

Centre Declares Red Fort Blast A “Heinous Terror Act”; PM Modi Chairs Emergency Meet, Visits Injured

DNA Sample of Prime Suspect’s Mother Sent to AIIMS; Second Car Linked to Dr Umar Traced in Haryana; J&K Police Hands Probe to SIA

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: The Union Government on Wednesday formally declared the Red Fort blast that killed nine and injured twenty as a “heinous terror incident perpetrated by anti-national forces.”

A high-level Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in Lok Kalyan Marg condemned the “dastardly and cowardly act” and passed a resolution reaffirming India’s zero tolerance towards terrorism.

The meeting was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and senior security officials. The Cabinet expressed “profound grief over the loss of innocent lives” and lauded the swift coordination of security and emergency agencies. “The Cabinet reiterates India’s unwavering commitment to bring every perpetrator, collaborator, and sponsor of terrorism to justice without delay,” the resolution stated.

PM Visits Injured at LNJP Hospital. Returning early from his Bhutan visit, PM Modi visited LNJP Hospital in Delhi to meet those injured in Monday’s blast. He enquired about their wellbeing and praised doctors and first responders for their quick action.

In a parallel development, Jammu and Kashmir Police have formally handed over the related terror module investigation to the State Investigation Agency (SIA) under the overall supervision of the CID, officials confirmed. The case, initially investigated by Srinagar Police, involves several suspects with alleged links to the Delhi blast.

Investigators suspect that Dr Umar Mohammad, also known as Dr Umar Un Nabi, was driving the car that exploded near the Red Fort in Delhi on September 14, 2024.

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PM Modi Visits Blast Survivors, Vows Justice for Victims of Red Fort Tragedy

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday visited the LNJP Hospital to meet those injured in the devastating Red Fort blast, assuring that those behind the deadly conspiracy “will be brought to justice.” “Went to LNJP Hospital and

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Police attach Mian Qayoom’s Sgr house

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: In a significant action under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Jammu and Kashmir Police have ordered the attachment of the residential property of former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association President Mian Abdul Qayoom, after investigations revealed his alleged involvement in activities linked to terrorism and anti-national propaganda.

According to an official order issued by the Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat, the property comprising a two-storey residential house along with land measuring 2 kanals, 1 marla, and 90 square feet at Bulbul Bagh, Barzulla, Srinagar, has been attached as “proceeds of terrorism” in connection with FIR No. 157/2009 registered at Police Station Shaheed Gunj.

The case dates back to December 31, 2009, when police received inputs about a seminar organized at Hotel Jahangir, Srinagar, on the death anniversary of Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

The event, allegedly led by separatist leaders, featured speeches delivered by Asia Andrabi, Shabir Ahmad Najar, Mian Abdul Qayoom and others.

Police investigations revealed that the speakers raised “anti-national slogans” and advocated

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Elimination of Every Single Terror Element is Must to Completely Restore Peace: LG Sinha

Inaugurates International Film Festival of Srinagar, Urges Filmmakers to Depict Terror Victims’ Ordeal

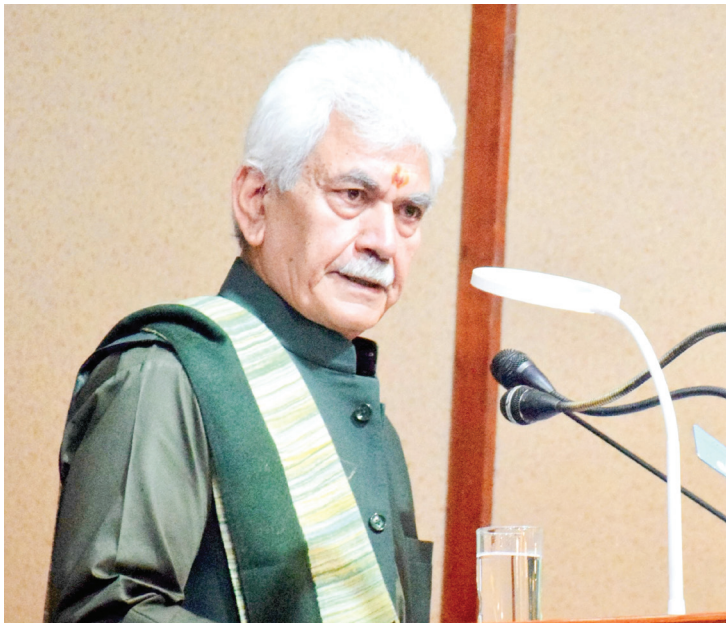
■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated the International Film Festival of Srinagar (TIFFS), calling upon filmmakers to produce meaningful cinema that narrates the ordeal of terror victims, exposes the ringleaders of the terror ecosystem, and highlights Jammu and Kashmir’s remarkable transformation after August 2019.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said, “We must eliminate every single terror element within the society to completely restore peace. This effort requires the cooperation of all sections of the public.”

He urged citizens to expose

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Terrorism Was the Biggest Enemy of J&K’s Youth, But We Have Now Created a New Destiny : LG Manoj Sinha

LG Inaugurates IUST Innovation Campus; Urges Youth to Drive Development and Safeguard Peace Gains

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that Jammu and Kashmir has entered a new era of transformation and

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CS Reviews Performance of Cooperative Department

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance of the Cooperative Department and assess the progress achieved in promoting cooperative activities and financial reforms across J&K.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives; Regional Director, RBI; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Director General,

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CS Reviews CiTAG Innovation Initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the performance and ongoing initiatives of the Centre for Innovation, Technology and Governance (CiTAG), J&K, aimed at fostering innovation.

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Police Raids Around 500 Locations Linked To Banned Organisations Including Jel

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Police on Wednesday intensified its crackdown on the terror ecosystem in Kashmir, carrying out raids at around 500 locations linked to terrorist associates, and persons affiliated with banned organisations, including Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel), in the valley, officials said.

The raids were based on credible intelligence inputs indicating attempts by Jel-linked elements to revive their activities under different fronts, police officials said.

They said the raids were carried out at several locations across the 10 districts of the Kashmir valley — Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian.

The searches were carried out at the residences and premises of Jel members and their associates.

They added the crackdown is a part of sustained efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and its support structure at the grassroots level.

Giving details of the massive operation, the

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IICT, NIELIT Develop New Design Software To Promote Kashmir Handicrafts

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: In a significant milestone towards integrating modern technology with traditional designs, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir today unveiled DesignNweave, an indigenous software solution, which is set to revolutionize the digital design process for famed handicrafts and handlooms of Kashmir.

The new software has been developed by the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, in collaboration with National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY).

The formal handover-takeover ceremony was attended by Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, Director IICT, Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad and Director I/C NIELIT, Srinagar, Ashiq Hussain Dar.

In a press statement issued here today, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, congratulated IICT and NIELIT for putting their heads together in making a comprehensive design software which has been specifically tailored for creation and management of carpet and textile designs. “It supports traditional Taleem

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Headlines Today to File Legal Action Over Fake News Publication

Warns Perpetrators of Stern Consequences

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Headlines Today has initiated legal proceedings after a fake and fabricated news article surfaced on social media, falsely using the newspaper’s name to circulate defamatory material.

An unauthorized and forged version of the publication, carrying the Headlines Today masthead, was widely shared on messaging platforms. The fake edition included a fabricated byline attributed to one “Sandeep Raina from Pulwama,” dated November 11, 2025, and carried false

allegations against an official of the Power Development Department (PDD).

In a statement issued by the Editor-in-Chief’s Office, the management clarified that no such report was ever published, verified, or approved by its editorial team. The office described the viral post as a “criminal act of impersonation, forgery, and defamation” aimed at misleading readers and tarnishing reputations. “The so-called article is a complete fabrication from byline to layout. It is a mischievous attempt by unknown elements to malign

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DC Srinagar reviews progress of Mission Yuva, Udyam Jagriti 4.0 in district



HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a comprehensive meeting at DC Office to review functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) of District Srinagar established under HADP project.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised that all the 10 KKGs allotted to District Srinagar have been successfully established and 8 Krishi Udhams have been engaged out of 10.

The meeting was also informed that till date 3500 farmers have visited KKGs and registered themselves on KKG app for getting the services offered by KKGs.

On the occasion, the DC directed the Officers to ensure 100% saturation of registration of farmers on KKG App. He asked them to ensure that the Krishi Udhams offer services related to Agriculture and allied sectors to the farmers at their doorsteps through CSCs and KUs emerge as successful Agri entrepreneurs.

Earlier, the Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar gave a detailed presentation during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Officer Sericulture, Srinagar; District Lead Bank Manager, Srinagar; District Head, KVAFSU, Srinagar; Assistant Director, Fisheries; Area Marketing Officer, HP&M Srinagar; District Coordinator, CSC and all the Krishi Udhams of District Srinagar.

missioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM West, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, senior Officers of J&K Bank, Mission Youth, NRLM, and representatives from various educational institutions.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the number of cases sanctioned and disbursed under Mission Yuva by the J&K Bank. He laid emphasis on expediting both sanctions and disbursements to ensure timely financial assistance

to the beneficiaries.

The DC directed the Bank Officials, particularly the Zonal and Cluster Heads, to further accelerate the number of sanctioned and disbursed cases. He stressed the importance of close coordination between departments and financial institutions for effective implementation of the programme.

While reviewing the implementation of Udyam Jagriti 4.0, the DC instructed the Colleges of the district to increase student coverage under

the initiative so that more youth are sensitized about entrepreneurship and self-employment avenues. Similar directions were passed to NRLM officials to enhance coverage of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Udyam Jagriti campaign.

The DC further instructed all concerned departments to track the progress of beneficiaries whose cases have been disbursed by Banks and ensure that all necessary handholding of the young entrepreneurs towards timely completion of their projects.

DC Srinagar reviews functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars established under HADP

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MLA Devsar Feroz Ahmad Shah Holds Public Darbar at Kilam Kulgam

Promises Early Redressal of public Grievances, Reaffirms Commitment to Development

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 12: MLA Devsar, Pirzada Feroz Ahmad Shah, held a Public Darbar in the Kilam kulgam area of his constituency, where he interacted with local residents and patiently listened to their grievances. A large number of people participated in the event and raised various issues related to basic amenities, road connectivity, PMAY sheds, healthcare facilities, and other civic concerns.

Addressing the gathering, Shah assured the people that all genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for early resolution. He reiterated his unwavering commitment to the overall development and welfare of Devsar, emphasizing that the concerns of the people remain his top priority. "The concerns of the people are my top priority, and I will ensure that all genuine demands are met at the earliest," Shah said while interacting with the gathering.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the event, Shah reaffirmed his pledge to fulfill all promises made in his election manifesto. "We will



fulfill all the demands of the people as promised. Our government is committed to ensuring development and welfare for every citizen," he said.

The event was attended by several district, tehsil, and sectoral officers, including ACD Kulgam Bilal Ahmad Kamgar (JKAS), CMO Kulgam Dr. Showkat Ahmad, Tehsildar Devsar Rakib Ahmad (JKAS), BDO Devsar Tanzeel ur Rehman (JKAS), XEN Irrigation, XEN PHE, CDPO Qazigund Hanifa Ji and other officials from various departments.

Local residents expressed optimism that their long-pending issues would finally be addressed. The officials present took note of the grievances for prompt redressal and assured necessary follow-up action.

Langate Holds Candlelight March to Condemn Delhi Blast

DR. AB QAYOOM

LANGATE, NOV 12: In a heart-felt show of unity and grief, the people of Langate on Wednesday evening held a massive candlelight march to condemn the tragic and brutal explosion that ripped through a jam-packed market near Red Fort in Delhi. The devastating terrorist attack claimed the lives of over twelve innocent people and left around twenty-five others injured, sending shockwaves across the nation.

Residents from Chogal, Gulloora, Pharouppeth, Hanjishat, Harn, Takibal, Gund Chogal, Kulthoor, Kharou, Gund Kharou, Shanoo, Tulwari, and Langate town, including members of civil society, traders, transporters, youth forums, students, and social activists, came together in solidarity to pay tribute to the victims and to call for peace and unity across India.

The marches began simulta-



neously from different villages of the Langate area particularly from the twin markets of Langate and Chogal. The Langate march culminated at the historic Main Chowk Langate around 5:30 PM, while the Chogal procession concluded at the main market of M. Chogal along the Sopore Kupwara

highway.

At both locations, participants holding candles and banners raised powerful slogans denouncing terrorism and violence. The atmosphere was charged with emotions as people expressed their anguish and demanded peace, justice, and brotherhood

in the wake of the brutal attack.

"The barbaric and tragic explosion in the Red Fort market is a murder of humanity and a grave violation of international law," said a student while speaking to Headlines Today. Many participants echoed similar sentiments, urging everyone to unite against

terrorism and to foster love, harmony, and tolerance in society.

Participants also lauded the tireless efforts of the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the civil administration for maintaining law and order amid ongoing challenges. They appealed to the people to cooperate with the authorities and support all initiatives aimed at eradicating terrorism and promoting lasting peace.

The Langate march concluded at the Main Chowk, where a solemn tribute was paid to the victims. A moment of silence was observed as participants stood together in mourning and solidarity.

The candlelight march served as a powerful symbol of Langate's collective resilience and unwavering stand against terrorism. It reflected the community's firm commitment to uphold peace, humanity, and brotherhood, reaffirming hope for a united and terror-free India.

