit and introduce the same here as well.

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Guard Your Thoughts The Matchstick Within



Dr. Nisar Farhad

Our thoughts flow
from our hearts, and
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whether through
what we see, hear,
or dwell upon. In
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survival

In this deeply reflective piece, Dr. Nisar Farhad explores the unseen power of human thought — the “matchstick within” that can either illuminate the soul or burn the peace we build within. Drawing upon timeless wisdom from the Holy Qur'an and the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the article reminds us that guarding our thoughts is not just a mental exercise, but an act of faith. With eloquence and insight, Dr. Nisar Farhad urges readers to nurture positivity, gratitude, and remembrance of Allah — the roots of a truly peaceful mind and purposeful life.

It is often said that one tree can make a million matchsticks, but a single matchstick can burn a million trees. This simple yet profound saying carries a lesson that extends far beyond the physical world — a lesson about the power of thoughts. Just as one careless spark can ignite a wild-fire, one careless thought can consume a lifetime of peace, purpose, and progress.

Our thoughts are like trees — they begin as tiny seeds within the soil of our mind. With time and attention, they grow roots, branches, and fruits. Positive thoughts grow into strong, fruitful trees that offer shade, comfort, and nourishment to the soul. They give birth to courage, patience, and gratitude. But negative thoughts — if allowed to take root — spread like invasive weeds, choking the life out of our inner garden.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah Almighty emphasizes the inner transformation that begins within the human mind and heart:

“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.” — (Surah Ar-Ra'd, 13:11)

Change begins from within. The quality of our life reflects the quality of our thoughts. A person who fills his heart with gratitude sees blessings even in hardship, while one who cultivates envy and complaint finds misery even in abundance.

Negativity often begins quietly — a whisper of doubt, a flicker of fear, or a murmur of jealousy. It does not shout; it whispers. It does not destroy suddenly; it spreads slowly, consuming inner peace. That is why the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) so wisely said:

“Beware! There is a piece of flesh in the body; if it becomes good (reformed), the whole body becomes good; but if it becomes corrupt, the whole body becomes corrupt — and that is the heart.” — (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Our thoughts flow from our hearts, and our hearts are influenced by what we feed them — whether through what we see, hear, or dwell upon. In today's world, where noise, comparison, and discontent surround us, guarding our thoughts has become not just a spiritual duty but a necessity for emotional survival.

The Qur'an calls us to reflect, to think, and to restrain our impulses:

“And those who restrain anger and pardon people — and Allah loves the doers of good.” — (Surah Aal-e-Imran, 3:134)

Anger, jealousy, and arrogance are sparks that ignite the fire of negativity. When we forgive, show patience, or speak kindly, we pour water on that fire. Even a smile, the Prophet ﷺ reminded us, is an act of charity. Every small act of kindness strengthens our inner forest and shades us from the heat of life's trials.

Our minds are like gardens — what we plant is what we harvest. If we sow seeds of despair, we reap hopelessness; if we plant seeds of faith, we harvest peace. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) beautifully advised:

“Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him speak good or remain silent.” — (Sahih al-Bukhari & Sahih Muslim)

Silence, at times, is a shield. Words born of anger or suspicion can burn bridges, just as a spark burns dry leaves. The believer is taught to think before speaking, to reflect before reacting, and to remember before regretting.

Moreover, the Qur'an draws our attention to the power of remembrance:

“Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest.” — (Surah Ar-Ra'd, 13:28)

When we fill our thoughts with remembrance of Allah — through prayer, gratitude, and patience — our inner world becomes peaceful, much like a forest after the rain. Tranquility is not found in the absence of problems, but in the presence of faith.

Therefore, guard your thoughts as you would guard a lush forest. Feed it with positivity, gratitude, and purpose. Be aware of the matchstick within — the tiny flame that can either light your path or burn your peace. Choose faith over fear, hope over despair, forgiveness over resentment.

Remember, it takes years to grow a forest of positive thoughts but only a moment of carelessness to destroy it. So choose your thoughts wisely, for as the Prophet ﷺ said:

“A believer is not one who curses, slanders, or speaks indecently.” — (Sunan al-Tirmidhi)

Let every thought you nurture be an act of worship, every word an expression of goodness, and every intention a reflection of light. Because what you think, you become — and what you become shapes not only your destiny but the world around you.

May Allah grant us hearts that remember, minds that reflect, and thoughts that illuminate — not burn — the gardens within us.

The author is an educator currently serving as a Lecturer in Chemistry with the School Education Department in Jammu and Kashmir. He writes about education, values, and the quiet strength of rural families whose sacrifices continue to inspire generations. Beyond the classroom, he is a keen traveller and adventurer who finds stories in every journey.

The End of a 52-Year Wait India's Daughters Become World Cup Champions



AJAY KUMAR

That evening in Navi Mumbai will forever be remembered. November 2, 2025 the date when India's women's cricket team crowned themselves world champions for the very first time. This victory was not just the result of a match; it marked the end of a 52-year-long wait. It was the story of faith and determination that India's daughters turned into reality through their hard work, courage, and resilience. The final match at the D.Y. Patil Stadium was tied to the heartbeat of the entire nation. Team India's captain, Harmanpreet Kaur, won the toss and chose to bat first. When the early wickets fell, a wave of worry spread through the stadium. But then, Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma took charge. Shafali batted with visible confidence, scoring 87 runs to put India in a strong position. Deepti Sharma added a composed 58 runs and later showcased her brilliance with the ball. India posted a total of 298 runs for 7 wickets in their 50 overs.

The target was not small, but South Africa too had big ambitions. Their opener, Laura Wolvaardt, struck a brilliant half-century, and for a moment, Indian supporters fell silent. But Renuka Singh and Poonam Yadav turned the game around. Deepti Sharma's spectacular bowling performance claiming 5 wickets sealed the fate of the match, as South Africa were bowled out for 246. The moment the last wicket fell, the entire stadium was drenched in the colors of the Indian tricolor. India won by 52 runs a symbolic number representing the 52 years

This win is not just about a trophy it's a victory for a change in mindset. Now no one can say that girls can't play cricket. Parents will now see in their daughters the spark of Shafali, the patience of Deepti, the leadership of Harman, and the confidence of Smriti Mandhana. Sports facilities in schools and small towns will grow, and cricket will no longer be seen as just a man's game it will belong to everyone.

of waiting that had finally come to an end. What happened on that field was not just a sporting victory; it was a moment that changed history. When Harmanpreet Kaur lifted the trophy, her tears reflected not just joy but also the weight of all those years when Indian women's cricket was neglected when they had no proper grounds to practice, limited facilities, and endless questions to face. Today, those questions were answered with the tricolor waving proudly in the sky.

This triumph also belongs to the greats who paved the way for this day Diana Edulji, Mithali Raj, Jhulan Goswami, and Anjum Chopra who planted the seeds that have now borne fruit. Their struggles became the path for future generations, and now that path has become wider and brighter.

The entire nation erupted in celebration after this win. Streets were filled with parades, fireworks lit up the sky, and social media echoed with the names of India's daughters. People compared this moment to the 1983 men's World Cup win, when Kapil Dev's team ignited India's cricketing dream. Now, Harmanpreet's team has taken that dream to new heights. Following this historic victory, the Indian Cricket Board announced record-breaking rewards for the players, and the government too declared honors for them. The Prime Minister called it a symbol of the strength of India's daughters and said that it would inspire generations to come.

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Fifty-two years of waiting, half a century of struggle, and finally this golden dawn. India's daughters have shown that dreams come true only when one refuses to give up. Today, when a young girl picks up a bat, the hopes of an entire nation rise with her. When a father drops his daughter at the cricket field, pride fills his heart. This victory is a torch for the future one that will reach every street, every school, and every family.

Now India's name is etched in the list of Women's World Cup champions, and that recognition stands not only for sport but for an idea that given the chance, India's daughters can reach any height. They have written history and given future generations the confidence that if you have the courage, even a 52-year wait can come to an end. This is not just a victory on the field; it is the triumph of every girl who ever said, “I will play and I will win.”

