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Valley Wakes To A Day of Funerals

Heartbroken Families, Quiet Villages Mourn Heroes Lost in Nowgam Blast

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 15: The Valley awoke this morning not to the usual hum of life, but to the sound of wails, prayers, and funeral announcements echoing across its towns and villages. From Tral's narrow lanes to Budgam's sprawling plains and Kupwara's quiet hamlets, Kashmir spent the day burying its dear ones, officers, technicians, and civilians whose lives were abruptly stolen in the accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station late Friday night.

In Hari Parigam, Tral, grief flowed like a river as the body of Javaid Ahmad Rather, known to colleagues as Mubashir, returned home for the last time. The Crime Branch cameraman, whose lens had captured countless crime scenes across Kashmir, was carried through the village he had always walked with gentle dignity. Mothers placed trembling hands on his coffin; elders whispered that the "pride of the village" had gone forever. His large joint family, dependent on him for nearly everything, struggled even to speak.

Not far away, in another home, a sewing machine lies still its owner, Muhammad Shafi Parray, will never return to finish the clothes he had



promised his customers. A tailor with gifted hands and an honest heart, he had been called to assist the examination team that day. He left home with his lunch box, telling his family he would be back by evening. He was carried back instead in silence.

Budgam's Soibugh witnessed one of the largest gatherings of the day.

Thousands moved as a single sea of grief as they carried the body of Naib Tehsildar Muzaffar Ahmad Khan, the soft-spoken officer known for settling land disputes with patience and fairness. Men cried openly, recalling how he would spend hours helping villagers long after office hours. "He was a

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'Blast was accidental': DGP

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 15: Jammu and Kashmir Police Chief Nalin Prabhat on Saturday said the explosion that tore through Nowgam Police Station late Friday night was an accidental blast that occurred during the handling of highly sensitive explosive material linked to a terror investigation.

Addressing a press conference at Police Headquarters Srinagar, the DGP presented a blow-by-blow account of the sequence of events that led to the tragedy.

Prabhat said a massive quantity of explosive substances, chemicals and reagents recovered from Faridabad on November 9 and 10 had been transported to the Valley and stored securely in the open area of the police station as part of standard operating procedure. Samples were earlier sent for forensic and

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LG Sinha Visits Blast Survivors, Assures Full Support After Nowgam Tragedy

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 15: Lieutenant Governor



Manoj Sinha on Saturday visited Cygnus Ujala Hospital in Srinagar to meet the survivors of the catastrophic accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station, which claimed nine lives and injured

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CM Promises Compensation for Blast-Damaged Buildings

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 15: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the government will compensate for damages caused to nearby structures by the accidental blast at Nowgam police station.

Abdullah said the government stands firmly with the victims' families and will provide every possible support to them.

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Govt Announces Ex-Gratia Relief For Victims

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 15: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Saturday announced ex-gratia relief from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for those affected in the Nowgam Police Station blast.

Health and Medical Education Minister Sakeena Itoo said that ₹10 lakh will be provided to the families of each deceased and ₹1 lakh

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CM, RG, LoP Sharma, Mehbooba express grief

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, LoP Sunil Sharma and

other political leaders on Saturday expressed grief over the loss of lives in an accidental explosion at Nowgam Police Station.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic accidental explosion. The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, including those of the police officers, forensic science lab personnel, revenue department officials, and other associated team members who lost their lives in this heartbreaking incident. He also prayed for the swift recovery of all the injured.

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Unstable Explosives Trigger Tragedy at Nowgam Police Station : MHA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI, NOV 15: A massive explosion that tore through the Nowgam Police Station late Thursday night was caused by an accidental detonation of unstable explosive material recovered during a recent terror-module bust, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prashant Lokhande, said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Lokhande said the blast occurred at 11:20 pm on November 14, when teams at the police station

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3 Govt employees held in Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 15: Police in Miran Sahib Jammu have arrested three officials of the Irrigation Department after the death of a government employee who was found severely burnt in open fields near Ring Road Prithvipur earlier this week. The incident, reported on the morning of

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CS assesses plans & preps for UT-wide programme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 15: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review departmental preparedness for the upcoming Youth Engagement & Empowerment Programme, a UT-wide initiative aimed at fostering meaningful participation of young people in cultural, educational, entrepreneurial, and community-oriented activities across all dis-



tricts of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by several senior Administrative Heads, including the Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretaries of Information, Youth Services & Sports, Industries & Commerce, Floriculture, and Rural Development Departments; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and

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HM Shah to chair NZC meet in Faridabad tomorrow

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 15: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a meeting of the Northern Zonal Council (NZC) that will be held on Monday in Faridabad, Haryana, officials said.

Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, lieutenant governors of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, and the administrator of Chandigarh, among others, are likely to participate in the meeting.

Coordination among the state governments, water sharing issues and development work are expected to be discussed in the 32nd NZC meeting, officials said on Saturday.

The meeting bears significance as it will be held days after a 'white-collar' terror module was busted following the recovery of a huge amount of explosives in Faridabad in a coordinated operation by multiple state and central agencies.

Explosives linked to the terror module are suspected to have been used in the Red Fort blast on November 10 that left 13 people dead.

The explosives seized in Faridabad, which were taken to Jammu and Kashmir, also led to an accidental blast in a police station in Nowgam, killing nine people and injuring 32 others.

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Govt Focus on Bridging Rural Gaps: Itoo

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today undertook an extensive developmental tour of Kulgam district, during which she inaugurated series of developmental projects and also laid foundation stones for multiple public utility facilities aimed at strengthening the district's health, education and rural infrastructure.

At Government Degree College, Kulgam, Sakeena Itoo laid foundation of Multipurpose Sports Complex in presence of MLA Kulgam, M.Y Tarigami and MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad. Director School Education Kashmir, Principal GDC Kulgam,

ADC Kulgam, CEO Kulgam, CMO Kulgam, other senior officers of district administration, faculty members of College and students were also present on the occasion.

Afterwards, the Minister inaugurated health and wellness centre at Chamgund Kulgam. After inauguration, she inspected the health facility and took round of different sections of the centre.

Interacting with the officers on the occasion, the Minister highlighted the significance of these centres in far-flung and rural areas. She asked the officers to provide best possible medical care to the locals.

Meanwhile, the Minister also inaugurated Library Block, Computer Lab, Art and Craft lab at Government Higher Secondary



School D.K Marg Noorabad Kulgam.

On the occasion, the Minister interacted with faculty and students. She highlighted that the Government led by Omar Abdullah is giving priority to education sector with particular focus on rural and far-flung areas. She asked the students to make best use of these facilities for their overall development.

Meanwhile, the Minister also laid foundation stones for Girls Common room at GDC D.H Pora as well as Teachers Quarters near the same college.

Later, the Minister also laid foundation stones of key road projects like Pahlipora Wattoo road and Kutamarg-Zaindar-Thokerpora road.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Valley Wakes To....

rare officer who treated people like his own,” said one elderly mourner, wiping tears with a trembling hand.