DC Kupwara Hands Over Compensation Cheques to Kin of Accident Victims

Two Families Receive ₹1 Lakh Each Under J&K Road Accident Relief Fund

DR. AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, NOV 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shri Shrikant Suse, on Tuesday handed over cheques amounting to ₹1 lakh each to the Next of Kin (NoK) of two individuals who tragically lost their lives in separate road accidents. The financial assistance has been provided under the Jammu and Kashmir Road Accident Victim Fund (2022), which aims to extend immediate relief to families affected by road tragedies. The sanction for the assistance was approved by a five-member district committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner and comprising the ARTO Kupwara, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Accounts Officer to DC Kupwara, and Deputy SP Traffic.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Suse said that the Road Accident Victim Fund is a significant welfare measure designed to provide timely financial support to the dependents and legal heirs of those killed or injured in road mishaps involving both passenger and private vehicles. He directed all concerned departments to ensure the speedy processing and resolution of such cases, enabling swift compensation to the bereaved families. The Deputy Commissioner also laid stress on raising awareness about the scheme among the general public and establishing a



single-window clearance system to make the disbursement process faster and more transparent. The initiative has been widely appreciated by the

public, who termed it a compassionate step by the district administration towards helping families in distress.

Srinagar Police Intensify Raids on Terror Associates' Homes

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 12: In its sustained efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and curb unlawful activities, Srinagar Police conducted extensive raids at multiple locations across the city. The searches were carried out at the residences of terrorist associates and overground workers (OGWs) affiliated with proscribed terrorist organizations, in connection with ongoing investigations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The coordinated search operations were conducted across various areas of Srinagar, targeting individuals involved in facilitating, aiding, or abetting terror-related activities.

Over 150 residences were raided in the city and these searches were carried out in all Zones of Srinagar City covering various Police Stations and Police Posts, along with SOG component of District Police.

The searches were conducted in accordance with due legal procedure, in the presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses, and under the supervision of senior officers of J&K Police.

The objective of these operations was to seize incriminating material such as documents, digital devices, and other evidence relevant to ongoing investigations. The raids also form part of a broader intelligence-gathering exercise aimed at pre-empting and disrupting any conspiratorial or terrorist activities threatening public peace and national security.

This decisive action underscores the commitment of Srinagar Police to identify and take firm legal action against all individuals involved in promoting or supporting terror-related and anti-national activities.

Srinagar Police remains resolute in its mission to preserve peace, stability, and public order in the city. Anyone found abetting or assisting in unlawful or violent activities will be dealt with strictly under the law.

Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of School Education Department in Kashmir Division

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Education Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the performance and functioning of the School Education Department across Kashmir division.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani; Joint Directors of School Education department (SED), Chief Education Officers of all districts of Kashmir division and other concerned officers of SED.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed assessment on key operational areas of school education sector like academic performance of schools, infrastructure development, teacher deployment, timely distribution of school textbooks and other materials, besides issues related to unregulated selling of school

textbooks by private schools through various agencies on exorbitant rates was also discussed in detail.

Addressing the officers in meeting, Sakeena Itoo emphasized on the importance of ensuring that all schools across the region receive textbooks and other learning materials before the commencement of academic session. "Timely availability of books and supplies is crucial to maintaining the academic calendar and ensuring that no student is left behind," the Minister said.

She directed officials to streamline the distribution process through improved coordination between the divisional and district education offices, adding that transparency and accountability must be maintained at every level.

While reviewing other issues related to School Education sector, the Minister issued strict instructions to CEOs to check unregulated selling of school



textbooks by private schools through various agencies on exorbitant rates. "Conduct routine checks on schools as well as book shops and take stringent action against schools and book shops involved in selling textbooks on exorbitant rates", the Education Minister stated.

She also instructed the Director School Education to issue a detailed order regarding curriculum/textbooks to be followed by schools and make each CEO to implement that order in letter and spirit. She asked the CEOs to take appropriate action against schools violating this order.

The Minister also called for timely processing of GP funds and directed the CEOs to submit detailed report outlining the number of cases submitted and pending with each CEO.

Regarding coaching centres, the Minister directed the CEOs to conduct regular checks on coaching centres and ensure that they are following safety protocols. She also asked them to take

action against unregistered coaching centres.

Highlighting the role of teachers in shaping the future of students, the Minister called for regular capacity-building and training programs to enhance teaching standards. She also stressed the need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms to ensure punctuality, performance, and effective classroom engagement.

The Minister further urged the department to ensure that all pending administrative and academic issues are resolved in a time-bound manner. She assured that the government is committed to improving the quality of education and creating an enabling environment for students and teachers alike.

During the meeting, Director School Education Kashmir as well as CEOs briefed the Minister about the academic progress as well as progress on infrastructure development and other related aspects.

DC Shopian reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar, RDSS Schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 12: A high-level meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, at the Mini-Secretariat today to review the progress of implementation of PM Surya Ghar, Muft Bijli Yojana and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), being executed in the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the progress achieved under both schemes and emphasized the need to expedite works to ensure timely completion.

Officers from the Power Development Department (PDD) presented the latest status of household registrations, installation of solar plants under PM Surya Ghar, and progress on smart metering and infrastructure strengthening under RDSS.

The DC directed the officers to accelerate the pace of execution and remove bottlenecks, if any, so that the benefits of these flagship initiatives reach the public at the earliest.

He stressed the importance of awareness among the general public about the PM Surya Ghar, Muft Bijli Yojana, which aims to promote renewable energy and reduce electricity bills through rooftop solar installations.

As part of the RDSS, the first phase involves taking up 13 feeders for execution, with a completion timeline of December 31, 2025. The project includes the installation of 5700 electric poles afresh, along with 275 Distribution Transformers, to improve the power infrastructure in the district.

The department has achieved a significant milestone with 260 solar power rooftops already installed in the district under PM SuryaGhar, with hundred more in the pipeline, showcasing the district's commitment to harnessing renewable energy.

Under the RDSS, the DC emphasized improving power supply reliability, reducing transmission losses, and ensuring 100% smart metering in the district.

He asked the concerned engineers to maintain close coordination with the executing agencies and regularly monitor the progress on the ground.

Additionally, the DC directed the officers to increase outreach efforts and mobilize more people to avail benefits under the PM Surya Ghar Scheme.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; SDM Zainapora Bilal Ahmed; LDM, Executive Engineers of PDD and RE Wing, Project Implementing Agency representatives, and other concerned officers.

Satish Sharma holds meeting with Western Bus Union

Issues on-spot directions for immediate redressal of grievances

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 12: In a significant step towards addressing the long-pending concerns of the Transport fraternity, Minister for Transport, FCS&CA, Youth Services and Sports, IT, Satish Sharma today convened a detailed meeting with the representatives of Western Bus Union.

The delegation, led by the President of the Association, apprised the Minister of various operational and administrative challenges being faced by transporters across different routes and districts of the region.

During the deliberations, the Union representatives raised several important issues, including

streamlining of permit renewals, rationalization of passenger fare structures, condition of transport infrastructure, welfare of drivers and conductors, and simplification of departmental procedures.

The Minister gave a patient and sympathetic hearing to the concerns and assured the delegation that the government is fully committed to strengthen the transport ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir through transparent and responsive governance.

Satish Sharma, while emphasizing the critical role of the transport sector in sustaining public mobility and economic connectivity, said that the government views the transporters as essential partners in the developmental process.



He directed the concerned officers of the Transport Department to take immediate action on the issues raised and ensure time-bound redressal of all genuine grievances.

He also instructed the officials to maintain regular coordination with the Union representatives to prevent recurrence of avoidable delays or procedural hurdles.

The Minister reiterated that under the vision of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Transport Department is working to create a more efficient, safe, and citizen-friendly public transport system across the Jammu and Kashmir. He underlined the importance of adopting digital systems and modern regulatory practices to improve service delivery and enhance transparency.

The members of the Western Bus Union expressed their gratitude to the Minister for intervention and proactive approach in resolving their concerns. They acknowledged the responsiveness shown by the Government to prioritize the welfare of transporters and commuters alike.

Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 Trophy Tour reaches Jammu

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: The Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025 Trophy today reached Jammu as part of the Trophy Tour, and the city witnessed a wave of excitement and pride.

The iconic trophy was displayed at K.K. Hakku Stadium, filling the venue with the energy of aspiring athletes, sports lovers, and school students who gathered in large numbers to celebrate the spirit of Indian hockey.

The event was graced by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Yasha Mudgal as Chief Guest. Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, along with officials from the Hockey India Federation and J&K Hockey Association besides large number of players were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner Secretary said, "The arrival of the Junior World Cup Trophy in Jammu marks a proud moment for all sports lovers of the region. Hockey



has always stood as a symbol of India's unity, resilience, and determination. Through this event, we aim to inspire our youth to embrace the sport with renewed passion and dedication. The J&K Government remains fully committed to extending every possible support for the growth of hockey and other sporting disciplines across the region, and the day is not far when our athletes will represent the country with pride and excellence."

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, in her address said, "J&K Sports Council under the Youth Services and Sports Department is committed to providing access to quality infrastructure, professional coaching, and exposure to aspiring athletes in every district. The Trophy Tour is not just a celebra-

tion of hockey's heritage but also a reminder to our youth that with discipline and hard work, they too can reach the highest levels of sport.

The Trophy Tour, which will travel through 20 states of India, aims to celebrate the FIH Junior Men's World Cup 2025, promote hockey awareness and participation across the nation, and inspire the younger generation to take pride in India's glorious hockey legacy.

The dazzling trophy procession began from Hotel Radisson and moved through Jammu University Road before reaching K.K. Hakku Stadium, where an enthusiastic crowd awaited its arrival. The atmosphere was electric as young players waved flags, cheered, and took photographs with the World Cup trophy, expressing their excitement and pride in witnessing such a historic moment.

The vibrant atmosphere at K.K. Hakku Stadium reflected the growing passion for hockey among the youth and reaffirmed the region's commitment to nurturing future champions.

DC Anantnag holds block Diwas at Verinag

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG NOVEMBER 12: To address the grievances and concerns of the local community especially related to the ensuing winter season, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid, presided over the Block Diwas today at Koot Verinag.

The event witnessed participation by DDC Shahabud, SDM Dooru, ACD, Tehsildar, BMO and ZEO Verinag, other concerned officers from various departments, members of civil society, ex-PRI members and the local public of the area.



Commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram

DC Shopian leads Plantation drive at Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 12: As part of the ongoing celebrations, commemorating 150 Years of National Song, 'Vande Mataram', District Administration Shopian today organized a plantation drive in the premises of the Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The plantation drive was led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police, Mushtaq Ahmad, ADC, Dr.



Zakir Hussain Faaz and other senior officers of the district who planted saplings reaffirming their commitment to preserving the environment.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted that the plantation drive represents not only an environmental initiative but also a symbolic gesture of respect towards the beloved land.

He emphasized that such activities foster a sense of responsibility among citizens towards the protection of nature and urged

all departments to continue contributing to the celebration of Vande Mataram through meaningful community-oriented activities.

SSP, while interacting with the participants, underscored the importance of collective participation in environmental conservation and encouraged youth to actively engage in similar green initiatives.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of officers and officials of all line departments.

During the program, the DC gave a patient hearing to the residents who raised issues pertaining to road connectivity, healthcare services, rationalisation of teachers, advance distribution of ration for winter months, expediting JJM works, desilting of Irrigation canals, commissioning of Receiving Station, availability of men & machinery for snow clearance, construction of infrastructure for schools, among others.

Addressing the gathering, the DC reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to the time-bound resolution of all genuine grievances, assuring that issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for effective redressal. He issued on spot directions to the concerned officers to ensure prompt and efficient resolution of genuine concerns raised by the public.



Dy. CM calls for prompt service delivery, speedy redressal of public issues

Meets several public delegations at Jammu

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring prompt service delivery and speedy redressal of public grievances to strengthen governance at the grassroots level.

During an extensive public outreach session held at Civil Secretariat here, Deputy Chief Minister met several public delegations from Jammu as well as Srinagar, who apprised him of various issues concerning their respective areas. The deputations raised matters related to overall upgradation of civic and infrastructural facilities in their respective areas.

Giving a patient hearing to all delegations, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that their



genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound and result-oriented manner. He directed the concerned Departments to take immediate and impactful measures to ensure effective resolution of issues affecting public welfare.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that responsive governance and prompt service delivery remain top priorities of the present government. He said that consistent engagement with the public and timely follow-up of grievances are essential for maintaining transparency and accountability in the system.

He further stated that the Government is committed to providing equitable development across all regions and ensuring that the benefits of various schemes and projects reach every section of society.

Institutions, Departments across Bandipora celebrate 150 Years of “Vande Mataram” with Patriotic zeal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 12: Continuing the week-long celebrations commemorating 150 years of India's National Song “Vande Mataram,” various departments and educational institutions across Bandipora district today organized patriotic programmes, special assemblies, and environmental activities reflecting deep national pride and enthusiasm.

At the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Madar, Bandipora, students and staff, along with officials from the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Bandipora, held a special morning assembly. The gathering echoed with the powerful rendition of “Vande Mataram,” as participants sang the song together, filling the campus with national devotion. The event also included short speeches on the historical and cultural significance of the National Song.

Similarly, at the R&B Office Bandipora, employees gathered to sing the National Song “Vande Mataram” and waved the National Flag amid a spirited display of patriotism and unity. The event fostered a collective sense of national pride among the staff, reinforcing the essence of the ongoing “Vande Mataram” campaign.

Meanwhile, the Government Degree College (GDC) Hajin organized a plantation drive under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Gazala Firdous to celebrate the milestone.