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Habba Khatoon's Poetry Was Not Mystical But Romantic



Dr.Ratan Bhattacharjee

The 16th century Kashmir witnessed a flowering of poetry that blended mysticism, love, and sorrow

. Born as Zoon, meaning “moon,” Habba Khatoon(Beloved Lady) rose from an ordinary peasant family to become the queen of Kashmir . Zoon was born in Chandhara village, near Pampore, by the banks of the river Lidder. She was married off early to a local peasant, but that marriage, by most accounts, was unhappy. It was during those years of disquiet that she discovered her poetic voice — a voice that could turn personal pain into lyrical beauty. When Yusuf Shah Chak, the last independent ruler of Kashmir, heard her sing by a stream, legend says he was so captivated that he made her his queen. In that meeting, Kashmir found its most famous tale — the peasant girl who became a queen through the magic of her song. Through her marriage to Yusuf Shah Chak, and later, the symbol of eternal loss after his exile by the Mughal emperor Akbar. Her poetry thus begins with a biographical foundation of love and destiny — a quintessentially romantic premise. Her life, divided between the ecstasy of love and the agony of separation, became the canvas for one of the most poignant bodies of poetry in South Asian literature.

Habba Khatoon, the ‘Nightingale of Kashmir,’ as she is called, occupies a unique place in the literary heritage of the Indian subcontinent. Although she lived in a cultural milieu influenced by Sufi thought and bhakti spirituality, her verse resists mystical interpretation. Instead, it embodies the sensibility of romanticism — the elevation of personal emotion, nature, and individuality above religious abstraction. Even outside Kashmir, Habba's voice has resonated. In modern Indian literature, she is remembered not just as a poet but as a mythic heroine, comparable to Mirabai in Rajasthan or Andal in Tamil Nadu — women who turned devotion into drama, song into story. This has created some confusion too and many make oversimplification by describing her as a ‘Mystic’ in place of calling her a ‘Romantic’.

The 16th century Kashmir witnessed a flowering of poetry that blended mysticism, love, and sorrow. Born as Zoon, meaning “moon,” Habba Khatoon(Beloved Lady) rose from an ordinary peasant family to become the queen of Kashmir. Zoon was born in Chandhara village, near Pampore, by the banks of the river Lidder. She was married off early to a local peasant, but that marriage, by most accounts, was unhappy. It was during those years of disquiet that she discovered her poetic voice — a voice that could turn personal pain into lyrical beauty. When Yusuf Shah Chak, the last independent ruler of Kashmir, heard her sing by a stream, legend says he was so captivated that he made her his queen. In that meeting, Kashmir found its most famous tale — the peasant girl who became a queen through the magic of her song. Through her marriage to Yusuf Shah Chak, and later, the symbol of eternal loss after his exile by the Mughal emperor Akbar. Her poetry thus begins with a biographical foundation of love and destiny — a quintessentially romantic premise. Her life, divided between the ecstasy of love and the agony of separation, became the canvas for one of the most poignant bodies of poetry in South Asian literature. Habba Khatoon's poetry is fundamentally romantic — grounded in emotional realism, feminine subjectivity, and the celebration of earthly love. In those verses, we already see the seeds of fictional imagination. Habba Khatoon transformed the everyday woman Zoon into the poetic self Habba — the loved one, the longing one, the eternal seeker. Her language of passion, longing, and loss testifies to the individuality of human emotion rather than transcendental yearning.

Habba's poems recount her love for Yusuf Shah Chak, her husband. Analysing deeply one may discover the thematic, linguistic, and philosophical dimensions of her poetry to argue that Habba Khatoon's creative world is romantic rather than mystical. The distinction between romantic and mystical sensibilities lies in their orientation toward desire and fulfillment. Mystical poetry, such as that of Rumi or Lal Ded, treats love as an allegory for the soul's union with God. In contrast Habba Khatoon's verses overflow with human longing, attachment, and memory. She does not sublimate her passion into divine yearning but celebrates it as an authentic aspect of her humanity. Her lamentations for Yusuf Shah are specific and personal, rooted in time and place, not in metaphysical abstraction. In one of her best-known verses, she sings: ‘Where are you, my beloved? The garden blooms but my heart lies barren.’ This is not the cry of a mystic seeking God; it is the grief of a woman waiting for her lover.

Unlike mystical poets who often efface the self in their quest for divine union, Habba reclaims the self as the center of experience. Her ‘I’ is not symbolic of humanity's soul but the singular, suffering woman. This assertion of individuality is central to romanticism. Her use of the first-person pronoun is confessional, intimate, and emotionally direct. She names her pain, her loneliness, her yearning — all grounded in the sensory world. In this respect, she stands closer to the English Romantic poets such as Keats and Shelley than to the Sufis. Her poetry humanizes emotion, rather than spiritualizing it. Her descriptions of nature are not mystical symbols of divine perfection but mirrors of her emotional state. The chinar trees, saffron fields, and snowy mountains of Kashmir become extensions of her inner world. When she writes, ‘The chinars have turned crimson, but my heart is still green,’ she uses natural imagery to express psychological reality — the timeless hallmark of romantic art. Mystical poetry, on the other hand, typically uses nature as metaphor for spiritual truth. Habba's use of nature is sensual, immediate, and deeply personal. She identifies with the landscape not to transcend it but to find herself reflected in it. To understand why Habba Khatoon's poetry cannot be categorized as mystical, it is instructive to compare her with contemporaries like Lal Ded and Mirabai. Lal Ded's four line vakhs are meditations on the soul's unity with Shiva; they express a clear metaphysical goal of transcendence.

Mirabai's songs, though emotionally intense, are addressed to Krishna — a divine beloved. Habba Khatoon, in contrast, addresses Yusuf Shah Chak — a historical person. Her love is not allegorical; it is literal. She does not transform her beloved into God but retains him as man, as memory, as loss. This fidelity to the human beloved marks the essential romanticism of her art. Habba Khatoon's verse contains none of the philosophical frameworks of Kabir



or Mira Bai. She neither preaches detachment nor aspires to liberation. Her agony is emotional, not spiritual. Her poems rarely mention God; when they do, it is in the language of supplication, not enlightenment. The absence of metaphysical reflection reinforces the romantic character of her imagination. She writes of waiting, weeping, and remembering — experiences located in the realm of earthly life. Central to Habba Khatoon's poetry is the theme of suffering as an inherent part of love. Her agony is not a stage on the path to enlightenment but the very essence of being alive.

Her lamentations evoke compassion and recognition in readers because they are profoundly human. The sense of exile in her verse — both personal and political — gives her poetry the grandeur of tragic romance. Unlike mystics who seek liberation from pain, Habba Khatoon dwells in pain as a proof of love's authenticity. Her legacy lies in her humanism. Her poetry places emotion at the center of existence. She speaks for the solitary heart, not for the enlightened soul. Her verses celebrate the individuality of feeling, the dignity of longing, and the beauty of imperfection — all hallmarks of romantic thought. In the modern Kashmiri imagination, she has become a cultural archetype of the woman who loves completely and suffers completely. Her romantic humanism continues to inspire modern poets, filmmakers, and novelists, who see in her not a saint or mystic but a profoundly human artist. In these laments, we hear the beginnings of psychological fiction — introspection, memory, inner dialogue. She speaks to herself, to Yusuf and to nature, weaving a web of solitude that feels almost novelistic in its intensity. ‘The stars mock my sleepless eyes,/The wind carries no news./In the empty palace of my heart,/Only echoes answer me.’ This is not merely poetry; it is fictional consciousness, where the speaker constructs an inner world to survive the collapse of the outer one. Like a novelist shaping her heroine's mind, Habba creates the emotional geography of a woman abandoned by fate yet preserved by imagination.

Habba Khatoon's poetry resists mystical interpretation because it does not seek transcendence but immersion. Her verse is the song of a human heart, not the sermon of a mystic. In her language, nature, and emotion, she affirms the reality of human experience. Her love for Yusuf Shah Chak becomes the symbol of life's beauty and fragility — not a metaphor for divine union but a testament to the power of earthly passion. Thus, Habba Khatoon stands not among the mystics but among the romantics: poets who found eternity not beyond life but within it. ‘The chinars have turned

crimson, but my heart is still green.’ Every fiction needs a setting, and for Habba Khatoon, Kashmir is not merely a backdrop; it is a living character. Her verses are drenched in the sights and sounds of the valley — the snow-clad mountains, saffron fields, murmuring brooks, and moonlit nights. This is more than a mystic vision a romantic sensibility steeped in the reality of Kashmir. It is an escape not from reality but into reality as T.S. Eliot describes ‘Romantic imagination’ in a different context.