In Drugmulla, Kupwara, the family of Inspector Israr Ahmad Shah clung to one another as his colleagues from the State Investigation Agency carried him home for the last time. Known for his sharp investigative mind and fearless fieldwork, Shah had led some of the toughest assignments. “He noticed details no one else could,” a colleague murmured, standing near the doorway, unable to step inside.

And in a modest home where every small expense mattered, the absence of Suhail Ahmad Rather, a gentle and dependable chowkidar, has created a silence more painful than words. He had been their anchor, the one who kept the family afloat.

The tragedy also tore through the tightly knit circle of the Forensic Science Laboratory, which lost three of its most trusted hands:

Selection Grade Constable Aijaz Afzal Mir, Constable Mohammad Amin Mir, and Constable Showkat Ahmad Bhat the youngest of them, still building his career. Their colleagues, numb with disbelief, described the trio as “the backbone of FSL,” men who often skipped meals and worked late into the night to ensure accuracy in cases where science had the final say.

By afternoon, Kashmir had witnessed funeral after funeral each one a reminder of how quickly life can collapse, how a routine inspection can turn into a collective tragedy.

In each of the homes, small everyday objects—an ID card, a half-used notebook, a pair of spectacles, a camera bag—have suddenly become sacred relics. Last memories of lives cut short.

Tonight, the Valley mourns not just the dead, but the broken families, the unfinished dreams, and the ordinary people who left home for work and never returned.

'Blast was.....

chemical examination but, due to the sheer volume of recovered material, detailed inspection by technical teams was necessary.

According to the DGP, the Forensic Science Laboratory conducted examinations on November 13 and 14 with extreme caution given the unstable nature of the substances. “Around 11.20 pm on Friday, an accidental explosion occurred during one such handling process,” he said.

Clarifying that the blast was not suspicious in nature, Prabhat said, “Any other speculation into the cause of this incident is unnecessary.” He added that all evidence suggests the explosion occurred during routine procedural handling of the seized material.

Nine people lost their lives in the blast, including an SIA officer, three FSL personnel, two crime scene photographers, two revenue officials accompanying the magistrate's team and a tailor associated with the operation. Twenty-seven police personnel, two revenue officials and three civilians were injured and rushed to hospital.

The police station structure suffered extensive damage, and several adjoining buildings were also impacted. “The extent of this damage is being ascertained. The cause of this unfortunate incident is being inquired into. J&K Police stands in solidarity with the families of the deceased in this hour of grief,” the police chief said. (KNT)

LG Sinha Visits.....

32 on Thursday night.

Officials said the LG spoke to injured police personnel, revenue officials, and civilians admitted at the facility, and reviewed their treatment. He instructed the medical staff to provide the best possible care and ensure all necessary support.

The explosion occurred at 11:20 pm on November 14, when a large quantity of explosive substances and chemicals—seized during the investigation of FIR No. 162/2025—accidentally detonated inside the police station. The material had been kept in an open area and was being processed as part of routine forensic examination when the blast took place.

The impact caused extensive damage to the police station building and also affected nearby residential houses. Expressing deep solidarity, the LG assured the injured and their families that the government stands firmly with them in this difficult time. He also conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic accident.

CM Promises.....

“The chief minister has assured that the government stands firmly with the

families who lost their loved ones in the tragic Nowgam police station explosion and will provide every possible support to them. He has also directed health minister Sakina Itoo to ensure the best treatment for the injured and assured that the damaged structures will be duly compensated,” read a post on his official X handle.

A massive blast occurred late on Friday night when authorities were extracting samples from a large cache of explosives confiscated in the “white-collar terror module” case and stored at the premises of Nowgam police station on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Nine people were killed and 32 others were injured in the explosion, which severely damaged the police station building and affected the nearby structures. (Agencies)

Govt Announces.....

to every injured person, following the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the injured at Ujala Hospital, the minister said the tragic incident claimed nine lives, while around 30 others were injured.

She said several injured persons admitted at SMHS Hospital have been discharged, while nearly 20 remain under treatment at Ujala Hospital, with one or two in the ICU but reported to be stable.

Itoo appreciated the prompt response of medical teams. “The Ujala Hospital team has done a tremendous job. Doctors from CMO and SMHS reached quickly and worked throughout the night to ensure proper treatment for all the injured.”

The minister also visited the homes of several deceased victims. “On the instructions of the Chief Minister, the government will provide ₹10 lakh ex-gratia to each bereaved family and ₹1 lakh to every injured individual,” she added. (KNC)

CM, RG, LoP.....

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar also expressed profound grief over the tragic accident.

In his message, the Minister said he is deeply saddened by this heart-breaking incident. “My heart goes out to the bereaved families. The pain of losing loved ones in the line of duty is immeasurable,” he stated.

The Minister prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and conveyed his solidarity with the families during this hour of immense grief. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of all those injured in the accident.

Dar also visited Ujala Cygnus Hospital, Srinagar to enquire about the condition of the injured. During the visit, the Minister interacted with the attending doctors to obtain firsthand information regarding the medical treatment being provided to the injured. He also met with the families of the victims and assured them of all possible assistance and support from the government.

The Minister expressed deep concern over the incident and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring the best possible medical care for the injured. MLA, Channpora, Mushtaq Guroo accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi in a post on X, said that the explosion is extremely painful and worrying.

He said that it is reported that this severe accident took place during the examination of explosives linked to the Red Fort attack. “I pay my humble tributes to the martyrs and wish the injured a speedy recovery,” he said.

Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma in a post on X, said, “Deeply saddened by the explosion at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar. My heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured.”

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief, Mehbooba Mufti wrote, “Deeply anguished by the tragic accidental blast at Nowgam Police Station that claimed 9 precious lives and left many injured. This heartbreaking incident lays bare the risks and difficult conditions under which our police personnel serve to keep the rest of us safe. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, and prayers for strength and swift recovery for the injured.”

MLA Kulgam, M Y Tarigami, wrote, “Deeply pained by the loss of precious lives in the Nowgam accidental blast. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wish for the swift

recovery of the injured. Unnecessary risks could have been avoided had the chemical examination and sampling been done at Faridabad.”

Peoples Conference (PC) Chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, wrote, “The accidental blast at the Naugam police station is heartbreaking. Heartfelt condolences to families of those who lost their lives. In this distressing moment may they muster the courage to bear this loss.”

Apni Party President, Syed Altaf Bukhari, said, “Shocked and deeply grieved to hear that at least nine people—mostly policemen and a Naib Tehsildar—have died and 29 others have been injured in an accidental blast inside the Nowgam police station. Such a loss of life is truly devastating. I extend my deepest condolences to the families of the victims. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured.”

Unstable Explosives.....

were processing a large cache of explosive substances seized during the investigation of FIR No. 162/2025, which had led to the unravelling of a terror network.