The drive aimed to promote environmental awareness and sustainable living while honouring the patriotic ideals symbolized by “Vande Mataram.” Students and faculty members enthusiastically planted a variety of saplings within the campus, reflecting their commitment to both environmental preservation and national service.

Similar programmes were conducted in schools and colleges across the district, where students and staff took part in different activities and events based on the themes of patriotism and national unity.

These activities were part of the broader district-wide “Vande Mataram” campaign, which continues to unite institutions, departments, and citizens in celebrating the values of patriotism, unity, and harmony.

GDC Shopian celebrates National Education Day

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 12: The Department of Education, Government Degree College Shopian, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian, under the aegis of IQAC, celebrated National Education Day to commemorate the birth anniversary and enduring legacy of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Minister of Education and a pioneer of modern learning.

On the occasion, In-charge Principal, GDC Shopian, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat, paid rich tributes to Maulana Azad's unparalleled contributions to the field of education.

Dr. Nazir underscored the significance of the occasion as an opportunity to revisit and reaffirm the ideals of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, describing him as a true champion of knowledge, unity, and educational empowerment. He highlighted the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in Education, emphasizing the need to balance technological advancement with human values, integrity, inclusivity, and innovation in learning environments.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Shopian (Chairman DLSA Shopian), Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary who attended the event as chief guest, in his address, shared profound insights on the power of education in revolutionizing societies and institutions. He appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students and faculty, acknowledging their efforts in making the event a grand success.

Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Shopian, Mudasir Farooq, in his remarks, elaborated on the role of education in fostering national integration and unity, emphasizing that true integration is achieved when people rise above divisions and work collectively for peace, progress, and social harmony.

Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Advocate Rafi Ahmad Ganie, highlighted the importance of fundamental rights as the cornerstone of Indian democracy, underlining their role in safeguarding justice, liberty, and equality for all citizens.

DDC Baramulla chairs Sector-wise review of Works under District Capex Budget 2025-26

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 12: District Development Commissioner Baramulla (DDC), Minga Sherpa, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the sector-wise physical and financial progress of works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed appraisal of ongoing and completed works across various sectors, including Rural Development, Education, Health, PWD, Jal Shakti, and others. Officers briefed the chair about the status of projects, expenditure incurred, and targets achieved so far.

Emphasizing timely completion and judicious utilization of funds, the DDC directed all departments to ensure strict adherence to timelines and quality parameters. He also called for close



monitoring of works to avoid delays and to ensure visible impact at the grassroots level.

The DDC further instructed officers to expedite the tendering and allotment processes for pending works so that execution can be taken up well before the onset of winter. He stressed the importance of achieving 100% financial and physical progress within the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, ACD, SEs, Executive Engineers of line departments, Block Development Officers, and other concerned officers.

Rana reviews implementation of Tribal Welfare schemes across J&K Directs for strict adherence to timelines, quality parameters

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review implementation of Tribal Welfare schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Secretary Tribal Affairs, Prasanna Ramaswamy G; District Development Commissioners of Jammu Division, Director Tribal Affairs, J&K and other senior officers.

During the review, the Minister took a detailed appraisal of both physical and financial progress achieved under various schemes, assessed outcomes

against the set objectives, and examined timelines for completion to ensure effective delivery of welfare initiatives for tribal communities.

The schemes discussed in meeting included UT Capex Budget, Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS), Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY), Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), and Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY).

Emphasizing the need for efficient utilization of resources, the Minister directed all officers to ensure strict compliance with quality standards and timelines.

He underscored that governance must be outcome-oriented, stressing the importance of regular

monitoring, seamless execution, and timely completion of projects to deliver tangible benefits on the ground. The original objectives of these flagship programmes must be realized in their true spirit to ensure maximum benefit to the tribal population,” the Minister asserted. He reiterated that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities through sustained implementation of welfare schemes and policy interventions.

Highlighting the importance of knowledge-based and innovative approaches in tribal development, Rana called for greater collaboration between the Tribal Research Institute (TRI) and IIT Jammu in the fields of research, documentation, and pres-

ervation of the historical and cultural heritage of tribal communities. Such partnerships, he noted, would help build an authentic repository of tribal knowledge and foster innovation in developmental planning.

The Minister also emphasized the need to involve local poets, artists, and cultural practitioners in initiatives promoting tribal art, culture, and languages, adding that community participation is essential for ensuring sustainable and meaningful outcomes.

Laying special focus on improving tribal hostels across Jammu and Kashmir, Rana instructed concerned officers to work in mission mode for timely renovation and upgradation.

He stressed that hostels must provide safe, comfortable, and

well-equipped environment to facilitate academic and personal growth of students from tribal communities.

Further, the Minister directed that all Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) be prepared in accordance with actual field requirements and realistic assessments, ensuring effective planning and quality outcomes. Speaking during the meeting, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo observed that the Government of India has laid renewed emphasis on tribal development through various flagship schemes.

He called for coordinated efforts and mission-mode implementation to ensure that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries efficiently and effectively.

DC Udhampur convenes public outreach camp at Panchayat Dhalpar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: To provide doorstep governance and ensure effective public grievances redressal of rural populace, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a Public outreach-cum-grievances redressal camp at Panchayat Ghar Dhalpar- Block Jaganoo.

A large number of people from adjoining areas attended the camp and projected their demands and grievances. Additional District Development Commissioner, Jugal Kishore; Assistant Commissioner Development, Om Parkash; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan and other district officers were also present.

The people demanded adequate staff in educational institutions, augmentation of drinking water supply, up-gradation of the Jaganoo-Ghordi road to double-lane, addressing mobile network connectivity issues, replacement of damaged electric poles, supply of quality seeds and fertilizers, clearance of roads in ward No. 8, installation of an ATM, establishment of a veterinary centre, restoration of drinking water supply and maintenance



of link roads, among other developmental concerns.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC sensitized the general public about the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and urged them to install solar panels to promote renewable energy. She directed bank officials to conduct financial awareness and inclusion camps to educate the public about the government welfare and social security schemes.

Responding to the issues raised by the public and former PRIs, the DC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers to address genuine grievances on priority. Several issues were resolved instantly through departmental coordination.

The DC further instructed officers from all departments to organize regular awareness camps to educate

the rural population about government welfare and beneficiary-oriented schemes, ensuring that people can avail themselves of maximum benefits.

Highlighting the objective of the public outreach initiative, the DC stated that these camps are aimed at bringing administration closer to the people, enabling direct interaction between citizens and officials. She added that these platforms help the District Administration understand and address the multifaceted challenges faced by the public.

The DC emphasized the importance of spreading awareness about income-generating and livelihood-oriented schemes launched by the Government of India and the UT Government, encouraging people to participate actively for their socio-economic upliftment.

Director Agriculture reviews progress of seed allotment for rabi season, PMFBY and HADP

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: A review meeting was today convened under the chairmanship of Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta to assess the ongoing activities and progress of the departmental schemes. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), Dr. Ashwani Sharma; Technical Officer HADP (DoA), senior officers and staff of the Directorate. Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) of all districts of Jammu Division participated through Video Conferencing (VC).

The meeting primarily focused on the issues related to seed allotment and distribution across districts for the Rabi season. The Director Agriculture informed that the seeds have already been dispatched to all districts as per their requirements. He directed all CAOs to communicate any additional requirements in writing within a day so that farmers do not face any inconvenience.

Anil Gupta further emphasized that seed rates must be prominently displayed at all seed stores, warning that strict action would be taken



in case of any non-compliance. Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director (Inputs), Dr. Ashwani Sharma stated that maximum seed allotments have already been dispatched to the districts and the process is near completion.

The Director Agriculture also reviewed JKIP applications and directed that the approved cases be immediately placed before the District Level Committees (DLCs) for approval, ensuring that beneficiaries receive timely benefits.

A detailed review of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was also conducted. The Director instructed all CAOs to ensure that crop-

cutting experiments (CCEs) are completed immediately, especially in districts showing poor performance. He directed that all field functionaries use the App for data entry and complete the process at the earliest.

The progress on the Output Tracking Application (OTA) was also reviewed. Director Anil Gupta directed officers to clear all pending cases promptly to ensure real-time reporting and transparency.

In the concluding session, the Director reviewed the physical and financial achievements under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), CAPEX, and HADP, stressing timely utilization of funds and completion of targets.



HT EDITORIAL

Take all precautions as winter is here

As the winter season has already set in the people of Kashmir valley need to be sensitized about the hazards associated with the season. Since fire incidents get reported from nook and corner of the valley it is important that people take the necessary precautions. Since multiple options of heating are available to the people it is imperative that Dos and Don'ts of the same are properly imparted to the valley residents.

Over the years there have been scores of fire incidents during the winter season and these incidents took place due to the negligence of the people. As such it is important that the people take necessary precautions while using the different heating gadgets available to them at their respective homes. At times the people take the things for granted and compromise with their safety while using the heating appliances. This negligence needs to be avoided by the people so that the unfortunate incidents are avoided.

It was in this regard the administration of district Srinagar has issued fire safety advisory (Dos & Don'ts) for general public to prevent fire hazards in residential areas as well as commercial places. The administration has highlighted that dry weather conditions and widespread use of heating appliances significantly raise the risk of fire accidents during winters. The administration has urged citizens to follow safety precautions to prevent fire hazards in residential as well as commercial areas.

People have been asked to ensure that all electrical heating gadgets, bukharis and LPG stoves are switched off before going to bed or leaving their homes. The use of Kangris should be handled with utmost care and kept in safe places during nights to avoid its toppling. It has been stressed that good ventilation should be ensured while using the LPG heaters. Keeping escape routes and water access points clear and avoiding careless disposal of live cigarette butts have also been highlighted.

People have been advised to avoid storing combustible materials such as dry grass or rejection wood near residential areas, refrain from using faulty or substandard electrical appliances and to ensure proper wiring and installation of circuit breakers. People have been urged to use only good quality electrical appliances, fuses of correct rating, miniature circuit breakers (MCBs) and earth leakage circuit breakers (ELCBs). They have been advised to stay in the kitchen while cooking and turn off the stove even if they leave the kitchen even for a shorter period of time.

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In Search of the Lost Sheep

A Short Story



That grave belongs to Yasir," he said at last. "He was from Poonch. Years ago, in late autumn, he was grazing his flock in the upper Pir Panjal area. Some of his sheep strayed across the Nupur Pass into Ashtar Valley, and he desperately went after them. He searched through these ridges for hours. Then the weather turned cruel. Snow began to fall. Night came fast. He found a deserted kotha for shelter but had no food, no fire. Wrapped in a torn blanket, he waited for morning. But morning never broke for him. The storm raged for days, and Yasir never left that hut alive

Each summer, when the forests breathe green again and the air of Pir Panjal turns sharp with promise, I shoulder my rucksack and climb toward the high meadows. Trekking, for me, is not a sport. It is a return. In the stillness of the woods, the changing colors of sky and grass, in the soft cadence of my own footsteps on forgotten trails, I find a language older than words. I walk not to reach the heights but to hear them breathe. The mountains, like ancient witnesses, whisper truths that towns and cities forget.

In late June this year, I left home with my comrades and reached Doodhpathri—the Valley of Milk. We parked our vehicle there, the gateway to the green meadows of Korag, Ashtar, and Chhanz. Our destination was Korag once again, where we often stayed in the humble 'kotha' of Lassa Kak, a shepherd of rare kindness. He tended the flocks of Gulmor, earning modest pay, yet he held a quiet dignity that no wealth could equal. Among the shepherds of Pir Panjal, he was known for his hospitality. For years, he had hosted me, refusing every offer of payment.

The trail wound through conifers and across clear streams, the path narrow but beautiful. After two and a half hours of steady ascent, the meadows of Korag appeared, wide and gleaming under the sun. Lassa Kak spotted me from afar and called out, "Welcome, Master Jee! I was waiting eagerly. I hope all is well."

I smiled. "All is well, Lassa Kak. Alhamdulillah. You are always too kind."

Inside his kotha—a single room of mud and pine logs—the air was thick with the smell of smoke and earth. The room served as kitchen, bedroom, and parlor. I handed him a packet of rice and rajma. "This might help," I said. He frowned lightly. "How many times must I tell you, we have enough here? You worry too much." Still, he took it, muttering good-naturedly.

Evening softened the world to gold. The wind brushed the grass, and smoke rose lazily from the hearth. After a simple meal, I lay down, weary but wakeful. The mountain sighed beyond the wooden door. I slept.

That night, a dream seized me. At the foot of Mount Chhanz, beside a ruined kotha, I saw myself standing by a lonely grave. When I tried to step closer, a voice rose from within.

"Remember me in your prayers... remember me in your prayers."

I woke, drenched in sweat. The embers had died, and the silence of the mountains pressed against the walls. The dream clung to me like fog, its echo

refusing to fade.

At breakfast, I told Lassa Kak what I had seen. He listened, eyes half-closed. "There is such a grave," he said quietly. "Just above the ridge. No one knows whose it is. If you wish, Sahil can take you there."

Curiosity overruled hesitation. I packed some rice, rajma dal, and water, and set out with Sahil, the shepherd boy. We climbed in silence, the forest thinning into stone and wind. The higher we went, the lonelier the sound of our footsteps became.

After two hours, we reached the ridge. The view opened—valleys stretched below, snow peaks glimmered above. On a patch of wild grass lay a single grave. No name, no date, only a weathered stone at its head. Time itself seemed to have stopped there.