Another interesting aspect of her romanticism is that her poetry unfolds like narrative fiction — complete with character, emotion, dialogue, conflict, and resolution. Her songs are not abstract meditations; they are living stories, where she is both the protagonist and the narrator. Each poem becomes a miniature novel of longing. In her songs, Habba Khatoon creates a full narrative arc of love — from discovery to union, from joy to separation. Each poem stands as a scene, and when read together, they form the emotional journey of a heroine whose love defines her existence. One of her most famous lines runs like this (in translation): ‘Where are you, my beloved?/The garden blooms but the heart lies barren./I have become the song of waiting.’ These lines could easily be the opening of a novel — an invocation of absence, a scene painted with natural imagery, a heroine in search of her lost beloved. Habba's voice fuses the lyric and the narrative; she uses landscape as character and emotion as plot. When she sings, ‘Why should I hide my heart, O friend?/It beats only for him who knows my song,’ she proclaims agency — a woman defining her own story. In that sense, Habba's poetic imagination anticipates what modern fiction would do centuries later: giving women their own voice, their own point of view. She stands alongside figures like Lal Ded before her and Emily Brontë long after her — women who turned personal emotion into universal narrative. So no question of mysticism comes in Habba Khatoon's poetry. What makes Habba Khatoon extraordinary is her assertion of female subjectivity in a patriarchal world. In her songs, the woman is not passive; she speaks, desires, and dreams. Her voice is personal yet public, tender yet bold. Poets like Dinah Nath Nadim and Rahman Rahi drew from her themes of separation and identity. The 1978 Kashmiri film Habba Khatoon, starring Rita Razdan, presented her as both poet and revolutionary, merging her personal grief with the collective suffering of Kashmir. More than four centuries after her death, Habba Khatoon remains a living presence in Kashmiri culture. Women still sing her songs at weddings and harvests; her name evokes both nostalgia and pride. In her voice, we hear the beginnings of the modern consciousness — the inward gaze, the emotional realism, the blending of life and art. If fiction is, as Virginia Woolf said, ‘the life of feeling made visible,’ then Habba Khatoon was one of its earliest masters — a woman who, through song, built an empire of emotion more lasting than any kingdom. Her verses still echo through the valley: ‘I have no crown but my sorrow,/No throne but his memory./Yet in this emptiness, I am queen.’ In those lines lies the essence of her fictional imagination — the power to turn loss into legend, love into story, and a woman's silence into the voice of a nation.

Many of Habba Khatoon's most moving songs are monologues of waiting as we find in the poetry of the Romantic poets. She speaks as the woman who keeps the lamp burning through long nights, listening for the footsteps that never come. In one of her verses she cries: ‘The stars mock my sleepless eyes,/The wind carries no tidings./I am a flame untended,/Fading in my own smoke.’ The imagery of night, stars, and wind all emphasize stillness and silence — the outer reflection of inner emptiness. Yet within that silence, there is profound activity: the imagination keeps creating scenes of reunion, replaying memories. This waiting is central to her romantic agony. It is not passive despair but an act of faith, of remembering love so intensely that it becomes almost present again. In this sense, Habba Khatoon's waiting resembles Habba Khatoon's diction is strikingly realistic and not like those of the mystic. She uses the Kashmiri vernacular with clarity and musicality, free from the mystical abstraction typical of Sufi verse. Her songs are full of sensory images — eyes, rivers, flowers, footsteps — all belonging to the world of the senses. Her simplicity of expression reveals emotional transparency, not esoteric symbolism. This linguistic realism situates her poetry within the romantic mode of sincerity and immediacy rather than mystical allegory. ‘The moon has left my courtyard./Yet its light remains in my heart.’ Here, absence becomes romantic principle as Shelley wrote it ‘Love is the basic principle of the Universe’. Unlike the mystical male poets of her time, who spoke of love in symbolic or philosophical tones, she grounds her emotion in the tangible world of human relationships. She dares to speak as a woman — desiring, grieving, questioning. When she asks, ‘Why was I given this heart that burns?/Why this fate that keeps him afar?’ she articulates the emotional predicament of countless women whose voices were never recorded. Her agony thus becomes both personal and collective, the cry of womanhood confined by circumstance but liberated through song.

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The Science And Psychology Of Spiritualism



Surinderpal Singh

Spiritualism is often regarded as an intangible yet profound human pursuit and nowadays the concept of spiritualism is increasingly gaining recognition within the medical and psychological sciences for its role in enhancing mental well-being, fostering self-confidence and nurturing inner personality development.

The Essence Of Spiritualism In Modern Times

Spiritualism in its scientific and psychological interpretation is not just confined to religious traditions but it represents a state of heightened self-awareness and connection with universal consciousness. It encompasses mindfulness, moral introspection, empathy and a realization of one's purpose beyond material existence. In a world increasingly dominated by stress, consumerism and digital distraction, spiritualism emerges as a therapeutic and stabilizing force—a bridge between the biological mind and the moral self.

Modern neuroscience defines spirituality as an intrinsic human trait associated with regions of the brain that govern compassion, altruism and meaning-seeking behavior. Functional MRI (fMRI) studies have shown that individuals engaged in meditation and spiritual contemplation exhibit enhanced activity in the prefrontal cortex and anterior cingulate gyrus—areas responsible for emotional regulation, attention and decision-making.

Spiritualism As A Catalyst For Confidence

The Confidence in psychological terms arises from an individual's sense of self-efficacy—the belief in one's ability to achieve goals and face challenges. Spiritualism strengthens this



foundation through:

Self-Realization:

Meditation and introspective practices promote awareness of intrinsic worth rather than external validation, thereby nurturing authentic self-confidence.

Reduced Anxiety:

The psychological studies conducted across the globe has revealed that spiritual practices like mindfulness and prayer reduce cortisol levels, lowering anxiety and enhancing composure under stress.

Cognitive Stability:

The spiritual individuals tend to show greater resilience against fear of failure because their confidence stems from internal peace, not societal comparison.

Thus, spiritualism transforms confidence from an ego-driven assertion to a calm, enduring state of inner strength.

Spiritualism And Inner Personality Development

Personality is the dynamic integration of one's cognitive, emotional and behavioral traits. Spiritualism refines personality by introducing elements of empathy, patience, humility and gratitude.

Emotional Intelligence:

Regular spiritual engagement improves emotional intelligence (EQ), leading to better interpersonal relationships and self-regulation.

Neuroplasticity:

The long-term meditation alters neural pathways, promoting positive thinking and compassionate behavior—traits integral to mature personality.

Purpose Orientation:

The spiritual individuals often report higher existential well-being which guides their actions with purpose and moral responsibility.

Hence, spiritualism is not escapism; it is a conscious evolution of the human personality towards self-control and harmony with others.

Spiritualism Versus The Five Evils Of The Materialistic World

The human mind constantly battles the five classical evils—lust (Kama), anger (Krodha), greed (Lobha), attachment (Moh) and ego (Ahankar). These psychological forces disrupt peace and drive individuals toward destructive behavior.

- Lust is countered by contentment and purity of thought achieved through mindfulness.
- Anger is neutralized by self-awareness and compassion developed through meditative reflection.
- Greed diminishes when spiritual insight shifts focus from accumulation to contribution.
- Attachment weakens as one learns impermanence and detachment, leading to mental balance.
- Ego dissolves when one recognizes the interconnectedness of all beings.

From a neuropsychological perspective, these transformations occur as spiritual practices reduce amygdala reactivity (fear and aggression center) and increase activation in the insula and prefrontal cortex, which promote empathy and rational control.

Psychological And Medical Perspectives On Spiritualism

Modern psychology increasingly supports the integration of spirituality in

mental health care. The materialistic world acknowledges spirituality as one of the key pillars of human flourishing.

Clinical Evidence:

The researches across the world had confirmed that spiritual interventions improve recovery rates among patients with depression, anxiety and chronic illness.

Neurochemical Correlation:

The Meditation and prayer stimulate serotonin and dopamine release, producing feelings of calm and satisfaction comparable to antidepressant effects.

Psychotherapeutic Integration: Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT) and acceptance-commitment therapy (ACT) derive their strength from spiritual awareness principles, helping patients reframe negative thoughts and embrace resilience.