He said the recovered chemicals and explosives were stored securely in an open section of the police station and were being packed in accordance with standard operating procedures for forensic and chemical analysis. Given the voluminous quantity, the process had been ongoing for two days under expert supervision.

“Despite careful handling, the unstable nature of the material triggered an accidental explosion during the ongoing procedure,” Lokhande said.

The blast killed nine persons, and left 27 police personnel, two revenue officials and three civilians injured. All injured were evacuated to hospital for immediate medical care. The powerful explosion also caused extensive damage to the police station building and nearby structures.

Lokhande said the exact cause of the accident is under investigation and urged people not to indulge in speculation.

Expressing profound grief, he extended condolences on behalf of the government. “We stand firmly with the bereaved families in this hour of tragedy,” he said.

3 Govt employees.....

November 10, has unfolded into a case involving allegations of sustained mental harassment and withholding of salary.

Police said the victim, Puran Chand of R S Pura, was discovered burning in the fields and was immediately rushed to GMC Jammu where he succumbed to his injuries. He was serving as a helper in the Tube-Well Irrigation wing of the Irrigation Department.

Following the registration of FIR No. 109/2025, a detailed investigation was launched. FSL teams examined the spot and collected scientific evidence.

Investigators later traced CCTV footage showing Chand travelling on his motorcycle to RG Filling Station at Thikrian, R S Pura, where he purchased petrol in a plastic container before heading toward Miran Sahib.

According to the police, a combination of circumstantial, technical and scientific evidence, including analysis of viral videos and witness testimonies, indicates that the deceased may have taken the extreme step after facing persistent mental harassment at the hands of his departmental seniors. Officials said they are also examining allegations that his salary had been withheld for several months.

During the course of the investigation, police arrested three employees of the Irrigation Department for their alleged role in the events leading to Chand's death. They were identified as Surjeet Kumar, Incharge Ziladar, a resident of Deoli in Bishnah; Girdhari Lal, an amin from Salehar in Bishnah; and Ram Murti alias Sani, also an Incharge Ziladar, from Arnia in Jammu district.

Police said the investigation is continuing to determine the full chain of responsibility and whether more officials may be implicated as further evidence is examined. (KNT)

CS assesses.....

Kashmir; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director General, Economics & Statistics; Director General, YS&S; DDG, NIC; Director Colleges; and other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary sought detailed inputs from each department on their proposed activity calendars and strategies for the mega youth engagement campaign. He

directed all departments to upload their comprehensive action plans on the dedicated portal created for the programme, along with details of nodal officers and date-wise reports of activities to be conducted.

Highlighting the vast potential for cultural enrichment, the Chief Secretary urged the Culture Department to design a vibrant and inclusive programme on the lines of initiatives by the Youth Services & Sports Department. He advised launching extensive cultural engagement activities in coordination with educational institutions across the UT, including poetry recitations, painting competitions, quizzes, skits, essay writing contests, and debates in schools and colleges.

The Chief Secretary also took this occasion to highlight the role of departments like Information, YS&S, School Education, Higher Education, Skill Development and that of the Agriculture and Industries departments for making this Youth Engagement programme a huge success here.

He emphasised that the programme should also serve as an opportunity to raise awareness among youth about various government employment schemes, livelihood opportunities, and welfare programmes across all towns and villages of J&K.

The Chief Secretary directed that the youth engagement portal be integrated with the Government of India's MyGov platform to enhance visibility, access, and public engagement. He instructed all departments to finalize and submit their activity plans within 15 days, ensuring that the proposed calendar is comprehensive, inclusive, and aligned with the overall objectives of the programme to engage youth productively from start to end of this programme.

Addressing the Deputy Commissioners, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for strong oversight and effective coordination at the district level to ensure timely execution of all action points and to secure maximum participation of youth across the UT.

He further called for making the portal more dynamic by assigning department-wise and district-wise tabs up to the panchayat level, complete with high-quality geotagged images and videos documenting all activities for the interest and viewing of all.

HM Shah to.....

The explosion occurred around 11:20 pm on Friday when a specialised team was extracting samples from the “unstable” cache of explosives.

On the NZC meeting, officials said the role of zonal councils has changed from an advisory nature to “action platforms” under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leader-

ship.

The Northern Zonal Council has an important role from the point of view of development and security of the country, with 21 per cent of the country's land and 13 per cent of the population, more than 35 per cent of the food grains are produced in the northern region, they said.

A majority of personnel in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and the Army, who guard the country's borders, come from the states and Union territories in the region.

Officials said zonal councils provide the opportunity for personal interaction at the highest level among members and serve as a useful forum for resolving difficult and complex issues in an atmosphere of amity and goodwill.

Through discussion and exchange of views, the zonal councils help in developing a coordinated approach among states on important socioeconomic issues, they added. (Agencies)

Govt Focus.....

At Kutamarg, the Minister addressed a massive Public Darbar.

In her address, Sakeena Itoo highlighted that these developmental initiatives reflect the Government's priority to bridge developmental gaps in rural belts while ensuring equitable access to essential services. She reiterated that improvements in health and education form the backbone of sustainable development and long-term community empowerment.

“The Government is fully committed to delivering transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance. Our continuous focus is on improving public services, upgrading infrastructure and ensuring that every citizen, irrespective of location, benefits from developmental initiatives of the Government”, Sakeena Itoo stated.

She reaffirmed that the Government is working tirelessly to elevate the standards of health services, modernize educational infrastructure and enhance rural development across J&K.

The Minister also encouraged citizens to actively participate in developmental processes and maintain close cooperation with local authorities for their developmental needs. She assured the public that the Government remains steadfast in its mission to ensure quality governance, efficient service delivery, and inclusive development across Jammu & Kashmir.

The locals gathered on the occasion, expressed gratitude to the Minister for accelerated development in the region. The locals highlighted that these Public Darbars play a critical role in bridging the gap between the Government and the people by giving them a direct platform for grievance resolution.

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Sakeena Itoo visits Chansar Kulgam, expresses solidarity with family of Nowgam victim Arshid Ahmad Shah



■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 15: On the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena

Itoo today visited Chansar Kulgam to express solidarity with the family members of Arshid Ahmad Shah, killed in Nowgam accidental blast. Extending heartfelt condolences, Minister Sakeena expressed profound grief over the

loss and assured the bereaved family of full support from Government during this difficult time. She said that on the directions of the Chief Minister, and as a mark of solidarity and immediate

succour, the Government has announced ex-gratia relief from the CM's Relief Fund: ₹10 lakh for each deceased and ₹1 lakh for the severely injured. During the visit, the Minister interacted closely with the family,

offering words of comfort and called the incident deeply unfortunate and shocking. The Minister also prayed for peace for the departed soul and courage for family to bear this irreparable loss.

Javid Dar addresses ONE Health Conference at SKUAST-K

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Elections Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar addressed the ONE Health Conference, organised by Jammu and Kashmir Veterinary Doctors Association-Kashmir (JKVDA-K) at SKUAST-K here today.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Director SKIMS, Director of Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments, eminent scientists, researchers, academics, members from the veterinary fraternity and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Javid Dar emphasized on the collective responsibility of different departments and stakeholders to work together to achieve the One Health Objective. "We must come together to address the pressing issues of human, animal, and environmental health," he stated.