As we stood, an old shepherd appeared in the distance, his beard white, his gait steady. He greeted us warmly and asked what had brought us so high. When I mentioned the dream and the grave, he fell silent for a while, searching his memory.

"That grave belongs to Yasir," he said at last. "He was from Poonch. Years ago, in late autumn, he was grazing his flock in the upper Pir Panjal area. Some of his sheep strayed across the Nupur Pass into Ashtar Valley, and he desperately went after them. He searched through these ridges for hours. Then the weather turned cruel. Snow began to fall. Night came fast. He found a deserted kotha for shelter but had no food, no fire. Wrapped in a torn blanket, he waited for morning. But morning never broke for him. The storm raged for days, and Yasir never left that hut alive.

"When spring came, shepherds found his body curled beneath the blanket. They buried him here, nameless. Only later did his kin come from Poonch, searching. Then we learned his name—Yasir, twenty-five years old, who had gone in search of his lost sheep."

The old man's voice faded into the wind. Bells from a distant flock trembled through the valley.

I stood by the grave, the dream now heavy with meaning. Yasir had gone seeking what he had lost, only to be claimed by the search itself. Perhaps every seeker risks that—to vanish within the very thing he pursues.

As we descended, clouds gathered above the ridge. I turned once more. The grave stood small against the vast mountains, a quiet mark of both presence and absence. The wind carried a faint murmur, almost like a prayer—

"Remember me in your prayers."

And I do. Every time I return to these hills.

Doodhpathri a place with utter peace



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

The Kashmir Valley is famous throughout the world for its luscious, endowed, charming beauty. There are amazing facts about the Kashmir Valley: it looks like paradise on earth, rich in several nature-bestowed vegetations, springs, waterfalls, and clear crystal water rivers that flow from the lap of the eminent mountains of the Pir Panjal range, beautifying and elucidating the real face of Kashmir. The people of the valley are so benevolent and known for their great hospitality (tourist views).

One more fact is that the tourism sector is the backbone of Kashmir's economy. There are lakhs of people, including all age groups, who are earning their livelihoods from this sector. The tourism department plays a vital role in generating employment for the unemployed youth and at the same time discovers and develops new recreational places for the native folk and for the tourists who come from the different corners of the country and from the globe and redresses the grievances faced by the tourists on a priority basis. That is quite impressive, and there are still miles to go for better and secure accommodation. Facilities should cater throughout the year to the visitors, and there is a need for identification of more attractive destinations in the future.

Doodhpathri is one of the emerging tourist spots in the valley. Doodhpathri comprises two words: "Doodh," which literally means milk, due to the clear crystal water of the Shaliganga River, and "Pathri," which means meadows. It means the milky meadow tourist destination. Doodhpathri is just about 45 km from the summer capital, Srinagar, and about 36 km from the district headquarters, Budgam. Doodhpathri beautifies the district of Budgam in various ways and generates livelihood for the locals of the adjoining villages. The name was given to this renowned place by Valleys, one of the towering Sufi saints, Nund Rishi (RA), commonly known as Alamdar Kashmir among natives of Kashmir. Doodhpathri has been famous among the natives of District Budgam for centuries. Doodhpathri was earlier used for grazing purposes;



still, there are mud houses called "Kotha" by the locals.

Doodhpathri is situated in central Kashmir's district of Budgam. There are other tourist places in the district, such as Yousmarg and Charari Sharief (shrine of Sheikh Noor Ud din Wali (RA)). Tosamaidan is one of the emerging tourist destinations in the district and is rich in various attractive places. Ich-Gam, Kremshora, Khansahib, and Yarikah are the villages that can be reached via Doodhpathri. There are some other routes as well, like via Magam, Beerwah, Arizal, Raiyar, and Raithan, Mujhpathri.

Places to visit
Sotchal (Sochal) Pathri
Sotchal (Sochal) Pathri, nearer to Doodhpathri, is a resting place for the visitors. The place is quite picturesque and explains the endowed beauty of nature.

Sukhnag
The Sukhnag River is located in the lap of the Pir Panjal Mountains of Parihas Doodhpathri and Sitaharan Khag. Literally the river is commonly known as Sukh Nag, which comprises two Kashmiri words: "Sukh" means calm, and "Naag" means spring. The Sukh Naag River beautifies and quench-

es the thirst of several villages alongside it; the villages are Arizal, Zanigam, and Beerwah, and finally it opens its mouth into the Jhelum River. Sukh Naag is one of the major tributaries of the river Jhelum.

The Sukhnaag River is famous throughout the district and has great influence among the native people. It originates from the upper mountain hills of the Tosamaidan. The origins are Dammam Sar, etc., dams and beautifies the lush green forest of the place. It will be brought under the map of tourism but at the same time needs the attention of the administration. The Sukhnaag River has great potential for the tourists and generates revenue for the state, generating employment as well for the locals of the area. There are certain more facts about the Sukhnaag River, such as the river being just a 40-minute walk away from the tourist reception center (TRC) Raiyar-ich, Tangnar.

District Administration, Budgam, and the tourism department of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The concerned department will find many other hidden facts about the beautiful place after it is taken up under the tourism destination of the Kashmir Valley. District administration in Budgam put many efforts into the upliftment of the district, as the district of Budgam is still lacking several basic facilities for the tourism sector. There are renowned tourist places in the district as well. Yous Marg, Doodhpathri, and still counting. Tosamaidan is a newly introduced tourist destination and has great potential for tourism and needs assistance from the central government. Dear readers, In Sha Allah, in the future I will bring more interesting information and facts about the destinations and try to let you know how beautiful the Sukh Naag River is.

Raiyar-Ich
Raiyar Ich is a picturesque hamlet and resting place for the tourists, who come from different corners of the world. Facts to know about the Raiyar-Ich. "Raiyar" comprises two Kashmiri words, i.e., "RAI," which means "lost," and "YAAR," which means "friend" in the Kashmiri language. So the name had been given to this hamlet by the "mystic Kashmiri Sufi saint, SHEIKH NOOR UD DIN WALI (RA)." It's so that when he reached in the said village from the forests of the Pir Panjal, he sent his friends to different parts of Kashmir to spread the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and he managed to start his journey alone towards Dreygam Cave. Source: Alocal legend of the village.

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From a Border Village to the Nation's Pride: A Journey That Inspires Rural Kashmir....



By Raja Abid

When a young man from a small border village defies geography, privilege, and circumstance to rise to national distinction, his story becomes more than personal triumph—it becomes a statement of hope. The story of Raja Azhar Asif from Bijhama, a remote hamlet in North Kashmir's Uri region, is precisely that: a journey that affirms the enduring power of discipline, humility, and self-belief in a world too often defined by access and advantage.

Where Dreams Take Root in Simplicity
Bijhama, a serene village surrounded by forested slopes and the murmuring Jhelum, is far removed from India's coaching capitals and digital distractions. It was here, in August 2000, that Azhar was born—in a home filled with warmth, modesty, and dreams larger than its walls. From his earliest days, he carried an uncommon calmness and curiosity that made him the quiet favourite of all.

Azhar's childhood was marked by simplicity, not scarcity. He studied at Radiant Mounty English Medium School in the village till class 5, excelling through intelligence more than long hours of study. His teachers saw brilliance in his restraint, and his classmates admired a humility rare even in childhood.

Education Beyond Means, Not Beyond Merit

When Azhar qualified for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Shahkote, it was a turning point. The Navodaya system—designed to find and nurture rural talent—became his foundation in discipline and independence. He was still a child when he left home with little more than a towel, bedding, and quiet determination. Those

early lessons in self-reliance would become the bedrock of his character.

After completing his 10th, he joined Kendriya Vidyalaya Gingle near Baramulla for higher secondary education. While most students from modest backgrounds struggle with coaching expenses, Azhar charted a different path. He believed in self-study—trusting his ability to grasp, reason, and reflect rather than memorise. That belief stayed with him through every phase of his life.

The Engineer Who Chose Perseverance Over Comfort

Having cleared the Common Entrance Test (CET) with a good rank, Azhar joined Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu, to study Electrical Engineering. Just as he was finding his rhythm, the COVID-19 pandemic shut the world down.

Where many saw uncertainty, Azhar found purpose. Returning to his village, he helped run the family's small drug and utility store, earning a modest ₹50 a day—sometimes not even that. Yet there were no complaints. His humility and sense of responsibility were lessons in quiet dignity.

After the lockdowns lifted, he returned to complete his engineering degree, graduating in 2022 without fanfare, without indulgence. His focus had already shifted elsewhere—toward a goal even more formidable.

A Dream Without Coaching, A Victory Without Privilege

The UPSC Civil Services Examination—India's most competitive and sought-after test—is a mountain few dare to climb without institutional support. Yet Azhar began his preparation from home, studying six to eight hours a day after work, relying solely on discipline and determination.

In 2023, he cleared the prelims in his first attempt, an achievement that electrified our family and village. Though he fell short in the mains that year, it only strengthened his resolve. "Next time, I'll make it," he said quietly, returning to his books without bitterness.

In 2024, he appeared again. This time,



he went further—clearing both prelims and mains. Declining the offer of expensive coaching for the interview, he chose instead to rely on his preparation and faith.

Delhi Days and Lessons in Resilience

Accompanied by me, Azhar travelled to Delhi for his interview. We stayed with a friend in Old Delhi—in a flat that, as fate would have it, had no electricity. That night, we dined under mobile flashlights, laughing through fatigue and uncertainty. It was a small moment that mirrored his entire journey—illuminated not by privilege but by perseverance.

The next day, we purchased his inter-

view clothes from Delhi's local markets, staying within a modest ₹6,000 budget. He walked into the UPSC building at Gate No. 1 with calm confidence. The 45-minute interview went well; his serenity never faltered.

But when the final results came in April 2024, his name was missing—he had missed the list by the narrowest of margins, tying with the last selected candidate. For most, it would have been crushing. For Azhar, it was just another test of patience.

Victory Deferred, Not Denied

On October 28, 2025, months later, destiny returned with its long-promised

reward. As the reserved list was announced, Azhar's name finally appeared. He called home with just four words: "Bhai, I made it."

That moment transformed Bijhama. The narrow lanes filled with joy; prayers echoed in every corner. Our modest home became a symbol of pride not just for Uri, but for all of rural Kashmir. Over the following days, thousands came—friends, neighbours, media, officials—to offer congratulations. Amid the celebration, Azhar remained the same soft-spoken, humble young man who once carried his towel and bedding to school.

The Larger Message—Patience Over Privilege

Raja Azhar Asif's journey is more than a story of one boy's success. It is a mirror held up to India's hinterland—to every child studying under a lantern, every dreamer who believes that coaching, money, or city life are prerequisites for achievement.

His life proves that patience can outshine privilege, and self-study can rival the best coaching institutes. It is a reminder that brilliance is not the monopoly of metros, but the birthright of every mind that dares to believe.

In a nation often obsessed with ranks and resources, Azhar's success redefines aspiration. It tells us that greatness is not about where you study, but how you persist. It is about dignity in struggle, grace in patience, and faith in timing.

From a small border village to the nation's list of achievers, Azhar Asif's journey is not just personal—it is national. It reaffirms that the spirit of India still rises strongest from its remotest corners.

For us, he remains the same humble, soft-spoken boy.

For the nation, he stands as a symbol of what rural perseverance can achieve.

For Kashmir, he will forever be remembered as the boy who turned dreams into destiny.

The writer is a freelance columnist based in Baramulla. Raja Abid is a journalist and brother of the UPSC achiever

Job crisis: India's IT sector faces a wave of layoffs



■ DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The growing influence of artificial intelligence is bringing profound structural changes to India's information technology industry, but is the country's workforce prepared?

The recent layoffs in India's IT sector are an inevitable reality of the age of artificial intelligence-driven automation. This is not just a job crisis, but a process of rebalancing skills and technology. The government, industry, and educational institutions should jointly launch a national retraining campaign to provide millions of professionals with new technological orientation. In the future, only those nations will thrive that train their youth not as "digital workers" but as "tech innovators." Change is inevitable, but with prudence and vision, this change can become a strength for India.

India's information technology (IT) sector has long been a key pillar of the country's economic growth. It is not only the largest source of service exports but also provides high-paying employment to millions of educated youth. However, in recent years, it has been experiencing a profound upheaval. Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) planned cut of approximately 20,000 jobs in 2024-25 has shaken the entire industry. This is not just a single company's administrative decision, but a sign of a broader structural transformation underway in the Indian IT sector.

This change is being driven by the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and automated systems. Tasks that once required hundreds of employees are now being accomplished in minutes by automated technology. Tasks like software development, testing, and customer service are now being performed more efficiently by "agentic AI" systems. This has increased company productivity but reduced the need for human labor—and this is the primary reason for these silent layoffs.

Companies like TCS, Infosys, Wipro, and Cognizant are now moving away from the old "outsourcing" model and toward a "value-based digital services" model. This shift is directly impacting middle-level



employees, whose skills are limited to traditional technologies. They are unable to adapt to new AI-based systems. This skill mismatch is the root cause of this crisis.

AI-based tools have rendered middle management and support roles in the software industry virtually irrelevant. Where large teams were once required for "ERP management" or "system maintenance," these tasks are now handled by a few programs and cloud automation systems. For companies, this is a cost-cutting tool, but for millions of employees, it has become a source of insecurity.

This trend isn't limited to India. Technology industries in the US and Europe are also undergoing significant changes due to budget cuts and trade protectionism. Foreign clients now seek technology-based solutions rather than human labor-intensive services. Furthermore, H-1B visa fee hikes and local hiring policies in the US have made it difficult for Indian companies to hire employees abroad. All of this is forcing companies to reduce their domestic workforce as well.