The Scientific-Spiritual Synthesis

Spiritualism aligns closely with biological and psychological science. It modulates the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, balancing stress hormones and enhances neuroplasticity, fostering learning and adaptability. Furthermore, spiritualism's ethical core promotes social coherence, reducing loneliness and alienation—factors now recognized as major public health concerns.

In medical terms, spiritual well-being is linked with improved cardiovascular health, stronger immune response and lower incidence of psychosomatic disorders.

Spiritualism As A Universal Healing Force

Spiritualism is not an abstract philosophy but a scientifically supported approach to holistic well-being. By fortifying confidence, refining personality, and subduing the destructive impulses of materialism, it serves as a moral compass and psychological anchor for modern humanity. In the 21st century—marked by technological advancement but emotional depletion—spiritualism emerges as both a preventive and curative force, harmonizing the body, mind and soul. Its ultimate message is clear: true strength lies not in possessing the world, but in mastering oneself.

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Dengue fever cases surge in Vietnam's Capital Hanoi amidst heavy rain and flooding



TOI

NEW DELHI: According to a report published by Viet Nam News, Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh has called for tighter control to strengthen nationwide efforts to prevent and control dengue fever amid rising infections.

Since the beginning of 2025, the city has logged over 4,300 dengue cases, which is around 20% lower than the same period last year. However, health experts caution that mosquito density levels remain high, heightening the risk of further transmission.

Local authorities have instructed local

health stations to intensify surveillance, ensure timely diagnosis and treatment, and expand mosquito control measures, including fogging and eliminating breeding sites, to contain the spread of the virus.

Dengue (break-bone fever) is a viral infection that is spread from mosquitoes to people.

It is more common in tropical and sub-tropical climates than in temperate climates, as per World Health Organization. Vietnam is also a tropical country, with high temperatures and year-round humidity.

Most people who get dengue do not have symptoms. For those who do, the most common symptoms are high fever,

headache, body aches, nausea and rash. Most get better in 1-2 weeks. Some develop severe dengue and need care in a hospital. Symptoms may include:

- high fever (40°C/104°F)
- severe headache
- pain behind the eyes
- muscle and joint pains
- nausea
- vomiting
- swollen glands
- rash

Individuals who are infected for the second time are at greater risk of severe dengue. WHO warns that in severe cases, dengue can be fatal.

Top cardiologist reveals the kind of exercise which can help bring down Blood Pressure naturally

HEALTHLINE

LONDON: High blood pressure, commonly referred to as hypertension, affects millions worldwide, and poses a serious health threat. It boosts the odds of heart disease, stroke and a host of complications. One of the best ways to bring down Blood Pressure naturally is aerobic exercise. Dr. Jeremy London, a cardiologist, explains how regular cardio, not only lowers blood pressure but also strengthens the heart.

What is aerobic exercise

Aerobic exercise refers to any activity that lifts your heart rate and breathing for a stretch of time. Typical examples span walking, running, swimming, cycling and dancing. By tapping oxygen to power the muscles, these exercises boost the efficiency of your system—the heart and its network of blood vessels.

Natural Ways to Control High Blood Pressure Effectively

According to Dr. London, aerobic exercise "re-trains the system" essentially coaxing the blood vessels into a supple, relaxed and responsive state. This shift eases the drag the vessels impose on the flow of blood. When the vessels dilate and unwind, the heart can pump with effort which in turn brings blood pressure down.

When aerobic activity gets the body moving, the endothelial lining of the vessels releases oxide—a potent vasodilator. That fleeting molecule gently unfurls the tension hugging the vessel walls, letting blood flow freely. This cascade of relaxation is a reason aerobic workouts tend to balance blood pressure, and strengthen the heart. Over time, this consistent vascular relaxation improves circulation efficiency, enhances oxygen delivery, and supports overall cardiovascular resilience.

What does science say

In a 2002 meta-analysis that combined 54 randomised controlled trials and a total of 2,419 participants, researchers found that aerobic exercise consistently nudges both the systolic (the "top" number) and diastolic (the "number" of blood pressure downward. On average, systolic pressure fell by 3.8 mmHg, and diastolic, by about 2.6 mmHg and this modest reduction appeared in people with hypertension as well as those, with normal blood pressure. The effect was observed across the spectrum of categories from lean to overweight, to obese individuals. Recent investigations confirm those findings.

In a 2025 meta-analysis, aerobic exercise regimens were shown to shave off over five millimetres of mercury from blood pressure on average, with the most striking reductions observed in participants who started with elevated pressures. The study also highlighted that even a modest eight-week period of activity can yield a drop.

The 2023 study reinforces those findings, revealing that moderate-intensity aerobic exercise can lower blood pressure and improve heart function in adults by prompting vessels to dilate more and easing arterial stiffness.

How much exercise does one need

The American Heart Association suggests that adults aim for 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week, which can be broken down into five 30-minute sessions. A brisk walk, a bike ride or a swim, all count toward that goal. Dr. London stresses that weaving exercise into routines is the most reliable way to secure heart health, and keep blood pressure in check.

Supplementary health benefits

Beyond pulling down blood pressure, aerobic workouts toughen the heart's muscle letting it push blood through the vessels efficiently. They also rev up circulation, reduce LDL cholesterol, raise the HDL cholesterol and help keep weight and blood-sugar levels in check. All of these benefits combine to slash the likelihood of heart disease, stroke and a host of ailments.

If you're new to exercise or trying to manage blood pressure, it helps to start with low-impact moves—think brisk walking or an easy bike ride. As your fitness picks up, you can slowly stretch out the time you spend, and add a bit intensity. The real trick is to stay consistent; regular aerobic week after week, is what ultimately brings the drops in blood pressure. Over time, these steady efforts not only improve cardiovascular metrics but also boost overall stamina, mood, and longevity.

How to protect your heart

Dr. Jeremy London emphasizes that caring for your heart goes beyond regular exercise—it's equally about what you eat. He advises making whole, unrefined foods about four-fifths of your daily intake to nourish your heart and overall health. In contrast, the usual culprits—salty, sugary, and fat-laden processed foods—can gradually damage your heart and the blood vessels that sustain it, increasing long-term cardiovascular risks.

NBT India and Tabinda Memorial Society Honours Essay Competition Toppers in Handwara

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, NOV 2: A grand felicitation programme was held at Environment Hall Handwara by Tabinda Memorial Society in collaboration with the National Book Trust (NBT), India, New Delhi, to honour the toppers of the essay writing competition conducted on October 26, 2025. The event witnessed overwhelming participation from students, parents, teachers, school heads, and members of the media fraternity. The essay competition was held in three categories school, senior secondary, and college levels and the toppers were awarded cash prizes of ₹30,000, ₹25,000, and ₹20,000, respectively. Ten consolation prizes were also given in each category to encourage young writers. Apart from the essay winners, several budding writers were felicitated with special cash awards, while over 100 students received free books to promote scientific and mathematical thinking among youth. Prominent Kashmiri poet Ghulam Rasool Mir Dardpoori was also honoured for his outstanding literary contributions. The event was graced by Mohammad Hussain Zafar, a renowned broadcaster, as the Chief Guest. Among the dignitaries present were Mohammad Iqbal Shah (District Education Planning Officer Kupwara), Rafi Ahmad Mir (Dy CEO Handwara), Manzoor Ahmad Bhat (Ex-Principal DIET Kupwara), Farooq Ahmad Malik (Ex-Dy CEO and Trustee of the Society), Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, Prof. Dr. Shahida Shabnam, and several Principals, ZEOs, Headmasters, and trade union leaders including Fayaz



Ahmad Mir, Mehraj-ud-Din Zargar, and Pervaiz Ahmad Sheikh. The function commenced with a welcome address by Farooq Ahmad Malik, followed by a keynote speech by Mohammad Iqbal Shah, who highlighted the purpose and educational impact of the event. The presidential address was delivered by Chief Guest Mohammad Hussain Zaffar, who praised the society's consistent efforts in encouraging academic and creative excellence. Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo delivered an inspiring motivational talk focused on innovation and creativity, while Dr. Shahida Shabnam and several senior trade union leaders lauded the organisers for promoting education, literature, and social awareness in the region. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat and Bashir Ahmad Shah shared their insightful reflections on nurturing intellectual culture among students. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Rayees Masroor, noted educationist and columnist, while proceedings were smoothly anchored by Nazir Ahmad Qureshi. The organisers expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and media representatives for their support and cooperation. The Tabinda Memorial Society reaffirmed its commitment to fostering creativity, innovation, and academic excellence among the youth. A special announcement was also made about the establishment of a Science and Cultural Club aimed at nurturing scientific curiosity and promoting cultural engagement among students.