Chairman One Health Conference, Dr Syed Altaf Gilani and President JKVDA-K Dr Riyaz Nazir Reshi also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the significance the event. They emphasized the imperative need for close coordination among departments to achieve the shared objectives.

The conference provided a platform for eminent scientists, researchers, academics and members from the veterinary fraternity to share their collective vision for collaboration to protect Human, Animal and Environmental Health.

The conference featured a series of insightful presentations and a panel discussion on the concept of One Health, highlighting the need for collaboration and support in dealing with pressing issues such as antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic diseases etc.

Experts from medical, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, SKIMS, GMC Srinagar, Wild life department and SKUAST-K participated in the panel discussion, emphasizing the importance of close coordination between different departments at various levels to tackle these burning issues.

Bandipora Admin Celebrates 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

DC, officers, locals join live streaming of PM's address

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 15: The District Administration Bandipora on Saturday celebrated the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as part of the nationwide observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh.

A series of events were held across the district to honour the legendary tribal freedom fighter and highlight the cultural and historical significance of tribal communities.

The main district-level event was organised at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, where Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with District Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora and officers from various line departments, and other officials joined the live streaming of Hon'ble

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address.

As part of the nationwide observance, officers, officials and locals from Bandipora joined the live streaming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address during the national celebrations held at Dediapada, Gujarat.

In Bandipora, the celebrations were organised in line with the district-wide schedule, with Nodal Officers, DMTs and BLMTs from Gurez, Tulail and Bakhtore joining the online event from Gurez, while District Officers, Nodal Officers, SMTs, BLMTs, VLMs and locals from Bandipora, Bankoote, Arin and adjoining areas participated in the live streaming at the Meeting Hall of the Mini Secretariat.

All tribal village schools marked the occasion through cultural activities, as the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry



and Sheep Husbandry conducted awareness programmes with farmers in tribal areas.

On the occasion, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, SHGs and locals attended from designated locations across their zones, while students of Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostels and Eklavya Model Residential Schools held commemorative programmes at their hostels.

Special live streaming sessions under the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh were also organised at Seva Kendra Mastan Khopri (GHSS Dawar), Block Tulail, and High School Achoora Gurez, ensuring inclusive participation from remote tribal areas.

The District Administration Bandipora reiterated its commitment to honouring the legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, celebrating tribal identity, and strengthening welfare initiatives for tribal communities across the district.

DC Baramulla Chairs DLRC Meeting

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 15: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of banks under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025-26 and to assess progress under various government-sponsored schemes.

During the meeting, sector-wise achievements were presented, covering Agriculture, MSME, Education, Housing, and Non-Priority sectors. The DC was informed that the district has achieved 1430.11 crore under the Priority Sector and 1,323.69 crore under the Non-Priority Sector as on 30 September 2025. Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, 24,687 cards have been issued during the current financial year, with more than 1,05,118 active KCC accounts and an outstanding balance of 913.66 crore.

The Deputy Commissioner issued several important directions to banks and line departments. He called for regular awareness camps at block and panchayat levels to educate farmers, youth, Self-Help Groups, and small entrepreneurs about various credit schemes including KCC, PMEGP, JKREGP, MISSION YUVA, PM Surya Ghar and other government initiatives. He also stressed early clearance of pending KCC

applications to ensure 100% saturation at the district level.

The DC emphasised the need to narrow the gap between loan sanction and disbursement, particularly in Agriculture and MSME sectors. Banks and line departments were directed to strengthen coordination through joint camps, timely sharing of beneficiary lists, and close monitoring of scheme implementation to ensure timely support to the public.

Special attention was directed towards unemployed youth, women entrepreneurs, and SHGs, with instructions to prioritise their loan applications and provide them with necessary support for livelihood generation. The DC further directed banks to enhance their outreach in remote and far-flung areas to ensure equitable financial inclusion throughout the district.

The DC urged all institutions to work with greater commitment to achieve 100% targets under the Annual Credit Plan 2025-26. He highlighted the need for collective efforts to strengthen financial services and expand credit access to all eligible beneficiaries across Baramulla.

The meeting was attended by the Lead District Manager Baramulla, Representative from NABARD, district officers from line departments, Cluster Heads, Branch Heads, and representatives of all major banks operating in the district.

Cooperative Department Rajouri observes 72nd Cooperative Week with zeal and commitment

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 15: The Cooperative Department Rajouri today kicked off a special activity campaign to mark the beginning of 72nd Cooperative Week the campaign was set rolling with an awareness event held here at the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Complex, Jawahar Nagar. The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq was the Chief Guest.

The programme commenced with hoisting of the Cooperative Flag, symbolizing unity, self-reliance and the collective spirit that forms the foundation of the cooperative movement. In his welcome address, the Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies highlighted the objectives of the Cooperative Week and outlined the achievements of the department in strengthening the cooperative ecosystem in the district.

During the event, members of the local cooperative societies shared their success stories, underlining remarkable contributions made in empowering local communities and enhancing cooperative activities across the District.

In his address, the Chief Guest lauded the Cooperative Department for its impactful initiatives aimed at uplifting



farmers, strengthening rural economies, and ensuring affordability of essential goods. He made special mention of the successful establishment of food processing units (flour mills) at Nowshera and Darhal, where maize is procured at rates higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The processed flour is then supplied to consumers at rates lower than prevailing market prices, reflecting the department's commitment to both farmer welfare and public convenience through cooperative interventions.

The event concluded with a pledge to further strengthen the cooperative movement in Rajouri through continued innovation, community participation and collaborative efforts.

The celebration was attended by several dignitaries, including the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Rajouri, Assistant Director Fisheries, Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Rajouri, DDM NABARD, representatives from the Animal Husbandry Department and members of various cooperative institutions.

GMC Doda hosts CME session on "One Health Initiative" under Nationwide IAPSM-ICMR Campaign

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 15: The Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, today organized a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on the "One Health Initiative". The session was held as part of the nationwide month-long activities under the joint banner of IAPSM and ICMR.

The programme focused on strengthening awareness about the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health in addressing emerging public health challenges.

The event was conducted under the guidance of the Medical College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Baht, and the supervision of Dr. Suresh Kotwal, Head Department of Community Medicine.

Both Medical experts highlighted the growing importance of an integrated One Health approach, stressing its role in preventing zoonotic diseases, improving surveillance systems and promoting coordinated health responses.

The CME included insightful deliberations by Dr. Suresh Kotwal (HOD, Community Medicine), Dr. Aishiya Ishrat (HOD, Microbiology), Dr. Walied K. Balwan (Nodal Officer



– One Health Initiative), Dr. Imran Zaffer (Senior Resident), and Dr. Abrar (Demonstrator). Their contributions enriched the academic discourse and shed light on multidisciplinary strategies essential for strengthening the One Health framework.