India's top five IT companies are projecting approximately 50,000 job losses between 2023 and 2025. Companies attribute this to "improved work efficiency," but the reality is that human resources are being reduced. This is not only an economic challenge but also a social concern, as the IT sector employs the country's most educated and organized segment.

Still, this change can't be entirely negative. Every technological revolution brings with it opportunities. Artificial intelligence has opened up new fields—such as data science, cloud engineering, cybersecurity, and AI model building. The question isn't that jobs are disappearing, but that old skills are becoming irrelevant and new skills are becoming increasingly in demand.

Now there is a need for the government, industry and education sector to make coordinated efforts together.

First, a nationwide "digital retraining campaign" must be launched. TCS itself has provided basic AI training to 550,000 employees and enrolled 100,000 in advanced training. If this model is replicated in other companies and government schemes, a large number of professionals could be reskilled.

Secondly, technical education institutions must fundamentally change their curriculum. No longer just programming or networking, but topics like AI ethics, product thinking, data analytics, and creative problem-solving must be part of education. By incorporating these subjects under the New Education Policy (NEP), youth can be prepared for the technologies of the future.

Third, social security structures must be strengthened. Employees facing layoffs should be provided with severance packages, retraining subsidies, and mental health support. Most private sector employees in India are outside any formal protection system.

Therefore, the government should launch initiatives such as the "Digital Employment Security Fund" or the "Techno-Employee Insurance Scheme."

Fourth, large-scale skill training centers should be established through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. Ed-tech companies, NASSCOM, and state governments should jointly launch regional training missions to teach new skills to unemployed technical professionals.

Fifth, innovation and the start-up culture must be further encouraged. Promoting AI-based product development and deep-tech entrepreneurship can create new jobs. The government should better coordinate the "Start-up India" and "Digital India" initiatives. If India can transform its youth into "job creators" rather than "job seekers," this crisis can be turned into an opportunity.

Additionally, companies must inject sensitivity into their human resources policies. Practices like "silent layoffs" or "forced terminations" undermine employee morale. Technological advancement is meaningful only when it maintains a balance with human values.

India currently has a unique opportunity. We have the world's largest young technical workforce. If this workforce is trained with the right direction and skills, India will not only remain a hub for IT services but can also play a leading role in the global era of artificial intelligence. To this end, a long-term "National Digital Skills Mission 2030" should be outlined.

Events like the TCS layoffs remind us that sustainability in the technological age is only possible through continuous learning and adaptation. In the coming decade, only those companies that value human skills—such as judgment, creativity, and ethical thinking—in addition to technical proficiency will succeed.

India's IT sector has built its global reputation on quality, innovation, and trust. This trust can only be maintained if the industry views its employees as partners, not just "resources." It's time for the government to formulate a "Technology Employment Policy" that balances both innovation and security.

Technological revolutions always present societies with two choices—either to evolve with them or be crushed under them. It's time for India to adapt to this change. If the country can handle this challenge with vision and policy coordination, this period of retrenchment can become a new opportunity for the future.

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045

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Winter Wedding



■ SHAHNAZ HUSSAIN

Who doesn't want to look like a bronzed goddess at their wedding?

Weddings during the Indian winter feel extra special - it is cool and fresh, royal colours and beautiful light, which is ideal for taking some amazing pictures.

Winter weddings bring a magical charm with cosy vibes and stunning bridal looks. The crisp air, the cosy ambience, and the warm, rich colour palettes make for picture-perfect ceremonies.

However, along with the glamour of winter also comes the difficulty of maintaining the health of your skin and make-up just as vividly as a long ceremony goes on. As a bride-to-be or guest at a winter wedding, it is important to create the ideal look of winter wedding makeup.

Henna and Indian wedding have a very deep connection since ancient times in Indian civilisations

The beautiful design of Henna and its dark colours holds special significance for every Indian Bride to be. Every girls finds a reason to adorn her hands with henna.

Every bride wants bridal mehndi to look rich in colour. Mehendi also symbolizes the illustration of fertility.

As far as the designs are concerned, there is immense variety. Fine lines, floral, paisley and highly intricate designs are done, with great detail. The artistry is such that it can only be admired. Sometimes,



no designs are followed and the paste is applied to cover the entire hand. During weddings, women in India cover the palms, forearms, feet and even the lower part of the legs with intricate henna designs.

Today, a salon make-over for brides is the order of the day. Salons offer top-to-toe grooming, skin and hair care, and even treatments for specific skin and hair problems. Some of these are recommended well in advance of the wedding day. Apart from facials, other skin and hair treatments

are also available in the salons which are recommended by the therapist, or may be requested. Among these are treatments for acne, scars / blemishes, pigmentation, open pores, hair loss, dandruff, damaged hair, dark circles, etc. These should be started well in advance and may carry on till a day or two before the wedding.

If there is an acne condition or blemishes, or a hair problem, the treatments are taken in advance, depending on the problem. Acne treatments, for example,

should be taken at least 6 to 8 weeks in advance. salon therapists may also recommend specific treatments, depending on the problem. For instance, if there are acne scars, the facial treatments may include Veg Peel for removal of scars and blemishes. Hair treatments for dandruff, hair loss, hair revitalizing treatments for damaged or frizzy hair may also be taken in advance. The number of sessions will be according to problem.

Veg Peel is a powerful treatment for

texturising the skin, making it clear, smooth and free from blemishes. It helps to restore health and beauty to the skin. It is especially good for minimizing scars and blemishes, as is common in problems like acne and pigmentation. Veg Peel treatments are usually given once a week, along with treatment to be followed at home. That is why they need to be taken well in advance. The total time taken depends on the extent of scarring. Oily Skin / Acne: An oily skin, with problems like blackheads and open pores, also needs salon clean-ups and treatment. The treatment involves deep pore cleansing, exfoliation, removal of blackheads, toning and improving skin texture. Specialised masks are used to reduce the oiliness of the skin and close the pores. The therapist will advise the time taken and kind of treatment. The treatment needs to be based on a highly effective and clinically proven procedure. It helps to decongest and purify the skin, curing and soothing eruptions. The formulations used in the treatment have powerful healing properties and have a high success rate in controlling acne conditions and restoring health to the skin.

Some Salons also offer bridal packages. The entire programme can even spread over two days. The bridal package include a choice of Facials from premium facials like Telomere, Platinum, Plant Stem Cells, Diamond, Gold or Pearl Facials, as well as Body Polish, Full Body Waxing, Deluxe Manicure and Pedicure or Paraffin Manicure and Pedicure, Foot Spa, Hair Spa Treatments, etc. This may be spread over several days or just two days, depending on the package and on individual needs.

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

THE SCIENCE OF MORNING WALKS IN WINTERS



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

The Morning walks are widely recognized as one of the most accessible and beneficial forms of exercise that requires very little or no accessories. However, engaging in this activity during winter and extremely cold weather introduces a unique interplay of physiological adaptations, potential risks and nutritional needs.

Regular physical activity, particularly walking, contributes significantly to cardiovascular health, musculoskeletal fitness, mental well-being and metabolic regulation. In temperate and tropical countries, winter mornings provide a refreshing environment that enhances exercise performance and psychological rejuvenation. Yet, exposure to extreme cold can also induce physiological stress, respiratory strain and cardiovascular risk, particularly in older adults or individuals with chronic conditions. Understanding the balance between benefit and risk is essential for safe and effective winter exercise practices.

PHYSIOLOGICAL IMPACT OF COLD WEATHER ON THE HUMAN BODY

Exposure to cold triggers several thermoregulatory mechanisms:

Vasoconstriction:

Blood vessels narrow to conserve core body heat, reducing blood flow to extremities.

Shivering thermogenesis:

Involuntary muscle contractions generate heat but also increase oxygen demand and heart rate.

Increased cardiac workload:

Cold exposure elevates sympathetic nervous activity, potentially leading to hypertension and cardiac stress.

Respiratory challenges:

Cold, dry air can irritate airways, provoke bronchospasm and exacerbate asthma or COPD.

HEALTH BENEFITS OF MORNING WALKS IN WINTERS

Despite the number of challenges, numerous studies support the health-promoting effects of moderate exercise in cold weather:

Enhanced metabolism:

Cold exposure combined with aerobic activity increases caloric expenditure through activation of brown adipose tissue (BAT). Improved cardiovascular endurance: Regular brisk walking strengthens cardiac muscle and improves lipid profiles.

Mental well-being:

Morning light exposure during winter aids in the regulation of circadian rhythms and alleviates Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Immune resilience:

Moderate cold-weather exercise enhances immune cell circulation, improving defense against infections.

HEALTH RISKS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS

While beneficial, morning walks in extremely cold weather can pose notable risks:

1. Hypothermia:

Prolonged exposure to subzero temperatures may lead to core body cooling below 35°C.

2. Frostbite:

Exposed skin, especially on fingers, toes, ears and nose, is susceptible to freezing injury.

3. Cardiac strain:

Individuals with coronary artery disease or hypertension are at higher risk of angina or myocardial infarction.

4. Respiratory discomfort:

Cold air inhalation can trigger coughing, wheezing or bronchospasm.

5. Falls and injuries:

Ice, dew or frost on pavements increase the risk of slipping, particularly among elderly walkers.

ESSENTIAL PRECAUTIONS

To mitigate risks, the following scientifically recommended precautions should be observed:

Gradual Warm-Up:

One should get himself/herself engaged in 5-10 minutes of indoor stretching or light activity before stepping outdoors.

Layered Clothing:

Wearing multiple thin layers—preferably moisture-wicking inner layers, insulating mid-layers and windproof outerwear is desirable for safe morning walks.

Protect Extremities:

One should try to wear proper safety gear that includes gloves, thermal socks and a cap or ear-covering to have protection from frostbite.

Face Protection:

A scarf or mask over the nose and mouth helps warm inhaled air.

Timing Adjustment:

Prefer walking after sunrise when temperatures rise slightly.

Hydration:

Cold air is dehydrating; drink water before and after the walk.

Avoid Overexertion:

Maintain a moderate pace and shorten duration in extreme conditions.

DIET PLANS BEFORE AND AFTER MORNING WALKS

Before the Walk (30-45 minutes prior): A cup of lukewarm water or herbal tea with honey and lemon.

A banana, oatmeal porridge or soaked nuts.

Avoid heavy, greasy foods.

After the Walk:

Warm fluids such as milk, green tea, or soup.

Protein sources: eggs, pulses, or sprouts. Complex carbohydrates: whole-grain toast or porridge.

Vitamin C-rich fruits: oranges or amla.

THE ROLE OF HEALTH CHECK-UPS

Before initiating a new walking routine in winter—especially for individuals above 40 years or those with chronic illnesses—a medical evaluation is essential. Recommended assessments include blood pressure, ECG, lipid and glucose profile and respiratory testing.

PROS AND CONS OF MORNING WALKS IN WINTER

PROS:

Boosts metabolism and immunity Improves mood and reduces winter depression

Enhances cardiovascular endurance Promotes discipline and routine

CONS:

Risk of hypothermia and frostbite Cold-induced bronchospasm Higher cardiac strain Increased fall risk

The Morning walks in winter exemplify the harmony between nature and human physiology when approached with prudence and preparation. They invigorate the body, uplift the mind, and strengthen immunity. Yet, extreme cold demands respect—ignorance of physiological limits can convert health-seeking behavior into medical hazard. With appropriate clothing, nutrition, hydration and medical vigilance, the winter morning walk remains one of the most effective, low-cost, and sustainable practices for holistic well-being.

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

Study Finds No Link Between Diet, Urinary pH, and UTIs



A PILOT study has found no significant link between natural dietary intake of d-mannose or urinary acidity and the risk of recurrent urinary tract infections (RUTIs) among postmenopausal women, challenging assumptions about how diet might help prevent these common infections.

Researchers recruited 57 women aged 64 to 75 who had a history of RUTIs to explore whether dietary factors, including d-mannose consumption, and urinary pH levels might influence infection risk. The participants used urinalysis reagent strips four times a day over three days to measure urinary pH, while keeping detailed food diaries over the same period. Based on their urinary acidity, the women were divided into two groups: those with urine pH predominantly below 6 (more acidic) and those with pH predominantly above 6 (less acidic).

No Clear Dietary Differences Found in UTI-Prone Women

Analysis of the participants' diets revealed no statistically significant difference in D-mannose intake between the two groups. D-mannose, a simple sugar found in some fruits and marketed as a supplement for UTI prevention, did not vary meaningfully with urinary pH. Similarly, other nutrient intakes showed no major distinctions tied to urine acidity.

However, foods containing D-mannose were found to be more nutrient-dense overall.

Compared with non-D-mannose-containing foods, they had significantly higher amounts of protein, carbohydrates, fat, calcium, iron, and water (all $p < 0.01$). Small differences in fibre, sugar, and sodium intake were also noted between groups, though these were not considered clinically significant.

Interestingly, the study found that while naturally occurring D-mannose was present in participants' diets, the quantities were generally lower than those found in commercial supplements. In a few cases, dietary intake approached supplemental doses, but this was the exception rather than the rule.

Next Steps in UTI Research

The authors caution that this was a small, single-institution study and emphasise that larger, controlled trials are needed to determine whether D-mannose supplementation or urinary acidity truly influence RUTI recurrence. For now, the findings suggest that, among postmenopausal women with prior UTIs, typical dietary patterns do not appear to provide sufficient D-mannose to mimic the effects of supplementation, or to affect urinary pH enough to alter infection risk.