Public Notice

My son's name has been incorrectly mentioned in school records as TAIMOOR MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMID MALIK R/O DOULTHPORA while his correct name is MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMEED MAILK R/O DOULTHPORA and his DOB is 31/7/2014 as per birth certificate. which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of PRINCIPAL GREENLAND ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL DOULTHPORA KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name.... ABDUL HAMEED MALIK
F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK
R/O DOULTHPORA
TEHSIL.... KREERI**

Public Notice

My son's name has been incorrectly mentioned as MOHAMMAD AATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMID MALIK R/O DOULTHPORA while his correct name is MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMEED MAILK R/O DOULTHPORA as per adhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....ABDUL HAMEED MALIK
F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK
R/O DOULTHPORA
TEHSIL....KREERI**

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the name LONE PESTISIDE & Fertilizers situated at THINDIMA KREERI. 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.

**RAASHID FAROOQ LONE
S/o FAROOQ AHMAD LONE
R/o THINDIMA KREERI
Cell No. +91 7051570283)**

Public Notice

I, Abdul Rashid Wani, son of Ghulam Mohammad Wani, resident of Kalantra Payeen, intend to apply for the issuance of a DEE Class Contractor Card from Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD R&B Circle, Baramulla/Kupwara.

If anyone has any objections, in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD R&B Circle, Baramulla/Kupwara, within 7 days from the publication of this notification after that no objections will be entertained.

**Name ...Abdul Rashid Wani
S/o.. Ghulam Mohammad Wani
R/o .Kalantra Payeen,Kreeri, Baramulla**

Office Of The President

JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KUCHWA MUQAM

I president JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM wants to write that our Masjid committee has decided that we had previous name in our J&K BANK KALANTRA PAYEEN on name MASJID shareef Para Mohalla After that we Applied for Pancard obtained with JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM we want to change name as per Pan card on our JAMIA MASJID Bank Account

PREVIOUS NAME .. MASJID SHAREEF PARAMOHALLA
NEW NAMEJAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM
JAMIA MASJID PARAPORA KACHWA MUQAM

Public Notice

My son's Date of Birth has been incorrectly mentioned as 31/07/2012 while his correct Date of Birth is 31/07/2014 as per school record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of GREEN LAND SCHOOL DAULATPORA KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....ABDUL HAMEED MALIK
F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK
R/O DOULTHPORA , DOB...31/07 /2014
TEHSIL....KREERI**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of SHABIR AHMAD RATHER S/O ABDUL RASHID RATHER R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S /O ABDUL RASHID RATHER has passed away on 04/11/1993 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1.... , FATIMA BEGUM Mother 80 years old aged married
- 2.... ,JAVID AHMAD Brother 52 years labour married
- 3....MEHMOODA BEGUM sister 45 years H/W married
- 4....MOHD ABBAS Brother 40 years labour married
- 5....SHABIR AHMAD Brother 39 years labour married
- 6....MUSHTAQ AHMAD Brother 33 years labour married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self.

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



7006083461

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Shemima Banoo, wife of Mr. Arif Hussain Jothar, resident hill park pahalagam under Municipality Cooperation, Pahalgam, is applying for Birth certificate for her children.

**1, Mohammad Waseem Jother
D.O.B 16/03/2016
2,OVAIS AHMAD JOTHER
D.O.B 04/02/2018
3,RIFAT JAN
D.O.B 14/03/2014**

Any person or authority having any objection in this regard may kindly contact the undersigned or the concerned department within seven (7) days from the publication of this notice.

Issued by:

**Mrs. Shemima Bhanu, W/o Arif Hussain Jothar
Under Municipality Cooperation, Pahalgam**

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 hassubmitted 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

Office of the Executive Engineer (Mechanical), PW(R&B), Central Kashmir

Engineering Complex (PMGSY Building), Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir-190008

DATE EXTENSION – 1

Subject: Installation of lift G Plus 4 in the Additional Classroom Building under JTRF at Govt College for Women M A Road Srinagar

Reference: eNIT No . R&B/MDCK/NIT/15 of 2025-26. Dated: 14.10.2025

Due to zero response, various dates of the work publicized vide above referred NIT are extended as per details given below:

1. Last date & time for online submission of bids: 10-11-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
2. Date of opening of bids: 11-11-2025 at 1200 Hrs

All other terms and conditions of the said eNIT (with annexures) shall remain same.

No: XENMC/Sgr/1873-78 | Dated: 03-11-2025

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
PW(R&B) Mechanical Division Central Kashmir**

DIPK: 7729/25 | Dated: 03-11-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Urban Forestry Division Srinagar

e- NIT NO: 07 of 2025-26 | Dated: 03-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

Name of Work:- (Upgradation of Forest Headquarter Complex at Sheikhbagh.) Repairs/Renovation/ Upgradation of Office Chamber at Forrest Headquarter & Renovation of Washroom at Sheikh Bagh, Sgr. Under UT CAPEX for the 2025-26

S. No.	Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security 2% of the Adv. Cost	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
1.	(Upgradation of Forest Headquarter Complex at Sheikhbagh.) Repairs/Renovation/Upgradation of Office Chamber at Forrest Headquarter & Renovation of Washroom at Sheikh Bagh, Sgr.	22.00	Rs.44,000/-	“C” Class CPWD/ PWD/MES or PSUs	Rs. 800/-	120 Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website: www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of Funds: Budgeted

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date:-	03-11 -2025
Download Start Date :	04-11 - 2025 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:	04-11 - 2025 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	13- 11- 2025 up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	14 -11 -2025 at 12:30 PM in the office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle, Srinagar
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date and time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website jktenders.gov.in. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
2. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (Cost of Tender Document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of Bid Security Declaration form duly filled in with time period prescribed and addressed to Divisional Forest Officer. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
3. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
4. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/MES or PSU's duly renewed for the current year 2025-26, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
5. In case the bid of the lowest /successful bidder is found Abnormal Low Bids (ALBs) the circular instructions issued by Finance Department J&K vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08.08.2025 will be imposed on the lowest bidder.
6. The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
7. The successful bidder has to complete the work in stipulated time, otherwise the successful bidder shall be liable to action under rules.
8. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
9. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
10. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
11. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document, GFR-2017, and other state and central rules governing the tendering process.

No: DFO/UF/Plg/176-83 | Dated: 03/11/2025

**Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer,
Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar**

DIPK: 7718/25 | Dated: 03-11-2025

DC Bandipora approves 82 cases under Mission YUVA

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOV 03: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review and approve cases under Mission YUVA at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

During the meeting, 106 cases were presented, out of which 82 were approved by the Committee after detailed scrutiny. The rest of the cases were ordered to be reconsidered and referred back to the concerned departments for detailed feasibility reports before resubmission.

The Deputy Commissioner

directed that DLIC meetings shall be held every Monday to ensure regular monitoring and timely disposal of cases. The meeting also reviewed the overall progress of Mission YUVA in the district, including cases forwarded to banks, sanctioned, disbursed, and rejected, to evaluate the implementation status.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for an in-depth analysis to identify areas with fewer or no applications and areas with maximum participation. She directed the Cluster Head J&K Bank to submit branch-wise data and the Employment Officer was directed to furnish village-wise details to ensure



uniform growth and coverage across all blocks and branches.

Nodal Officer JKEDI was instructed to explore sectors and sub-sectors showing higher participation so that targeted interventions can be made to achieve block and branch saturation.

During the meeting, the DC further directed officers to verify every case in detail, ensuring transparency and accountability. She underscored that Mission YUVA should not be limited to trading activities and stressed the need to sensitize and guide youth toward diverse entrepreneurial fields.

The Pollution Control Of-

ficer was directed to monitor cases where environmental violations are likely, ensuring compliance with statutory norms. She further reiterated the directions of the Chief Secretary, stating that rehabilitated youth and terror victims should be actively engaged under Mission YUVA to provide them with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Among others, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC Bandipora; District Social Welfare Officer; District Nodal Officer JKEDI; Lead Bank Manager; Cluster Head J&K Bank Bandipora; District Officer PCB and other concerned officers.

Voter Awareness Programme under SVEEP held at Ompora to Encourage Voter Participation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 3: Under the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, the District Administration today organised a series of voter awareness activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.