The programme witnessed active participation from faculty members and undergraduate MBBS students.

It concluded with a joint vote of thanks and a felicitation ceremony organised by the Department of Community Medicine, during which all speakers were honoured with mementos. The department reaffirmed its commitment to promoting public health awareness and strengthening collaborative academic platforms in alignment with the national One Health vision.

Satish Sharma inaugurates, inspects key development projects in Khour Block

Calls for acceleration in execution of works

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma today conducted an extensive visit to various project sites in Khour to inspect the pace of ongoing developmental works.

During the visit the Minister reviewed and inaugurated the 2.00 km road construction project from Datyal to Gujrail in Block Khour.

Interacting with engineers and field staff on-site, he directed them to strictly adhere to quality parameters and ensure that the work is completed within the stipulated timeline to improve rural connectivity.

The Minister also inspected key link road projects including Construction of link road connecting Tibbi Mohalla from Akhnoor-Pallanwala Road, Construction of link road with pacca drain from Sita Ram Temple in Panchayat Mattoo.

At both locations, Minister Sharma assessed the progress made



so far, examined the foundation and drainage work, and instructed the executing agencies to remove bottlenecks immediately. He emphasized that these link roads

will significantly ease local mobility and must be delivered with high workmanship standards.

The Minister also inaugurated the project for macadamization

of the link road from Badhan to Gair and allied links of Panchayat Manchak. He noted the importance of the road for daily commuters and urged the engineering teams

to accelerate the execution, ensuring that weather conditions do not slow the pace of work.

Minister also inspected the ongoing works being undertaken by Youth Service and Sports department. He visited Govt High School Datyal Zone Khour where Volleyball court is being constructed

Interacting with locals during his visit, Satish Sharma said that the Government is committed to rapid, transparent, and quality-driven development, especially in rural belts where improved connectivity directly impacts livelihoods. He directed officials to maintain regular field monitoring, ensure proper utilization of funds, and keep local representatives informed about the progress of each project.

The Minister reaffirmed that his departments will continue to prioritize development that strengthens infrastructure and enhances public convenience. He also assured residents that delays will not be tolerated, and any lapse in execution will invite accountability.

District Administration Rajouri celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas with enthusiasm

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 15: The District Administration Rajouri today celebrated Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas with great fervour at Dak Bungalow Rajouri. The event was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq, who presided over the celebrations.

As part of the commemoration, the government departments set up informative stalls showcasing their schemes, achievements and services. The ADDC inspected the stalls and appreciated the efforts of officers for highlighting initiatives aimed at the welfare



of tribal communities.

A vibrant cultural programme was also organised featuring folk songs by students from the Pahari Hostel and Gujjar Hostel, beautifully portraying the rich tribal culture of the region. Students of EMRS also participated and presented an impressive skit on the life of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, highlighting his valour, contributions and immense role in India's tribal movement.

In his address, the ADDC lauded the efforts of all participating departments and institutions for making the event meaningful. He emphasised the importance of preserving tribal culture and promoting the welfare of tribal communities through effective implementation of government schemes.

During the event, meritorious students were felicitated for their outstanding performances and contributions.

A live broadcast of the Prime Minister's address was also organised in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow, which was attended by officers and participants.

The programme was coordinated by District Tribal Officer Abdul Raheem, who worked closely with all departments to ensure the successful conduct of the event.

Prominent officers present on the occasion included PO ICDS Harpal Singh, ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan, Deputy Director Employment Mohd Nawaz, besides several district and sectoral officers.

Army Conducts Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention Session at Army Public School

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

AKHNOOR, NOVEMBER 15 : A team from 170 Military Hospital delivered an insightful lecture at Army Public School, Akhnoor, addressing critical issues such as substance abuse, gambling and the impact of social media on youth. The session was conducted by Indian Army officer and Psychological Counsellor.

The lecture highlighted the risk factors associated with substance abuse, its consequences and effective prevention strategies. The speakers emphasized the importance of making informed decisions to avoid falling into harmful habits. During the discussion on gambling awareness, students were educated about the risks of addiction, early warning signs and the need to seek help when required.

The session also focused on digital well-being, addressing the effects of social media on mental health, the dangers of cyberbullying and measures to ensure online safety. Students were encouraged to navigate the digital world responsibly and prioritize their overall well-being.

The interactive format of the lecture allowed students to actively engage with the topics and encouraged them to reflect critically on their choices. The team from 170 Military Hospital effectively communicated the importance of living a healthy and balanced life, free from substance abuse and other harmful behaviours.

The lecture proved to be a valuable opportunity for students from classes 9 to 12, equipping them with essential insights and awareness to make positive decisions and lead fulfilling lives. The programme was widely appreciated and students greatly benefited from the expertise shared by the team.

ADC Jammu commends DYSS for exemplary Taekwondo Championship

Radhika of KVS, Siddhi of Maharashtra win Gold

■ NEWSPPOINT BUREAU

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15 : The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K is doing an exemplary work of conducting 69th National School Games-2025, making all requisite arrangements in a most befitting manner. As learnt, the medals secured by J&K in the 69th National School Games hosted by it portrait a picture of efficiency and excellence of the Department.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Jammu, Ms. Ansuya Jamwal, expressed these words while formally inaugurating the 69th National School Games 2025 U-19 Girls Taekwondo Championship at the Indoor Sports Complex, Bhagwati Nagar, today.

She emphasized that the Government is deeply committed to promoting sports across every corner

of the Union Territory, with the Department of Youth Services and Sports setting an exemplary benchmark in this vital endeavor.

She was accompanied by Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Ms Vinakshi Koul; Dronacharya Awardee and Chief Wushu Coach of India, Mr Kuldeep Handoo; Field Officer SGFI, Mr Parichay Mishra; DYSSO Jammu, Mr Sukhdev Raj Sharma and Mr Mushtaq Ahmed.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Vinakshi Koul highlighted the remarkable achievements of the department, noting with pride that Jammu and Kashmir has secured an impressive total of 17 medals so far in the 69th National School Games. The medals were won in the disciplines of Football, Wushu, and Taekwondo (Boys), with the Union Territory proudly

hosting this prestigious event in the current season.

Thirty six (36) States/UT/ Organisations are taking part in the event with a participation of around 450 athletes and officials.

Meanwhile, the competitions in the weight categories of Under-19 Girls -63 KG and -68 KG categories were held today. In U-19 Girls -63 KG, the Gold medal was bagged by Radhika Sharma of KVS, Silver was won by Simran of Chandigarh, while the Bronze medals went to Sumridha Pal of West Bengal and Vaishnavi of CBSE.

In U-19 Girls -68 KG, Siddhi Atul Bendale of Maharashtra clinched Gold, while Silver medal went to Lakshita Malik of Haryana. The Bronze medals in this weight category went to Raj Rupa Dey of West Bengal and Sakshi Meghvanshi of Rajasthan.