Reference

Chavez JM et al. Comparison of D-mannose in foods with urine pH in post-menopausal women with recurrent urinary tract infections. Urology. 2025.

Courtesy EMJ

Senior Sportsman of Kreeri area Syed Hilal Bukhari laid to rest in Muradabad Kreeri

■ **AASHIQU HUSSAIN**

KREERI, NOV 12: Renowned Sportsperson Syed Hilal Bukhari who died Wednesday Evening was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Muradabad Kreeri

His funeral prayers were held at Kreeri in which A large number of people from different organizations attended the funeral prayers and paid a rich tribute to his services in the field of Sports

Prominent among those in attendance were MLA Wagoora Kreeri Adv Irfan Hafiz Lone, Former BDC Wagoora GM Sofi, JKTF Spokesperson Javid Ahmad Bhat, Senior NC Leader Mohd Yaqoob Wani, poets of various areas, members of Traders association Kreeri and Civil Society Kreeri, President General Category welfare forum Syed Shameem ahmad, jimmam Jamia Khankah Muradiya Mufti Shareef ul haq Bukhari.

Syed Hilal Bukhari first National football player from Kreeri area was born into a Educated family of Muradabad Kreeri

Senior National conference leader Mohammad Yaqoob Wani has expressed deep anguish over the sad demise of a renowned sportsperson of Kreeri area Syed hilal alias Hilal Soub.

JKTF UT Spokesperson Javid Ahmad Bhat condoled the sad demise Syed Hilal Bukhari

In a condolence message Javid Bhat



expressed shock and grief over the sad demise brother of Syed Farooq Bukhari Bhat prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the berieved family to bear this loss

JK Teachers Forum Mourns the Sad Demise of Syed Hilal Ahmad Bukhari of Kreeri Baramulla Gen. Secretary Tahir Sofi Expresses Solidarity with the Bereaved Family

In a condolence statement issued here, General Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum Mr. Tahir Ahmad Sofi, has expressed deep shock and heartfelt grief over the sad demise of Syed Hilal Ahmad Bukhari resident of Kreeri Baramulla and paternal uncle of former Law Minister Syed Basharat Bukhari and maternal uncle of Dr Asif Bhukari

Grewal Eye Institute opens eye hospital in Chandigarh

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

SRINAGAR, NOV 12:

Grewal Eye Institute (GEI) today announced the opening of its new eye hospital in Chandigarh, inaugurated by Governor of Punjab & Administrator, Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, who graced the occasion as chief guest along with eminent dignitaries and members of the medical fraternity.

A spokesperson of the institute said that the purpose-built for access, speed and comfort, the hospital brings advanced diagnostics, modern operating theatres, and a full spectrum of super-specialty eye services under one roof—so that patients experience easy entry, quick service, and world-class outcomes without multiple hops across locations.

Besides strengthening GEI's promise of safe, com-

passionate care, the new facility spotlights a suite of precision technologies and patient conveniences: a ZEISS Refractive Suite PR featuring SMILE® Pro for minimally invasive laser vision correction and PRESBYOND® for pre-sbyopia management; PRESBYOND Laser corrects both near & distance vision.

Designed for everyday convenience, the hospital offers ample on-site parking with a dedicated drop-off bay, barrier-free and wheelchair-friendly access (wide corridors, ramps and elevators) and a well-connected location with convenient approach roads and public-transport proximity. The result is shorter wait times, coordinated diagnostics, and more face time with doctors.

“At our new hospital in Medicity, we’ve engineered eye care for clarity at every step—from ample parking and barrier-free

access to modular OTs and precision refractive technology. With ZEISS SMILE® Pro and PRESBYOND®, disciplined protocols, and a trained team, we deliver safer surgery, faster recovery, and consistently better vision outcomes for North India,” said Dr. S.P.S. Grewal, Founder, Grewal Eye Institute.

“This facility is built around time and trust: quick registrations, coordinated diagnostics, and a one-stop optical & pharmacy ensure patients spend more time with doctors and less time waiting. Our mission is simple—make world-class eye care easy to reach, easy to experience, and dependable for every family we serve,” added Dr. Sartaj Grewal, Medical Director, Grewal Eye Institute.

The Grewal Eye Hospital in Medicity will offer comprehensive services includ-

ing Cataract (including premium IOLs), Cornea & Ocular Surface, Retina & Vitreous, Glaucoma, Paediatric Ophthalmology & Squint, Oculoplasty, Uvea, Neuro-ophthalmology, and Emergency Eye Care.

Under the leadership of Dr. S.P.S. Grewal—a nationally respected cataract and refractive surgeon with decades of surgical experience, medical teaching, and clinical innovation—GEI continues its commitment to evidence-based protocols, continuous team training, and next-generation technology adoption to improve safety and visual outcomes.

Alongside the new facility, GEI will continue to deepen its community-focused initiatives and patient education efforts, reinforcing its long-standing vision of accessible, high-quality eye care for the region.

Public Notice

I, Ab. Raseed Gandoo, S/o Gh. Qadir Gandoo, R/o Khanabal Nandpora, have lost the Registration Certificate (R.C.) of my vehicle bearing Registration No. JK03D 2612.

If found by anyone, please contact the undersigned at Phone No. 7006307291.

Necessary action may kindly be taken for issuance of duplicate R.C.

Ab. Raseed Gandoo
R/o Khanabal Nandpora
Ph: 7006307291

Public Notice

My Son's Mothers Name has been wrongly written on School Records as Murtaza Ahmad Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Fareeda Akhtar While My Actual Name Is Murtaza Ahmad Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Farida Akhtar.Now I want to Correct it.

If anyone have any objection with this regard He/She can contact Principal Mehboob-ul-Aalam Mission School Paharoo B.K Pora Nowgam Dist:- Budgam within a period of 7 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:-Murtaza Ahmad Rather
S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather
Mothers Name:- Farida Akhtar.
D.O.B:-18-03-2020

Public Notice

My Son's Mothers Name has been wrongly written on School Records as Amaan Rafiq Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Fareeda Akhtar While My Actual Name Is Amaan Rafiq Rather S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather Mothers Name:- Farida Akhtar.Now I want to Correct it.

If anyone have any objection with this regard He/She can contact Principal Mehboob-ul-Aalam Mission School Paharoo B.K Pora Nowgam Dist:- Budgam within a period of 7 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

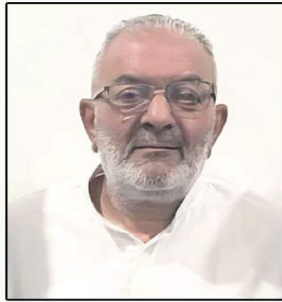
Name:-Amaan Rafiq Rather
S/O :- Mohammad Rafiq Rather
Mothers Name:- Farida Akhtar
D.O.B:-07-05-2017

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to general public that I Syed Zubair Ellahi Shah resident of House No 7, Lane-D, Habib Colony, Baghat, Srinagar, J&K father of Syed IBRAHIM SHAH wants to change his name in his school records (Class LKG) from SYED IBRAHIM SHAH to SYED HASAF SHAH. In future my son will Known in New Name as SYED HASAF SHAH. In this regard if anyone has any objection he or she may approach to the Principal The Kashmir Valley School, Humhama Budgam within a period seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Name:Syed Zubair Ellahi Shah
F/O :-SYED HASAF SHAH
R/O House No 7, Lane-D, Habib Colony, Baghat,
Srinagar, J&K
Mob No: 9622797321

پرویز احمد زرگر انتقال کر گئے



یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ پرویز احمد زرگر

(ریٹائرڈ سی اے پی ڈی ملازم) ولد علی محمد زرگر ساکن برزہ اے

/ پی علیبر دار کالونی راولپورہ سری نگر میں 11 نومبر 2025ء

بروز منگل کو مختصر علالت کے بعد اس دار فانی سے رحلت

کر گئے۔ اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَ اِنَّا اِلَیْہِ رَاجِعُوْنَ مرحوم خوش اخلاق، شریف النفس، نیک سیرت

، با اخلاق، غریب پرور اور صوم و صلوة کے پابند تھے۔ اللہ سبحان و تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں

اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ آمین

اس سلسلے میں کوئی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی نہیں ہوگی جبکہ تعزیت پر سی صرف تین دن تک رہے

سوگواراں

گی۔

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

e-Mail: xen-phemds@jk.gov.in

EXTENTION NOTICE

Corrigendum (VII) to this office e-NIT NO: JSMDs/e-NIT-16 of 09/2025

Name of Works: Replacement of Damaged 33kV, 3-Phase, 50Hz Outdoor Type ONAN Cooled CT-PT Combined Metering Unit along with other allied works at WSS Tangnar Stage 2nd

Due to no response, the critical dates extended as below.

01.	Bid down load end date	20-11-2025 up to 4:00 PM
02.	Bid Submission end date	20-11-2025 up to 4:00 PM
03.	Date and time of opening of bids	21-11-2025 at 2:00 PM

Rest all the terms and conditions shall remain the same as laid down in the e-NIT No. referred to above

No: JSMDs/CC/3219-22 | Dated: 11/11/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Srinagar

DIPK: 8019/25 | Dated: 8019/25

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospgr@jk.gov.in

GIST of e-tender

e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/95/e-tendering, | Dated: 11-11-2025
(Short Term)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (In lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
SITC of Diesel Flow Meters in the Boiler House of Govt Dental College/Hospital Srinagar	Rs 2.74 /-	100	10 days	73 GDC of 2025, Dated:- 25-02-2025 Reference:- GDC/Plan/2025/8177-78, Dated:-16-10-2025	M&HD/TS/75, Dated:- 11/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending Department

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule given below:-

1.	Publish date	11-11-2025 (17:00 hrs)
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	11-11-2025 (17:00 hrs)
3.	Bid submission start date	11-11-2025 (18:00 hrs)
4.	Bid submission end date	24-11-2025 (13:00 hrs)
5.	Date and time of opening of bids	24-11-2025 (15:00 hrs)

No: M&HDS/TS/5919-24 | Dated:11.11.2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M&HD, Srinagar

DIPK: 8005/25 | Dated: 12-11-2025

GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, SHIREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR,

EMAIL ADDRESS: gdcsrinagar@gmail.com

PHONE NO: 0194 – 2504701, 0194 – 2504702.

FAX NO: 0194 – 2504703.

Subject: Cancellation of Advertisement Notice.

NOTICE

The Advertisement Notice issued vide No. GDC/Estt/File-54/e file-6/2021-02/8961-75 dated: 04-11-2025 for the engagement of tenure post of Registrar in the Department of Orthodontics is hereby in abeyance.

No: GDC/Estt/File-54/e-file-6/2021-02/9194-9209 | Dated: 12-11-2025

Sd/- [Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Kaur Bali].
Principal/Dean,
Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Srinagar

DIPK: 8044/25 | Dated: 12-11-2025

OBITUARY

Mohiuddin Sheikh Passes Away

Mohiuddin Sheikh, son of Muhammad Sheikh, a respected resident of Pamposh Colony, Noorbagh, Srinagar, passed away on November 7, 2025, following a sudden cardiac arrest.

The deceased was serving in the Indian Armed Forces (civil) at the 92 Base Hospital, Badami Bagh, Srinagar, where he was known for his dedication, humility, and exemplary service. The deceased carried out his duties with utmost responsibility and kindness.

Mohiuddin Sheikh's untimely demise has left his family, friends, and community in deep grief.

Funeral prayers were offered at his ancestral locality in Pamposh Colony, Noorbagh, and was laid to rest.

May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul eternal peace and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. (Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un)



Rana orders strict action against illegal units operating in forest areas

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 12: Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana today directed senior functionaries of the department to initiate stringent action against all illegally operating Stone Crusher Units, Hot Mix Plants and Batching Plants within the Jammu Forest Division.

The Minister issued these directions while chairing a high-level review meeting at Civil Secretariat, convened to assess the functioning and compliance status of such industrial units operating in and around forest areas.

During the meeting, Rana emphasized that no illegal or environmentally non-compliant activity would be tolerated, instructing officers to take action under all relevant legal provisions against any units found violating forest or environmental regulations.

He stressed that these directions



must translate into visible on-ground outcomes, directing the field functionaries to adopt a proactive, result-oriented approach.

The Minister further directed officials to undertake a comprehensive verification of pollution control measures being implemented by each operational unit.

He underscored the need to minimize ecological impact through strict adherence to environmental protection norms and sustainable operational practices.

Rana called for the submission of detailed inspection and monitoring reports from all forest circles, highlighting that regular field inspections and timely reporting are essential for effective enforcement.

Expressing concern over reports of unauthorized excavation, land levelling, residue deposition and waste dumping within forest areas, the Minister instructed the department to take immediate corrective measures.

He emphasized the need to pre-

vent damage to natural vegetation and ensure complete compliance with forest and environmental protection laws.

The Minister also underscored the importance of institutional coordination and synergy among the Forest Territorial Wing, Pollution Control Board and Forest Protection Wing. He added that a robust inter-departmental coordination framework is crucial for effective monitoring, prompt response, and efficient enforcement against environmental violations.

Reiterating Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to sustainable and responsible development, Rana stated that industrial operations must conform to the principles of ecological preservation and prudent resource utilization.

He assured that the Forest Department will continue to strengthen monitoring mechanisms to safeguard the region's rich environmental heritage.

Div Com Jammu reviews progress of development works being executed by Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, NOVEMBER 12: Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Chairman of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB), Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday conducted an extensive review of the ongoing development works being executed by the Shiv Khori Shrine Board in Ransoo.