The initiative was spearheaded by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP (Chief Education Officer Budgam) with the aim to enhance voter turnout in polling stations identified with lower participation rates in the Ompora area.

The programme witnessed the presence of the General Observer, Bhore Singh Yadav; Police Observer, Nachiketa Jha, and Expenditure Observer Ravinder Kumar, appointed by ECI for upcoming bye-elections to 27-AC Budgam who along with Chief Education Officer Budgam, Rifat Irfan Qadri, observed the proceedings and appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants.

As part of the campaign, a range of engaging activities were conducted including Nukkad Natak (street plays), rallies, distribution of voter awareness pamphlets, and display of informative hoardings. These activities were designed to sensitize and motivate the local populace, especially first-time voters, about the importance of active participation in the democratic process.

A large number of students, teachers, and local residents took part in the awareness rally, which commenced from Ilni Sina Paramedical College, passed through various streets of Ompora, and culminated at Eid Gah Ompora. The vibrant and energetic participation of the community reflected a collective commitment towards ensuring greater electoral participation in the forthcoming bye-elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam.

The district administration Budgam reiterated its commitment to continue such awareness programmes across different areas of the district to promote informed, ethical, and inclusive voting.

District Admin Kupwara Designates Nodal Officers for Smooth Operation of Subsidized Helicopter Services to snowbound areas

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 03: To ensure smooth and hassle-free operation of subsidized helicopter services to the remote and snow-bound areas of Karnah, Keran, and Machil, the District Administration Kupwara has designated Nodal Officers for each location.

As per an order issued by the

Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, the officers who have been appointed as Nodal Officers for the smooth coordination and operation of helicopter services in their respective jurisdictions include Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Kupwara, Arshid Qadir Bhat, Nodal Officer for District Police Lines Kupwara (Contact: 9906518530), Tehsildar Karnah,

Mohammad Amin Bhat, for Karnah (Contact: 7006248450), Tehsildar Keran, Idris Sidiq Sofi, for Keran (Contact: 9906532260), Tehsildar Machil, Saqib Saleem, for Machil (Contact: 7006878772).

Similarly, the ACP Office Kupwara, SDM Office Karnah, and Tehsil Offices of Keran and Machil have been designated as ticketing counters for their respective areas

to facilitate the general public.

Furthermore, The ALC Office Kupwara has also been directed to hand over previous records to the ACP Office Kupwara under proper acknowledgement, with a copy to be furnished to the DC Office.

The designated Nodal Officers have been instructed to ensure proper maintenance of daily re-

ports, smooth coordination of helicopter operations, and timely submission of reports to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

This initiative aims to streamline helicopter services and ensure better winter connectivity for the residents of the far-flung and snowbound areas of Kupwara district.

Progressive Farmers from Ramban flagged off for Exposure-cum-Training Visit to PAU Ludhiana under HADP

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 03: To enhance farmers' technical skills and promote diversified agriculture in the district, a group of progressive farmers was today flagged off by MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, for an exposure-cum-training visit to Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The visit has been organized by the Department of Agriculture, Ramban under the component "Promotion of Floriculture".

During the visit, the farmers will receive training in modern floriculture techniques, post-harvest management, marketing strategies and advanced apiculture practices including royal honey and bee venom collection, colony management, scientific honey extraction and pollination enhancement.

While flagging off the group, the MLA appreciated the Agriculture Department's initiative and stressed the importance of such exposure visits in upgrading farmers' skills and income opportunities. He encouraged the participants to make optimum use of the training and adopt modern scientific techniques for agricultural development in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Vinay Kumar Jandial informed that the exposure



tour has been planned under HADP and is aligned with the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, wherein apiculture (beekeeping) has been identified as a key potential sector for Ramban. He added that the team will visit the Floriculture Research Farm, Beekeeping Research Station and Model Demonstration Units at PAU to gain practical exposure and interact with experts and progressive farmers.

Dr. Jandial further said that such programmes encourage farmers to adopt integrated farming models by combining floriculture

and apiculture, creating multiple livelihood avenues and promoting rural entrepreneurship. He expressed confidence that the participants will act as resource persons in their respective areas after their return.

Among others present on the occasion included Fiyaz Ahmed Naik (DDC Member), Kuldeep Bassan (District Agriculture Officer), Jyoti Prakash (Subject Matter Specialist), Sub-Divisional SMSs, officers and officials of the Agriculture Department and field support staff of Sub-Division Ramban.

Expenditure Observer convenes second account reconciliation meeting

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 3: In continuation of the Expenditure Register Accounts Reconciliation Inspection, the Expenditure Observer Ashish Yadav, IDAS, in conjunction with the Nodal Officer (Expenditure) Dr. Zafar Iqbal and the Election Expenditure Monitoring Team, today convened the second account reconciliation meeting with the contesting candidates/authorized election agents of 77-Nagrotta Assembly Constituency at the PWD



Guest House, Gandhi Nagar.

The meeting was held as per the notice dated 24.10.2025, issued by the Returning Officer for inspection of expenditure registers.

During the meeting, the expenditure registers of all contesting candidates were thoroughly examined and reconciled. The candidates and their authorized agents were apprised of the prescribed norms and guidelines pertaining to election expenditure and were explicitly advised to avoid cash transactions. They were further instructed to ensure that all financial transactions are routed exclusively through the designated Election Expenditure Bank Account within the prescribed expenditure ceiling. All 10 candidates have reconciled their expenditure registers.

Directions were also issued in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA 1950). The contesting candidates and their agents were advised to ensure their presence in the third reconciliation meeting scheduled for 8th November, 2025, at the same venue.

The Expenditure Observer reiterated the commitment of the Election Commission of India to ensure free, fair and transparent elections and emphasized strict adherence to the expenditure monitoring guidelines.

Fisheries Department Kupwara Stocks Brown Trout Fingerlings in Designated Trout Streams

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 03: The Department of Fisheries Kupwara has undertaken a significant initiative by stocking Brown Trout fingerlings in the upper reaches of Mawar, Dringyari, and Kalaroose streams, which have been officially declared as trout streams under the J&K Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2018.

The genetically improved eyed ova of Brown Trout were imported from Denmark under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadha Yojana (PMMSY) 2024-25 and were reared to fingerling size at the departmental hatchery in Kulgam before being released into the natural streams.

This milestone initiative aims



to replenish and enrich natural trout habitats, ensuring the sus-

tenance of fish biodiversity and promoting sport fishing in the

region.

Pertinently, Brown Trout, a

globally renowned sport fish, attracts anglers from across the world. Kashmir, known as the "Angler's Paradise," continues to host thousands of fishing enthusiasts every year.

In Kupwara, several anglers have already started visiting these streams to enjoy trout fishing in the pristine waters. Apart from recreation, trout angling contributes significantly to eco-tourism promotion and environmental conservation, while also encouraging responsible interaction with nature.

The Department of Fisheries has reiterated its commitment to strengthen sustainable fisheries management and promote angling-based tourism in the district.

NITI Aayog unveils Roadmap to harness frontier technologies for transformation in agriculture

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: NITI Aayog today unveiled a roadmap outlining a strategic vision to harness frontier technologies, including climate resilient seeds, digital twins, precision agriculture, agentic AI and advanced mechanisation to enhance productivity, sustainability and incomes across India's diverse agricultural landscape.

The roadmap, 'Reimagining Agriculture: A Roadmap for Frontier Technology Led Transformation,' offers tailored, actionable solutions sensitive to the varied challenges faced by smallholders to commercial cultivators by segmenting farmers into three primary archetypes, i.e. Aspiring, Transitioning, and Advanced, an official spokesman said here.

The roadmap points out that with right interventions, India can unlock new levels of agricultural resilience, inclusive rural prosperity and global competitiveness in agri-tech innovation, contributing meaningfully towards the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The roadmap, developed in collaboration with knowledge partners – BCG, Google and CII – under the guidance of experts from industry and academia, was launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said "Gujarat is uniquely positioned to lead India's agricultural transformation. Through initiatives such as the Digital Crop Survey, Digital Agri Farm Registry and the i-Khedut portal, we are building a seamless



ecosystem that integrates technology across every stage of farming."

He said these innovations help farmers combat crop diseases, enhance productivity and adopt next-generation seeds and tools that lower the cost of cultivation.