District Samba organises grand function to celebrate Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, NOVEMBER 15: District Administration Samba today organized a grand function at the Gujjar Bakarwal Boys Hostel to commemorate Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas- the birth anniversary of revered tribal icon Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji. The programme was presided over by MLA Samba Surjit Singh Slathia, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. The

event was held under the guidance and supervision of Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan.

The celebrations featured vibrant cultural performances, including traditional tribal dances by school children, thematic presentations, and addresses highlighting tribal culture and heritage. Students from various schools across District Samba showcased performances that reflected the district's diverse tribal



traditions.

During the ceremony, MLA Slathia felicitated Tribal Achievers, prominent Tribal Community Leaders, and meritorious students, acknowledging their contributions and excellence in various fields.

In his address, he paid rich tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji, recalling his role in the tribal freedom movement and urging the community to draw inspiration from his life of courage, unity and social reform. Floral tributes were

also offered to the great tribal leader. The programme also featured the live streaming of the Prime Minister's address from Gujarat, enabling participants to join the nationwide observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

The event witnessed the presence of PO ICDS, CEO, district officers and frontline officials along with enthusiastic participation from hundreds of members of the tribal community.

District Admin Kathua observes Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

Beneficiaries from tribal communities felicitated under multiple departmental schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, NOVEMBER 15: District Administration Kathua today celebrated Janjatiya Gaurav Divas by organising a grand event here in the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner Office Complex.

Public representatives, district officers, achievers and beneficiaries from the tribal community gathered to honour the legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and acknowledge the contribution of tribal communities in nation building.

The event witnessed the presence of MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan; DDC Member Nagri Sandeep Majotra; ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; DPO ICDS Mohammed Syed Khan; CPO Ranjit Thakur, district officers, prominent citizens and

tribal achievers.

The programme began with floral tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda by the dignitaries, marking deep respect for his struggle, sacrifices and role in the tribal movement.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan highlighted the remarkable contribution of Birsa Munda in protecting tribal rights and identity. He said that Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is an occasion to reaffirm commitment towards empowering tribal communities and ensuring they receive equal opportunities in development. He appreciated the efforts of the district administration in implementing welfare schemes aimed at improving socio-economic conditions of tribal families.

A live transmission of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi's address on the occasion of

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas was also broadcast, during which the

Prime Minister spoke about the government's initiatives for

upliftment, education, health and livelihood support for tribal

communities across the country.

As part of the event, MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan felicitated beneficiaries from the tribal community with cheques, fruit kits and certificates provided by various departments including Health, ICDS, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the administration for support extended under different schemes.

District officers reiterated their commitment to ensuring the saturation of welfare schemes and continued outreach to tribal pockets of the district.

The event concluded with a pledge to uphold the values of harmony, inclusion and development, following the ideals of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

HT EDITORIAL

Budgam by-poll a wake-up call for National Conference

The Budgam by-poll result on Friday raised some questions for the National Conference leadership and the party needs to find answers to these questions at the earliest. Keeping the eyes closed and thinking that the things would change themselves would not lead to any solution. This would in fact compound the problems for the party and the consequences will be there to witness in the next assembly elections.

In the contemporary world it must be kept in mind that there is no safe haven or constituency for the politicians. The elected legislators should keep in mind that they have to perform during their tenure otherwise they would be shown the door by their electorate. For decades National Conference has been winning the Budgam assembly seat but this time around the party failed to retain the seat. The defeat is no less than a shock for the party and it would take some time for them to come out of the shock.

There is a general notion among the people of Budgam district that the district has been neglected by successive governments. The legislators over the years have devoted very little attention to the development of the Budgam town and the villages that come under the Budgam assembly seat. Since the constituency has been represented by the National Conference over the past six decades it was inevitable that the party would receive a shock and the same happened in 2025.

The National Conference leadership was in a dilemma while announcing the candidate for the Budgam assembly seat. Although there was resentment among most of the party leaders, workers and activists regarding the candidature of Aga Syed Mehmood the party leadership still went ahead and put up Mehmood as their candidate. At the end of the day the resentment was quite visible as the National Conference candidate lost the elections by a reasonable margin of around 5,000 votes. He was defeated by Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, a novice in mainstream politics.

Time has come for the National Conference to move beyond the stated position and find young people who can fight the assembly elections not only from Budgam assembly seat but from other seats of the union territory. At the same time the party leadership should acknowledge the criticism from its own people and not get agitated about the same. When criticism is healthy and that too value based it enhances the performance and the same needs to be kept in mind by the National Conference leadership.

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When Time Loses Its Blessing, the Sweetness of Life Vanishes

In an age of speed and progress, humanity has gained convenience but lost calm. Life now moves fast, loud, and restless — leaving hearts searching for peace once known to generations before us. Time once felt gentle. Days carried peace, and even simple living held meaning.

Our elders often spoke of that sweetness of time — a calmness that gave life depth and value. Today, despite all progress and connection, peace feels distant, and moments slip away unnoticed.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ foretold this loss long ago: “A time will come when years will pass like months, months like weeks, weeks like days, and days like hours.” (Jami’ at-Tirmidhi, 2332)

This Hadith is not merely about time moving quickly — it speaks of barakah (divine blessing) fading from our lives.

The Signs Around Us:

The world now mirrors many of the signs described in Islamic teachings. Immorality spreads openly, dishonesty weakens trust, and family bonds are breaking. Modesty fades while arrogance grows. Violence has become ordinary — even a daily news headline — and compassion rare. Leadership often serves power, not responsibility, leaving the deserving unheard.

The Prophet ﷺ also warned: “When immorality appears among a people to such an extent that they openly commit it, plagues and diseases will spread among them which were never known to their ancestors.” (Sunan Ibn Majah, 4019)

We see this today — new illnesses

and emotional struggles unknown to earlier generations. We build grand houses as if we’ll live forever, yet our hearts grow emptier. Mosques stand beautifully built but often half-filled. These are not random changes but signs of weakened faith and rising materialism. And greater trials still await.

When Marriage Loses Its Simplicity:

One of the clearest reflections of this age is how Nikah — once simple and blessed — has become heavy with extravagance. What Islam made easy, society made difficult. Lavish customs, dowries, and social show have replaced sincerity.

The Prophet ﷺ said: “The most blessed marriage is the one with the least expenses.” (Musnad Ahmad, 24529)

Religious clerics and community elders bear great responsibility. They must refuse to perform or attend marriages that violate the Sunnah and guide people toward modest, faith-based unions. If communities boycott extravagant ceremonies, it will restore ease and purity — helping youth who fear financial and social barriers to marriage.

When Words Fail to Change Hearts:

We read the Qur’an and listen to scholars, clerics, and speakers — yet our hearts remain unmoved. We all know what’s right and wrong, but the message seldom reaches within.

In every sermon, we hear reminders of what to do and avoid. Still, people ask why it doesn’t work. The answer lies with us — the listeners. Hearing alone changes nothing unless we act. Our hearts are like glasses

filled with dirty water; if we pour clean water without emptying the old, it stays impure. When hearts are full of ego and greed, divine wisdom finds no space. Change begins with cleansing from within.