He also visited Katra and conducted site inspection of development projects there.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik, CEO Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Sachin Kumar, SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, besides senior officers from BRO, PWD, Tourism, Health attended the meeting.

Commencing the tour from Katra, the Divisional Commissioner inspected the under-construction helipad at Hutt village near Katra. He directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to ensure the completion of the helipad by December 2025, emphasizing that the approach road and retaining wall should also be completed at the earliest.

The concerned official of BRO was instructed to submit a weekly progress report to the Deputy Commissioner Reasi.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed progress of other ongoing works including the frisking point, ticket counter building and car parking facility.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner chaired a review meeting at the TRC Building, Ransoo, to assess the progress of development works undertaken by the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on key projects such as blacktopping of the Kanda-Ransoo road, repair and renovation of Gauri Bhawan, construction of the toilet complex at the bus stand and improvement works along the Yatra track including installation of oversheds and a public address system.

The Divisional Commissioner laid special emphasis on the upgradation of road infrastructure, directing the PWD to ex-



pedite the blacktopping work for smooth access to the shrine. The Tourism Department was instructed to ensure that pending works are executed in a time-bound and fast-track manner.

Regarding healthcare facilities for the devotees, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Health Department to ensure the availability of one doctor at Ransoo and paramedic staff at the Bhawan, with two ambulances deployed—one each at Ransoo and on the track, fully equipped with drivers and necessary facilities.

The Divisional Commissioner also discussed new proposals aimed at enhancing pilgrim amenities and the overall shrine infrastructure. He directed the Executive Officer, SSKSB, to review the progress of works monthly and submit reports to his office, while the Tehsildar shall inspect the works one every 15 days to monitor on-ground progress.

During his visit to the Yatra track, the Divisional Commissioner inspected various points and instructed for additional benches near the viewpoint and bathing ghat, along with the installation of more garbage bins to maintain cleanliness along the route.

The Divisional Commissioner reiterated the commitment of the administration to develop Shri Shiv Khori Shrine as a major spiritual and tourist destination, ensuring improved facilities and a better pilgrimage experience for devotees.

Pulwama Admin strengthens action against Illegal Mining in District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 12: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, the Geology and Mining Department Pulwama intensified its enforcement drive to curb illegal mining and unauthorized mineral transportation in the district.



During the past two days, enforcement teams headed by District Mineral Officer, Pulwama, Dr. Mohammad Saleem have seized eight vehicles involved in unlawful extraction and movement of minerals, and a penalty of Rs.1.34 lakh has been imposed on the offenders.

To ensure continuous surveillance and strict monitoring at vulnerable locations, the Deputy Commissioner has directed the department to maintain a daily enforcement roster and keep close liaison with the Revenue and Police Departments for combined and concerted efforts against illegal mining.

Moreover, over 20 ramps connected to the Jhelum and Rambhara rivers have been dismantled over the last three days to prevent illegal extraction and transportation of mineral material.

The department has instructed all tipper and dumper operators to transport minerals strictly against valid e-challans and permits, warning that any violation will attract strict legal action under the relevant mining laws.

The department has also urged the general public to cooperate with the administration and report any illegal mining activities to the concerned authorities, emphasising the collective responsibility to safeguard the district's natural resources.

DC Udhampur reviews implementation of financial inclusion and social security schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 12: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today convened a meeting of officers from line departments to review the progress of the financial inclusion and social security schemes including PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, PM-SYM, J&K Building and other construction workers welfare board schemes, Old age/widow/disability pensions under NSAP and ISSS and the State Marriage Assistance Scheme. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Jugal Kishore, PO Poshan, Subash Dogra, GM DIC, Kishore Singh Katoch, Assistant Commissioner Development, Om Parkash and other district officers.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of the registration status and coverage achieved under the finan-

cial inclusion and social security schemes in the district. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under these schemes to provide them with the necessary financial protection and social support.

The DC directed the concerned departments to intensify awareness and registration drives, ensuring that more eligible citizens are enrolled under these welfare schemes. She also instructed the concerned officers to sensitize the public to enroll under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, aiming for 100 percent saturation.

Highlighting the significance of these initiatives, the DC stressed that the timely and effective implementation of social security schemes is essential for inclusive growth and financial empowerment of citizens across the district. ACD was directed to organize gram Sabhas in the district.

DDC Poonch convenes public grievances redressal camp at Border Block Balakote

Listens to public demands, assures early redressal, awareness on government welfare schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

POONCH, NOVEMBER 12: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today held a Public Grievances Redressal Camp at the border block Balakote to listen to the issues and demands of the residents of the area.

At the outset, SDM Mendhar, Imran Kataria, extended a warm welcome to the DDC and locals and public representatives, including Ex-Sarpanchs and prominent citizens from adjoining areas. He expressed gratitude to the DDC for reaching out to the locals and listening to their concerns.

During the public outreach programme, a large number of locals protected several key issues and demands, seeking adequate staff in local schools, deployment of Animal and Sheep Husbandry doctors, completion of JJM lift water schemes, improvement in mobile network connectivity, construction of

bunkers, installation of an X-ray machine at Dargloon, construction of a Tehsil Office Building at Dhargloon, provision of public bathrooms and CSC centres, issuance of job cards and renovation of local roads.

Residents also demanded promotion of high density apple plantation and other horticulture projects in the block.

They sought the construction of new and improvement of existing roads, including Bhrooti-Basooni Road, Ziarat-Chapper Dhara Road, Basooni Village Road and Basooni Base-Pir Gali Road, among others.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to all grievances and assured that genuine demands will be addressed on priority. He directed the concerned officers to take immediate action to resolve pressing public issues.

While addressing the gathering, the DDC urged people to avail the benefits of the government schemes, particularly in the agriculture, horticulture and bank-



ing sectors. He encouraged farmers to adopt mushroom cultivation, peanut farming and estab-

lish local produce-based processing units by availing the government subsidy support. He further

encouraged them to install solar Panels under PM Surya Bijli Ghar scheme and other renewable energy initiatives.

The DDC further directed the stakeholder departments to intensify awareness campaigns to promote government schemes so that maximum number of people can benefit from welfare initiatives. He also made a strong appeal to parents to keep a close watch on their children and protect them from the menace of drug abuse, while encouraging youth to focus on education and career development instead.

On the occasion, the Lead District Manager (LDM) sensitized the public about the banking schemes and urged them to take advantage of financial inclusion and credit-linked subsidy programmes.

SE PWD, Rakesh Sharma, DFO, Mushtaq Ahmed, Tehsildar Balakote, Shahid Iqbal, executive engineers besides other district and sectoral officers were also present.

Block Diwas held at Kalakote to redress public grievances and enhance service delivery

DDC Rajouri listens to people's issues; directs for prompt redressal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 12: As part of the Government's ongoing public outreach and grievance redressal initiative, a Block Diwas programme was today organized at Dak Bungalow Kalakote to address public grievances and ensure effective service delivery at the grassroots level.

The event was presided over by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, who interacted with a large number of people from adjoining panchayats and listened to their issues and demands pertaining to various departments.

The public raised several issues including the insurance of sheep and goats of nomads, sale of wool, water scarcity, exemption of electricity charges during migration, blacktopping of roads (especially HSS to Dali), non-functional PHE tanker, establishment of handicraft centres, shortage of teachers in schools, closure near forest areas, pending material payments under MGNREGA, rationalization of doctors and completion of the Siot-Kalakote road under PMGSY.

After patiently listening to the grievances, the DDC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their early redressal. He directed the



officers to ensure awareness among nomads regarding livestock insurance and to repair the Batera water supply within

five days. The non-functional PHE tanker was also directed to be made operational immediately.

The DDC further instructed for rationalization of teachers, health, and veterinary staff across the block, and expediting the completion of the Siot-Kalakote PMGSY road by or before March 2026. He also directed that hand pumps be made functional before December 2025 and that blacktopping of roads be completed before December 2025, with due communication to the concerned Lambardars and Chowkidars before execution.

Emphasizing the importance of outcome-based governance, DDC Abhishek Sharma said, "Work is impactful only when it brings visible change in public life. The outcome of government schemes should be tangible and transfor-

mative". He also directed AEE and JE-level officers to ensure regular field visits for timely monitoring of works.

He urged the public to avail benefits of various Central and UT Government welfare schemes, including health insurance, life insurance and other social security schemes, to improve their quality of life. Appreciating the efforts of the District Administration, DDC Member Moughla, Shamim Akhter, requested the DDC to conduct similar Block Diwas programmes in Moughla and Terayath areas to extend the outreach further.

On the occasion, officers from various departments including Social Welfare, Agriculture, Hor-

ticulture, Veterinary, Health, Rural Development, Power Development Department (PDD), Public Health Engineering (PHE) and banking institutions also conducted awareness activities to educate the public about government welfare schemes and services. Among others present on the occasion were ADC Kalakote, Tanvir Ahmed; PO ICDS, Harpal Singh; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; ACD, Auqil Naveed; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; Executive Engineers PWD, Zaheer Ahmed, Executive Engineer PMGSY, Executive Engineer PDD, Abdul Rasheed and executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Kumar; CMO, Dr. Manohar Lal Rana, besides other district and block officers.

SC seeks action report from Punjab and Haryana on stubble burning as Delhi’s air quality worsens

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the governments of Punjab and Haryana to submit detailed reports on the steps taken to curb stubble burning, amid the continuing deterioration of air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR).

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran passed the order after being informed that Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) had been invoked in Delhi following alarming pollution levels.

“Let Punjab and Haryana governments respond on steps taken to control stubble burning,” the Court directed, listing the matter for further hearing on November 17.

The direction came a day after post-Diwali pollution levels sent Delhi’s air quality into the ‘severe’ category, with thick smog blanketing the city. Despite previous judicial interventions and regulatory mechanisms, the situation continues to worsen annually.

During the hearing, the Court took note of media reports alleg-



ing that water tankers were deployed by the Delhi government to artificially suppress pollution readings at air quality monitoring stations.

The Bench noted that such reports, if true, were serious and called for clarification from the authorities.

The Amicus Curiae informed the Court that the air quality had reached hazardous levels, urging

immediate intervention. He also pointed out discrepancies in the monitoring process, stating that several stations had remained non-functional during Diwali, thereby undermining the accuracy of the Air Quality Index (AQI) data.

Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing in the matter, urged the implementation of Stage IV of GRAP, citing that the

AQI had crossed 450 in several areas of Delhi.

He also flagged construction and excavation work occurring within the Supreme Court premises, remarking that such activity should be halted given the prevailing pollution emergency.

Responding to the concern, CJI Gavai assured that appropriate action would be taken regarding construction activity within the

Court complex. “List on Monday. We will inform the court staff also informally,” the Chief Justice said.

Last week, the Supreme Court had sought a status report from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) after it was informed that most air quality monitoring stations in Delhi were non-operational during the Diwali period.

According to CAQM data, Delhi’s AQI stood at 425 at 9 AM on Tuesday, prompting the Commission to announce a nine-point emergency plan under Stage III of GRAP, which restricts construction activities and enhances pollution control measures across the NCR.

Although the Court had earlier permitted the use of green crackers during Diwali, medical experts have since advised residents to leave the city temporarily due to the worsening air quality.

The matter will now be heard on November 17, when the Punjab and Haryana governments are expected to detail the preventive and remedial measures taken against stubble burning, a major contributor to the capital’s annual pollution crisis.UNI

RRAG welcomes IPU resolution against interim Bangla govt

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : The Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) has welcomed a resolution adopted unanimously by the Inter Parliamentary union (IPU) Governing Council against human rights violations, acts of intimidation, arbitrary arrest and the lack of due process in proceedings against six arrested Bangladeshi parliamentarians.

The RRAG is a New Delhi-based rights group. The IPU Governing Council’s 216th session was held in Geneva on October 23.

RRAG is one of the complainants on the arrest and detention of former parliamentarians Saber Chowdhury, Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Habibe Millat, Asaduzzaman Noor, Mosharraf Hossain and Muhammad Faruk Khan on whose conditions the IPU adopted the resolution.

More than 100 former parliamentarians, all members of the Awami League, are currently in detention in Bangladesh, facing multiple ongoing criminal proceedings. Parliamentarian Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun died in custody on September 29, RRAG Director Suhas Chakma said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

According to Chakma, the IPU stated that on two separate occasions, the independent trial observer mandated by the IPU to monitor legal proceedings in these cases was unable to travel to Bangladesh, as the necessary visas were not granted on time.

Repeated requests for support in facilitating visa delivery for an IPU delegation to travel to Bangladesh remain unanswered, he said.

“This shows that the interim government of Bangladesh led by Dr Muhammad Yunus is trying the jailed former parliamentarians in kangaroo courts and has gross human rights violations to hide,” Chakma asserted.

He said the IPU has also expressed its deep concerns at the continued detention of Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Asaduzzaman Noor, Mosharraf Hossain and Muhammad Faruk Khan. The detentions follow disturbing allegations of their appalling conditions and irreversible effects that these conditions are allegedly having on their health, he said.

These allegations, he said, come amid reports of serious violations of the right to a fair trial as well as the nature and severity of the charges, some of which reportedly may carry the death penalty.

Chakma said the IPU reiterated its wish to send a trial observer to monitor the upcoming court proceedings and a delegation to Bangladesh as soon as possible.

“The IPU resolution calls for effective actions by the international community who are blindly supporting the interim government in the hope that Yunus has respect for the rule of law and democracy,” Chakma said.