Pointing out that Digital inte-

gration is not just about improving efficiency, but is empowering farmers, the Chief Minister said farmer sashaktikaran (empowerment) is essential for realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

"By harnessing AI, data, and precision technologies, we can

ensure that every acre becomes more productive, every drop of water more valuable, and every farmer more prosperous," he said.

B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, said "No two farmers in India are the same, and technology must reflect that diversity. The real impact of frontier technologies will come from how well we customize solutions—whether for a smallholder or a commercial cultivator; a farmer growing staples or a horticulturist.

He said the roadmap rightly emphasizes differentiated strategies for aspiring, transitioning and advanced farmers.

"If we design with empathy and deploy with precision, technology can truly transform livelihoods, making agriculture more resilient, inclusive and future-ready," he added. UNI

SC to hear CPI's plea against Madras High Court order on removal of political flagpoles in Tamil Nadu

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: The Communist Party of India (CPI) has approached the Supreme Court challenging the Madras High Court's direction ordering the removal of all permanent flagpoles of political parties from public places across Tamil Nadu.

A Bench comprising Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice Vijay Bishnoi directed that the matter be placed before a Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath, which had previously heard a connected case on the same issue. Accordingly, the matter was adjourned.

The Special Leave Petition (SLP) challenges an August 13 order of a Full Bench of the Madurai Bench of the High Court, comprising Justices S.M. Subramaniam, R. Vijayakumar, and S. Sounthar, which had upheld the earlier single-judge direction (passed in January 2024) requiring the removal of permanent flagpoles from public land.

The Supreme Court noted that in August 2024, it had already dismissed another SLP challenging a Division Bench's March order affirming the single-judge ruling.

However, it also observed that another Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath had since issued notice in a similar petition, and therefore directed that the CPI's plea be heard by the same Bench "for consistency."

The Bench stated, "List this matter before the coordinate Bench consisting of Justice Vikram Nath and, if needed, appropriate orders may be taken from the Chief Justice."

The case has a complex procedural history. In March 2024, a Division Bench of the Madurai Bench had confirmed the single-judge order for the removal of political flagpoles from public areas. While the Supreme Court dismissed an appeal against that order in August 2024, another Division Bench of the High Court, while hearing a similar appeal in June 2024, expressed reservations about the earlier decision, noting that previous rulings had allowed flagpole installations without specific permissions.

The matter was then referred to a Full Bench, which in August concluded that no further adjudication was necessary since the Supreme Court had already upheld the earlier Division Bench order.

In its SLP filed through M/s Ram Sankar and Co, the CPI has argued that the earlier dismissal by the Supreme Court was in limine (at the threshold) and hence does not attract the doctrine of merger, allowing the High Court to independently examine the issue on merits.

The party contends that the High Court's "sweeping directions" amounted to impermissible judicial legislation and infringed fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech) and 19(1)(c) (freedom to form associations). The CPI further claimed that the impugned orders were passed without hearing political parties, making them unconstitutional.

The original order by Justice G.K. Ilanithiraiyan of the Madurai Bench had directed all political parties and organizations to remove permanent flagpoles erected on public land, highways, and government property within 12 weeks, failing which authorities could remove them and recover costs from the concerned parties.

The Court had clarified that political parties were free to erect flagpoles on private land during campaigns or public events, provided they adhered to local rules and removed the structures thereafter, restoring the area to its original condition. It had also directed the Tamil Nadu Government to frame rules governing the installation of flagpoles on private property. UNI

Saudi Arabia launches second edition of 'Global Harmony' initiative with 'India Week' at Riyadh Season

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Media has launched the second edition of its 'Global Harmony' initiative, kicking off the celebrations with 'India Week' as its inaugural celebration under the Riyadh Season.

A key component of the Quality-of-Life Program under Saudi Vision 2030, the Global Harmony initiative aims to celebrate the cultural diversity of residents in the Kingdom and highlight their contributions to Saudi Arabia's social and economic development.

The initiative underscores Saudi Arabia's commitment to inclusivity, coexistence, and cross-cultural understanding. It shines a light on the



professional, social, and recreational lives of residents, celebrating their role in enriching the Kingdom's cultural and economic landscape, the official release said.

This year, the Ministry of Media, in collaboration with the General Entertainment Authority (GEA), will host a series of cultural and entertainment events throughout the Riyadh Season. The festivities began with 'India Week', honoring the Indian community's longstanding contribution to the Kingdom.

The celebration will showcase India's vibrant cultural identity through music, dance, cuisine, art, and traditional crafts. Prominent Indian media representatives, artists, and cultural personalities are participating in the week-long events, further strengthening the cultural bridge between India and Saudi Arabia.

Expressing his appreciation for the initiative, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said: "Building on the success of the last edition in 2024, this year's preparations promise to be an even bigger celebration of Indian music, dance, cuisines and handicraft, with the participation of well-known Indian artists and performers."

Ajaz Khan said, "I once again complement the Ministry of Media and the General Entertainment Authority for their significant contribution in promoting cross-cultural understanding under the Global Harmony Initiative. It's an excellent effort to build cultural bridges, promote stronger people-to-people ties and reaffirm the close historical bonds between India and Saudi Arabia."

The wider Global Harmony initiative will feature celebrations of 14 diverse cultures represented by residents in Saudi Arabia, including those from India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Uganda, and Ethiopia, among others.

The events will include concerts, traveling performances, family-friendly cultural activities, traditional foods, and handicraft showcases—welcoming citizens and residents of all nationalities to participate and experience the spirit of global harmony. UNI

SC shocked over Rs 3,000 cr cyber fraud losses; warns of 'iron-hand' action against digital arrest scams

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: The Supreme Court today expressed grave concern after being informed that nearly Rs 3,000 crore have been extorted from citizens through cyber frauds, particularly in so-called digital arrest scams, where victims are coerced into transferring money under threat of fabricated criminal action.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi called for harsh and stringent measures to combat the rapidly growing menace.

"It's shocking that almost Rs 3,000 crore has been collected from victims. And this is just in our country. If we don't pass stringent orders, the problem will magnify. We will deal with this with iron hands," the Bench observed.

The Court was hearing a suo motu case initiated to address the rising wave of digital arrest scams targeting citizens across India.

During the previous hearing, the Supreme Court had directed all States to submit details of FIRs registered in connection with such scams.



It had also sought clarification on whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) possessed adequate resources to investigate these nationwide offences.

Today, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the CBI submitted a sealed report to the Court. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, informed that a dedicated unit within the MHA has been constituted to monitor and coordinate responses to such cybercrimes.

"A separate unit in MHA is coordinating, and several steps are being

taken," the Solicitor General submitted. After a brief hearing, the Court reserved its directions and ordered that the matter be listed again on November 10.

The suo motu proceedings stem from a letter petition sent by a senior citizen couple, who reported being defrauded of Rs 1.5 crore between September 1 and 16 by fraudsters posing as officials from the CBI, the Intelligence Bureau, and the judiciary.

The scammers allegedly used forged Supreme Court orders shown over video calls to intimidate the victims into paying the money under the pretext of avoiding arrest.

Subsequently, two FIRs were registered with the Cyber Crime Branch in Ambala, which uncovered an organized pattern of similar offences, especially targeting elderly individuals.

Taking note of these reports, the Supreme Court on October 17 had sought responses from the Central Government and the CBI and requested the Attorney General for India to assist the Court in framing systemic safeguards against such digital frauds. UNI

SC raps petitioner seeking his own appointment as HC judge; calls it 'mockery of the system'



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: The Supreme Court today refused to entertain a bizarre petition filed by G. Sarvan Kumar seeking his own appointment as a High Court judge, calling it a "mockery of the system."

The matter came up for the first time before a Bench comprising Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandran.

The Bench expressed strong displeasure over the plea, questioning whether the petitioner expected the apex court to convene a collegium meeting on his request.

"Do you want us to call the first three judges of this Court here and hold a collegium meeting now?"

You are making a mockery of the system!" remarked CJI Gavai.

The Court further hinted that it might impose costs on the petitioner for filing such a frivolous plea.

"When have we heard petitions regard-

ing the appointment of a High Court judge? How much will it cost?" the CJI asked.

Faced with the Court's stern observations, the petitioner's counsel sought permission to withdraw the plea. The CJI, however, went a step further, suggesting that filing such petitions was unbecoming of an advocate.