A Fleeting World:

We chase wealth, success, and fame — forgetting how short this journey truly is. Just as spring’s flowers fade into autumn’s dust, life too will end, leaving only our deeds behind.

The Prophet ﷺ said: “The value of this world compared to the Hereafter is like when one of you dips his finger into the sea; let him see what it returns with.” (Sahih Muslim, 2858)

Returning to Meaning:

The fading sweetness of time is not the end — it is a divine reminder to pause and return to what truly matters: faith, gratitude, and compassion. When we remember Allah, live honestly, and treat others with humility, life regains its lost warmth. Because peace never comes from speed or success — it comes from sincerity and self-correction.

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

As Shams Tabrizi beautifully said: “All of us are selective sinners. We choose the sins we are comfortable with, and judge others that commit the ones we’re not comfortable with.”

If we begin by correcting ourselves instead of condemning others, perhaps the blessing of time — and the sweetness of life — will return once again.

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WARIS NISSAR

AI & Robotics to Transform Rehabilitation & Key Sectors in Kashmir



FAIZAN MOHAMMAD

With rapid advancements in the fields of AI and Robotics around the world, new vistas are unfolding for places like Jammu & Kashmir, especially related to healthcare, rehabilitation, agriculture, hospitality, and industrial automation. What seemed like technology of the future has now started to become a practical solution for some of the most daunting challenges posed before high-demand sectors.

Healthcare: Intelligent Support Systems to Manage Patient Load

Every hospital in India is facing unprecedented volumes of patients, shortages of the workforce, and heightened expectations for precision-based care. AI and robotics increasingly are being identified as tools that could ease this pressure.

Robotic Assistance in Critical Care

Besides, such systems would reduce the human workload and increase efficiency, reducing errors in high-load hospitals in Kashmir, including SKIMS, SMHS, and district facilities.

AI-Based Triage and Patient Flow Management

Rehabilitation Through Intelligent Machines

Robotic gait trainers, exoskeleton suits, and AI-driven therapy devices are being used to provide personalized rehabilitation to survivors of stroke, trauma patients, and people who need long-term physiotherapy.

Rehabilitation & Elderly Care: Technology Filling Critical Gaps

Agriculture: Smarter Farms, Higher Yields

Drone-based crop scanning, automated irrigation, soil sensors, and robotic harvesters can enable data-driven farming. Given Kashmir’s focus on horticulture and trout farming, these innovations can increase productivity and reduce losses.

Hospitality: Automation to Enhance Guest Experience

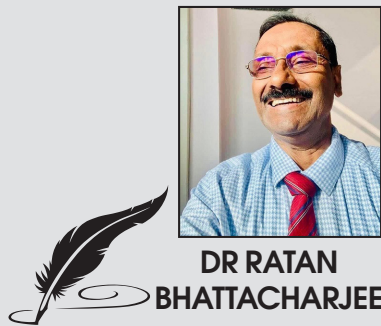
Industrial & Infrastructure Automation

Today, manufacturing industries are moving toward AI-powered production lines, predictive maintenance, and intelligent safety systems. Robotics enhances precision, reduces downtime, and improves workplace safety.



Faizan Mohammad is an entrepreneur from Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir; he operates under SAMZAN Group in the fields of hospitality, aquaculture, and smart infrastructure. He focuses on the adoption of emerging technologies that strengthen essential services and support sustainable development in the region. Appreciation from Hon’ble MLA Ghulam Mohammad Mir & All India Congress General Secretary: I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Faizan Mohammad for his visionary leadership and his unwavering commitment toward

promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and development in Jammu & Kashmir. His initiatives in hospitality, technology adoption, and youth-driven enterprise reflect a progressive mindset that our region truly needs. I wish him greater success in all future endeavours. Appreciation from Mr. Tariq Ahmad Wani, SSP APCR Kashmir: I appreciate Mr. Faizan Mohammad for his progressive efforts in technology adoption and entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir. He has made a commendable contribution across sectors. I wish him continued success.



DR RATAN
BHATTACHARJEE

Musings On the Children Litterateurs of Kashmir



"Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind,said James Russell Lowell on children literature. The story of children's literature in Kashmir is a story of voices that have often struggled to be heard, yet continue to emerge with resilience and creativity. This week we are all on alert about the children following the celebration of Children's Day in India. It is celebrated on 14 November every year on the birthday of the first prime minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru, who was known to have been fond of children. On this day, many educational and motivational programs for children are held all over India. Some schools in India make it a holiday to their students on Children's Day while private schools organize a fair for their students. On 5 November 1948, the first Children's Day was observed as "Flower Day" by the predecessor of Indian Council of the Child Welfare (ICCW) to collect funds for United Nations Appeal for Children (UNAC) through the sale of "flower tokens". On 30 July 1949, "Children's Day" was widely celebrated and publicized through radio, articles and cinema. In 1951, V. M. Kulkarni, a United Nations Social Welfare Fellow, while carrying out a study on the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents in the UK, realized that there was no system to look after underprivileged children of India. Inspired by a celebration of Flag Day on Queen Elizabeth's birthday by raising money for "Save the Child Fund", Kulkarni presented a report recommending that Pandit Nehru's birthday could be marked as Flag Day for collecting funds for working for child welfare in India. But the real celebration can occur only through literature for children. "There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all," and Jacqueline Kennedy was right .

Here we can make a survey what the Kashmiri litterateurs have really done for children for centuries. There is no denying that Kashmiri storytelling traditions have been rich with folktales, riddles, lullabies, and oral narratives passed down through generations. Grandmothers and village elders were the first custodians of children's imagination, weaving tales of djinns, fairies, and heroes by the hearth. These oral traditions formed the earliest children's literature of Kashmir, even if they were not written down. In the modern era, however, the challenge has been to create books that reflect Kashmiri children's own world, their landscapes, their language, and their cultural identity. Writers of Kashmir who have turned to children's literature have done so with the conviction that young readers deserve stories that speak to their own lives rather than distant, alien realities.

Indian children's literature has evolved from its roots in oral storytelling, like the Panchatantra and Jataka Tales into a modern and diverse field with contemporary authors exploring new subjects. Today, it features a wide range of genres, including fantasy, historical fiction, and books addressing social issues, and is supported by influential publishers and organizations like Pratham Books, Tara Books, and the Children's Book Trust. Popular authors include Sudha Murty, Ruskin Bond, and Khyrunnisa whose works are known for quality writing and engaging illustrations.