“Yunus has no respect for the rule of law, and has turned the judiciary into kangaroo courts. A case is building up for stripping him of the Nobel prize,” Chakma stated.UNI

Major terror plot uncovered: 'Doctors planned Republic Day attack' on Red Fort

■ ATUL KRISHAN

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : Top sources have revealed that doctors Muzammil and Umar had conducted Recee of the Red Fort as part of a major terror plot. The module planned to target the Red Fort on January 26 (Republic Day) and was also planning an attack at a crowded place during Diwali.

“We have uncovered that he, along with the alleged suicide bomber Doctor Umar, conducted a recee of the Red Fort in the first week of January. This critical information was retrieved from the dump data of Doctor Muzammil’s phone,” said the source.

The revelations came as security agencies made significant breakthroughs in the “Doctor Terror Module” case, with fifteen individuals arrested and three detained in connection with the explosion outside the Red Fort on November 10 at 6:52 pm. All arrests were made by Jammu and Kashmir Police, and a total of 56 doctors have been questioned so far.

The investigation traces back to an objectionable poster containing threats to security forces, put up in the Nowgam Police Station area of Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. A case was registered on October 19 in this regard.

The explosion outside the Red Fort on November 10 led to an FIR being lodged with the Kotwali Police Station of North Delhi. The FIR, seen by UNI News Agency, described the explosion as a bomb blast.

Investigation details reveal that Dr. Umar was in the moving i20 car where the explosion took place. Dr Umar was a wanted for the JK Police in connection with the ongoing matter.

Dr Umar spent approximately three hours at the parking of Red Fort Metro Station, during which he was in constant touch with someone. CCTV analysis shows the car was parked at 3:19 pm and exited the parking area three hours later at 6:48 PM, leaving at a time when the area was particularly crowded.

The probe in the matter (of Delhi blast) is now being handled by the NIA. The JK Police is also probing the matter.UNI

Sitharaman chairs third pre-budget consultation with MSME stakeholders

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, on Wednesday, chaired the third round of her pre-Budget consultation with stakeholders from Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in connection with the forthcoming union Budget 2026-27. The meeting was attended by union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary; Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; and senior officials from the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.

During the consultation, stakeholders from the MSME sector provided valuable inputs and suggestions to the Finance Minister on various issues affecting the sector, including taxation, credit availability, and technology upgradation.

Marking the beginning of the series of Pre-Budget discussions with various stakeholders before the final annual budget is formulated and presented to the legislature, Sitharaman had on November 10 chaired the first and second round of her Pre-Budget consultation meetings with the country’s leading economists and eminent ag-

riculturists and farmer organizations respectively.

The first meeting was attended by the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, along with the Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and senior officers from the Department of Economic Affairs. The second round of meeting was with the representatives of farmers’ associations, agri-based industries and agricultural economists

The Finance Minister is scheduled to present the union Budget 2026-27 in Parliament on February 1, 2026. UNI

15 arrested, 3 detained: NIA, J&K Police probe pan-India ‘Doctor Module’ terror link

■ BY ATUL KRISHAN

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : A total of fifteen individuals have been arrested and three detained in connection with a “Doctor Terror Module” allegedly working for Jaish-e-Mohammad, suspected to be responsible for the Red Fort explosion on November 10 at 6:52 pm.

The arrests were made by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, and a total of 56 doctors have been questioned so far.

Hospital sources told UNI that no explosives were found on the bodies of the deceased, while investigators now suspect that a modified explosive may have been used in the blast.

The investigation traces back to an objectionable poster containing threats to security forces that appeared in the Nowgam

Police Station area of Srinagar. A case was registered on October 19.

The initial phase of the investigation led to the arrests of Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagh from Shopian and Zamir Ahmed from Wakura, Ganderbal, between October 20 and 27.

The investigation further widened with the apprehension of Doctor Adil from Saharanpur on November 5, followed by seizures of an AK-47 rifle and other ammunition from Anantnag Hospital on November 7, and more rifles, pistols, and ammunition from Al Falah University, Faridabad, on November 8.

Subsequent interrogations revealed additional members of the module, resulting in the arrest of Doctor Muzammil and the seizure of a significant cache of weapons and ammunition. On

November 9, a person named Madras, a resident of Dhoj, Faridabad, was arrested.

A major breakthrough came on November 10 with the seizure of 2,563 kg of explosives from the residence of Hafiz Mohammad Ishtiyag, an Imam at Al Falah Masjid, Dhera Colony, Faridabad.

Additional raids recovered 358 kg of explosive material, detonators, and timers, bringing the total to around 3,000 kg. As per police sources, “During these operations, Doctor Umar Mohammad, an Al Falah University employee and alleged module member, went underground.”

On the evening of November 10, the Red Fort explosion occurred. Delhi Police, along with the NSG, NIA, and forensic teams, immediately responded. The injured were hospitalised, and

DNA samples, explosive residues, and other evidence were collected from the site. A significant discovery was an amputated hand, suspected to belong to Dr. Umar Mohammad, who is alleged to have been the suicide bomber. DNA samples from his mother are being tested for confirmation.

Investigations indicate that Umar was radicalising students at Al Falah University, which served as the module’s operational hub. His neighbor and colleague, Dr. Muzamil Shakil, has been arrested. The car used in the blast was registered to Dr. Shaheen Shahid, later arrested from Lucknow and identified as the woman commanding Jaish-e-Mohammad operations in India.

She reportedly confessed to stockpiling explosives for near-

ly two years and conspiring with associate doctors to carry out a major terrorist attack.

Police sources said, “CCTV footage suggests that Dr. Umar Mohammad was driving the vehicle, and the explosives used in the blast match those seized in Faridabad.”

Authorities are still investigating whether the explosion was pre-planned or an accidental detonation triggered by Umar’s panic while fleeing.

Investigations also revealed that the vehicle was parked at Al-Falah Medical College, Dhauj, Faridabad, for nearly 11 days, from October 29 until it was driven to Delhi on November 10. The case was formally handed over to the NIA on November 11 to probe the module’s financing, operational hierarchy, and broader networks.UNI

SC orders legal status for Delhi Ridge Board to protect ‘green lungs’ of capital

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 12 : Amid worsening air quality in the National Capital, the Supreme Court has delivered a significant judgment aimed at safeguarding the Delhi Ridge, a vital ecological zone that serves as the city’s “green lungs.”

A Bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice KV Chandran directed the union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to confer statutory status on the Delhi Ridge Management Board (DRMB) to ensure accountability, transparency, and effective governance in the preservation of the ecologically fragile region.

The Court observed that little progress had been made over nearly three decades since it first took cognisance of the matter in 1995.

“Without proper statutory

protection, it would not be possible to properly preserve the integrity of the Ridge,” the Bench remarked, expressing disappointment and deep concern that only 1.33 percent (103.48 hectares) of the identified 7,784 hectares of the Ridge area had been formally notified as a Reserved Forest under the Indian Forest Act.

“The Ridge acts as the green lungs of the city, especially in the present conditions of increased pollution. Without proper identification or preservation of the Ridge, the integrity of the entire ecology would be compromised,” the Court said, emphasising the urgent need for its protection and restoration.

Rejecting the union Government’s objection that granting statutory status to the DRMB would create overlapping authorities, the Court clarified that the purpose of the judgment was

to streamline governance by making the DRMB a single-window authority for all matters concerning the Delhi Ridge.

“Like the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), if the DRMB is given statutory status, it will be able to function effectively and remain accountable,” the judgment, authored by Chief Justice Gavai, stated.

The Supreme Court ordered the reconstitution of the DRMB with the following mandates: That the DRMB shall act as a single-window authority for all issues related to the Delhi Ridge and Morphological Ridge.

It must ensure preservation of the Ridge in its pristine form, remove all encroachments, and undertake afforestation and ecological restoration measures. The Board shall submit status reports every six months to the Supreme Court.

It must function transpar-



ently, maintaining a website for public notices, hearings, and reports.

All Delhi authorities must aid the DRMB in discharging its duties.

The Court directed MoEF&CC to issue a notification under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act for the constitution of the DRMB with the following composition: Chief Sec-

retary, GNCTD – Chairperson, Vice-Chairman, Delhi Development Authority – Member, Representative of DG Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC – Member, Representative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council, Director General, CPWD, Representative of Commissioner of Police,

Delhi, Principal Secretary (Environment & Forests), GNCTD, Principal Secretary (Land Revenue), GNCTD. Two NGO representatives (to be nominated by GNCTD) shall be its members.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, GNCTD – Member-Secretary and the representative of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) shall also be its members.

To ensure efficiency, the Court also directed formation of a Standing Committee under the DRMB comprising: Member of the CEC (Chairperson), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, GNCTD, Two NGO representatives (already part of the DRMB), Nominee of the Chief Secretary, GNCTD and Nominee of the DDA (both conservation experts).

The CEC representative was further directed to report to the Supreme Court every three months on the functioning of

the DRMB and its Standing Committee.

The Bench underlined that the DRMB’s core function must remain the conservation of existing Ridge forests, removal of encroachments, and prevention of further fragmentation.

The Court directed the DRMB to adopt scientific conservation practices, ensure public consultation, and maintain transparency in all operations.

The Court also appreciated the valuable assistance of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and Amicus Curiae K. Parameshwar, who were assisted by advocates Mukunda, Kanti, Shreenivas Patil, and Raji Gururaj.

“The Ridge is the city’s natural shield against pollution and climate change. Preserving it is not just a statutory obligation but a moral imperative,” the Bench concluded. UNI



West Indies To Face Afghanistan In T20I Series In January 2026

These three bilateral matches take place just days before the T20 World Cup in February



■ **ESPNCRICINFO**

STLUCIA: West Indies and Afghanistan will face each other over three T20Is in Sharjah next year as both teams build up towards the World Cup. The bilateral series is scheduled to begin on January 19 just days before the ICC event kicks off in India and Sri

Lanka in February.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, said: "This series provides an ideal platform for our preparation. Facing strong opposition in subcontinental conditions will help us sharpen our combinations and approach, and it also gives our players a chance to build confidence on surfaces sim-

ilar to those we'll encounter in India and Sri Lanka."

West Indies co-hosted the last T20 World Cup, where they went through to the Super Eight stage but couldn't make the knockouts. Afghanistan did make it to the semi-finals of that event, which was a first for them. The two teams have played eight T20Is against

each other with West Indies leading the head-to-head 5-3. All three T20Is of this bilateral series will take place in Sharjah on January 19, 21 and 22.

Naseeb Khan, CEO of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, said: "Competing against the West Indies on the brink of a global event presents an excellent opportunity for our team to finalize

their lineup and enhance their preparations for the upcoming mega event in India and Sri Lanka."

West Indies are currently playing a five-match T20I series in New Zealand, which they trail 2-1. Afghanistan's last T20I assignment was against Zimbabwe in October, which they won 3-0.

Cristiano Ronaldo says 2026 World Cup 'definitely' his last

■ **AFP**

RIYADH: Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo on Tuesday said next year's World Cup would be his last as he winds down one of the all-time great careers.

The 40-year-old forward, with more than 950 club and international goals, also said he would retire from football in "one or two years".

"Definitely, yes," he told a Saudi forum by video link, when asked if 2026 would be his World Cup swansong. "I'm gonna be 41 years old and I think it will be the moment."

Ronaldo, who began a lucrative stint at Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr in 2023, also elaborated on comments last week when he said he would retire "soon".

"Let's be honest, when I mean soon, it's probably one or two years I'll still be at the game," he



said. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is targeting a sixth World Cup next year. He came closest to lifting the trophy in 2006, when Portugal lost to France in the semi-finals.

Portugal have yet to qualify for the 2026 tournament in the USA, Canada and Mexico, but can secure their spot if they beat Ireland on Thursday.

Ronaldo joined Al Nassr after leaving Manchester United for a second time in late 2022, a move that heralded an influx of late-career stars to the oil-rich kingdom. Saudi Arabia, which is spending big on sports and entertainment as part of its economic diversification plan, was named as host of the 2034 World Cup last December.

India's No.1 tennis player Sumit Nagal seeks help from China embassy after visa rejection

■ **PTI**

NEW DELHI: India's top-ranked tennis player Sumit Nagal on Tuesday sought urgent intervention from the Chinese embassy here after his visa application to travel to China for the Australian Open Playoff was rejected without any reason.

Nagal took to social media platform X to make his appeal, tagging the Chinese Ambassador to India and the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy.

"Respected@China_Amb_India and @ChinaSpox_India. I



am Sumit Nagal, India's No.1 tennis player. I am supposed to fly to China soon to represent

India at the Australian Open Playoff. But my visa was rejected without reason. Your

urgent help would be much appreciated, Nagal wrote.

After losing his place in top-100, Nagal cannot enter the top events like Grand Slams as direct entrant and would depend on wild card entries or Qualifiers.

The 27-year-old from Jhajjar, Haryana, is currently India's highest-ranked singles player, placed 275 in the latest ATP standings. He was scheduled to travel to Chengdu to compete in the Australian Open Playoff event, which will give the regional players a main-draw entry into the 2026 Australian Open.

There has been no immediate response from the Chinese embassy or tournament organisers regarding the issue.

If the matter is not resolved swiftly, Nagal would be forced to miss the event, which could hurt his chances to enter 2026 season's first Grand Slam. Last year, he competed in Australian Open main draw, losing in the opening round and fell in the qualifying for Roland Garros and Wimbledon. He played a crucial role in India's Davis Cup win over Switzerland, winning both his singles against lower-ranked players.

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