"Sanad (license to practice law) should be withdrawn for filing such pleas," the Chief Justice said in open court. The petition was eventually withdrawn with the Court's permission.

Separately, the Supreme Court also took up a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of various provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021.

Supreme Court slams man who sought appointment as HC judge, saying, Do you want us to hold the Collegium meeting now?"

"Do you want us to call the first three judges of this court here and hold a collegium meeting now?" CJI Gavai asked the petitioner's counsel. UNI

Delhi's air quality remains 'very poor', marginal improvement seen in some areas

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 3: Delhi's air quality continued to remain in the "very poor" category on Monday, though a few areas showed marginal improvement compared to the previous day, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

As of Monday morning, the city's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 316, an improvement from 366 recorded a day earlier. Despite the slight dip, pollution levels across most monitoring stations stayed high, with reduced visibility and residents reporting respiratory discomfort.

According to CPCB's latest readings, Mandir Marg recorded an AQI of 315 ("very poor"), while R.K. Puram stood at 339 and Chandni Chowk at 342 — all within the "very poor" range. Pusa (DPCC) and Nehru Nagar reported AQI levels

between 330–335, while North Campus (DU) registered 328.

A few locations showed relatively better air quality: Lodhi Road (IITM) recorded 204 AQI ("poor"), and ITO (CPCB) registered 95 AQI, categorised as "satisfactory", marking a notable contrast to the citywide trend. Earlier CPCB data had reported 364 AQI at Lodhi Road, 347 at Akshardham, and 307 at Kartavya Path, suggesting a mild overall improvement in certain pockets.

In response to the persistent pollution, municipal authorities have deployed truck-mounted water sprinklers across the city to help suppress dust and particulate matter.

However, despite these mitigation efforts, air quality remains hazardous in several parts of the capital. Experts have advised residents to limit outdoor activities, especially for children, the elderly, and those with respiratory ailments. UNI





Kane Williamson Retires From New Zealand T20Is

■ ESPNCRICINFO

SYDNEY: Kane Williamson has announced his retirement from T20 internationals after months of speculation about his playing future, but has reaffirmed his focus on playing for New Zealand in Test cricket, starting with their three-match series against West Indies in December.

Williamson, 35, has featured in 93 T20Is for New Zealand since his debut in October 2011. However, he opted out of their three-match series against Australia at the start of the month, then missed the subsequent 1-0 loss to England with a groin injury.

He returned to action for this week's 3-0 ODI series victory over the same opponents - his first appearances for New Zealand since the Champions Trophy final against India in March - but had flagged beforehand his shifting priorities, telling NZC of the "delicate balance" between time with his young family and committing to the team of which he has been a part for 15 years.

Now he has opted to call time on the shortest format, just months before

the next T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka in February. He retires as New Zealand's second-highest run-scorer in the format, with 2,575 runs at an average of 33.44, 18 fifties and a highest score of 95. He captained the team in 75 of his matches, including T20 World Cup semi-final appearances in 2016 and 2022, and one losing final in 2021.

"It's something that I've loved being a part of for a long period of time and I'm so grateful for the memories and experiences," Williamson said. "It's the right time for myself and the team. It gives the team clarity for the series moving forward and ahead of their next major focus which is the T20 World Cup."

"There's so much T20 talent there and the next period will be important to get cricket into these guys and get them ready for the World Cup."

Rob Walter, the New Zealand head coach, said: "You get to different life positions and the game does require a lot and demand a lot. So, understandably, Kane decided to step away from T20 internationals. And we're now looking to the Test series at the end of

the year and that will be our primary focus now.

"I don't think you can underestimate [his] value in all aspects," Walter added. "Obviously, performance is one thing, but I think it's probably the lesser of all the things that he brings to the team. A magnificent team man."

"He's a real sounding board for the guys in the team. He's experienced a hell of a lot. He's delivered incredible performances under pressure in World Cup finals. There's a whole package there that obviously the team loses, but respectful of his decision."

Williamson had already handed over the white-ball captaincy to Mitchell Santner, while his No. 3 berth in the T20I team had been taken over by Rachin Ravindra, with the likes of Tim Seifert, Tim Robinson and Mark Chapman challenging for regular berths.

"Mitch is a brilliant captain and leader - he's really come into his own with this team," Williamson said. "He really has such a great understanding of the game and this format having played for a long time and has done incredibly well."

Arshdeep's career highlights the balancing act T20 cricket imposes on India

■ SIDHARTH MONGA

NEW DELHI: No Indian has taken more wickets in T20Is than Arshdeep Singh. Among the ten who have taken 50 or more wickets, only Kuldeep Yadav has a better strike-rate than him. Yet Arshdeep was not part of India's first-choice XI in their previous T20I series, the Asia Cup. He played two matches, but only when India's progress had been confirmed.

Even in Australia, Arshdeep was brought into the XI only as an afterthought after India kept him out for the first two games. It comes down to the unfortunate scenario of having four excellent strike bowlers but never being able to play them all at once because none of them



can bat. It was the issue with Virat Kohli's ODI side as well when they just couldn't afford to play Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal all in the same XI. Arshdeep and Varun Chakravarty have taken the places of Shami and Chahal in this T20I squad, but the problem remains the same.

Even so, if there are any conditions where India need to play both Bumrah and Arshdeep, they are the ones in early-season Australia. It was surprising that it took India till the third match to bring the left-arm quick in.

That they immediately had to leave Kuldeep out for Washington Sundar tells you about the balancing act India are forced to carry out. At the same time, Arshdeep immediately showed why he is such an important player in conditions that have a little bit of assistance for fast bowlers.

In a match that largely followed T20 rhythms, the first four overs of Australia's innings, in which they scored just 24 runs for the loss of Travis Head and Josh Inglis, proved to be all the difference. India scored 41 in their first four, and eventually had nine balls to spare when they overhauled the total Australia set them.

In those four overs, Arshdeep took the wickets of Head and Inglis, aided in part by the threat posed by Bumrah at the other end. Arshdeep has the ingredients to use the conditions: he swings the ball both ways, and his high release aids seam movement and uneven bounce. In a game of such small margins as T20 cricket, these overs can have a huge impact. Arshdeep also returned at the end to team up with Bumrah and deny Australia a finishing kick.

ESPNCricinfo

Suryakumar likens Bumrah-Arshdeep pair to Shubman-Abhishek combo

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY, NOV 2: India captain Suryakumar Yadav on Sunday drew a striking comparison between the team's new-ball pair and the opening duo after the side's commanding five-wicket win over Australia in the second T20 International here, which levelled the five-match (rpt five match) series 1-1.

Suryakumar, who broke his long-running toss jinx, hailed the chemistry between Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh, saying their partnership with the ball was as impactful as that of Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma at the top of the order. "They're a fantastic pair — a bit like Shubman and Abhishek

up top. Bumrah does his job quietly, keeps it tight, and Arshdeep capitalises from the other end. Together, they're a really lethal combination," he said after the win.

Reflecting on finally winning the toss, Suryakumar admitted it felt like a small victory. "It felt like we'd lost 19 or 20 tosses in a row, so it was great to break that streak. Winning the toss was important today, and I'm really happy with how the team performed," he said.

The skipper also credited his team's balance after making three changes. "Those guys were practising really hard and waiting for their chance. Washi (Washington Sundar) showed great flexibility, Jitesh contributed well, and Arshdeep was outstanding. It felt

like the right combination to-night," he added.



With the series now locked at 1-1, Suryakumar said the team was upbeat ahead of the decider. "It's set up beautifully. We're heading to a new venue, so it'll be a fresh challenge, but

the boys are confident and enjoying their cricket."

Australia captain Mitchell Marsh admitted his side was "probably 20 runs short" and lauded India's bowling effort. "We gave it our best in the field, but they deserved the win. I liked

the intent from our batters, especially Tim David, who played superbly after early wickets, and Stoinis, who showed great experience at the end," Marsh said.

On Glenn Maxwell's availability, Marsh added, "He was close to playing today but not quite ready. Hopefully he'll be fit and available for Thursday. He's such an experienced T20 campaigner — we'd love to have him back." Player of the Match Arshdeep Singh, who delivered a decisive spell, said he was focused on execution and enjoying the contest. "It feels great to contribute when I get the chance. When someone like Bumrah is bowling from the other end, batters often take more risks against me — that gives wicket-taking opportunities," he said.

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