Among the established writers we may mention Hamid Siraj who primarily writes in Urdu but has a few children's books in Kashmiri, such as Haari Jang, Yaarana Jang, Yaarana and madadgaar Doos .The idea of writing children's literature struck the mind of Ghulam Nabi Aatish in 1979 when he realized that Kashmiri literature for children was almost non-existent. He started writing poems, essays and short stories for children in the same year, and two years later, his book titled Kyentcha Myeantcha was out in the market. The book which later became a series of three books is one of his most-read children's books. Aatash penned a book Koshur Shuer Adab (Kashmir's Child Literature), which is an in-depth analysis of the origin, history and development of Kashmir children's literature. A two-volume anthology, of poetry and prose, Kaeshir Shuer Adbich

Sombran (A compilation of Kashmir's Children Literature) give testimony of Aatash's literary acumen and hard work. So far, in his 50-year career, Aatash has received 11 national and state awards as an educationist, poet and folklorist. Apart from receiving awards like the Sahitya Academy Award and Bal Sahitya Puraskar Award, he was also awarded the Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1981 for translating famous Russian poet Pushkin's poems into Kashmiri. He has also five other translations to his name including the translation of Seerat, the life and deeds of Prophet Muhammad by Mou-lana Abul Hassan Ali Nadvi. The book which comprises 21 chapters is set to get published this year. He believed that through children's literature, Kashmir's new generation can get acquainted with their language and identity from a very early age.

Among the contemporary Kashmiri children litterateur we may include Izhar Mubashir who wrote Shure Te Tchure Gyush (Children and Their Chirping), a collection of short stories reflecting modern children's lives, winning the 2025 Bal Sahitya Puraskar for it, Grace Paljor is an educator and author who compiles children's books in the Kashmiri language, such as her Sheene Pipin series. Adeeba Riyaz wrote a 96 page book Zeal of Pen at the age of 11 and was recognized by the India Book of Records. Mir Areiba wrote Nimble Kingdom, a collection of 32 poems, and is also working on a novel. Ahmad Beyah is a author of Bilal and the Bullies, a book aimed at children aged 6-10, based on his experience as a father. Naji Munawar is a poet of Kashmir Children. One of the most striking observations about children's literature in Kashmir is the absence of representation in mainstream publishing. For decades, Kashmiri children grew up reading books imported from the West or from other parts of India, where protagonists were often far removed from their own environment. As Syed Mohammad Burhan noted in his essay on Kashmiri children's literature, how many Kashmiri children could relate to a white girl in a frock and pinafore? The disjuncture between the lived reality of Kashmiri children and the characters they encountered in books created a sense of alienation. This gap inspired a new generation of Kashmiri writers to create literature that was rooted in local culture, language, and imagination.

Among the contemporary voices, Ambreen Rasool stands out as a pioneer. Born and raised in Srinagar, she trained

Indian children's literature has evolved from its roots in oral storytelling, like the Panchatantra and Jataka Tales into a modern and diverse field with contemporary authors exploring new subjects. Today, it features a wide range of genres, including fantasy, historical fiction, and books addressing social issues, and is supported by influential publishers and organizations like Pratham Books

as a lawyer but eventually turned to writing with the mission of connecting Kashmiri children to their cultural roots. Her book The Adventures of Iya and Zoey is a story that revolves around a small girl exploring Kashmir's heritage. Through illustrations and narrative, Rasool introduces children to Kashmiri traditions, crafts, and folklore. She also founded The Quillers' Club, an exclusive children's publishing house, to ensure that Kashmiri children have access to books that reflect their own world. Her work demonstrates how children's literature can be both entertaining and educational, instilling pride in cultural identity while nurturing imagination.

The emergence of Kashmiri children's writers must be understood against the backdrop of conflict and socio-political upheaval in the valley. For decades, Kashmir has been marked by violence, curfews, and uncertainty. In such an environment, children's literature becomes more than just storytelling; it becomes a refuge, a way to preserve innocence, and a means to transmit hope. Writers who dedicate themselves to children's books in Kashmir are not merely authors; they are custodians of childhood itself. They attempt to shield young minds from despair by offering them worlds of fantasy, courage, and cultural continuity. In this sense, Kashmiri children's literature is deeply political, even when it appears

apolitical, because it insists on the right of children to dream and to see themselves reflected in stories.

The Kashmiri language itself has been a site of struggle. Much of the children's literature available in Kashmir has historically been in English or Urdu, leaving Kashmiri language marginalized. Yet language is central to identity, and writers have increasingly recognized the need to produce children's books in Kashmiri. Initiatives like Sheene Pipin have sought to create Kashmiri-language content for children, including illustrated books and cultural projects. These efforts are vital because they allow children to encounter their mother tongue in written form, strengthening linguistic heritage and ensuring that Kashmiri does not fade from everyday use. Writers who choose Kashmiri as their medium are not only telling stories; they are preserving a language. The themes explored by Kashmiri children's writers are diverse. Folklore remains a strong influence, with stories of mystical beings, pastoral life, and moral lessons. At the same time, contemporary writers are introducing themes of environmental awareness, gender equality, and social justice. By weaving these themes into narratives accessible to children, Kashmiri authors are preparing young readers to engage with modern challenges while remaining rooted in their cultural soil. For example, stories that highlight the beauty of Dal Lake or the importance of preserving saffron fields are not only entertaining but also teach children about ecological responsibility. Similarly, tales that feature strong female protagonists challenge traditional gender roles and inspire girls to see themselves as leaders.

The role of illustrations in Kashmiri children's literature cannot be overstated. Visual representation is crucial for young readers, and Kashmiri writers and illustrators have begun to create imagery that reflects local landscapes, attire, and customs. Instead of generic depictions of Western settings, children now see characters wearing pherans, walking through snow-covered orchards, or celebrating Kashmiri festivals. This visual authenticity reinforces cultural pride and makes stories more relatable. Writers often collaborate with local artists to ensure that illustrations capture the essence of Kashmiri life. The journey of Kashmiri children's literature is also intertwined with educational institutions. Schools in Kashmir have traditionally relied on textbooks that are stan-

dardized and often disconnected from local culture. Writers who produce children's books are attempting to supplement this gap by offering literature that can be used in classrooms to teach language, history, and values. Ambreen Rasool's work, for instance, is not only a storybook but also a resource for teachers who want to introduce students to Kashmiri heritage. The integration of children's literature into education is a crucial step in ensuring that young readers grow up with a sense of belonging. Maya Angelou said, "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."

The challenges faced by Kashmiri children's writers are significant. Publishing infrastructure in the valley is limited, distribution networks are weak, and financial support is scarce. Many writers struggle to find publishers willing to invest in children's books, which are often seen as less profitable. This is why initiatives like The Quillers' Club are so important; they provide a platform dedicated to children's literature. Writers also face the challenge of competing with global media, where children are exposed to cartoons, films, and digital content that often overshadow local books. To capture children's attention, Kashmiri writers must innovate, blending traditional storytelling with modern formats such as graphic novels, interactive books, and digital platforms.

Despite these challenges, the resilience of Kashmiri children's writers is remarkable. They continue to produce literature that speaks to the valley's unique identity. Their work is part of a broader cultural renaissance, where artists, musicians, and writers are reclaiming Kashmiri heritage in the face of homogenizing forces. Children's literature is central to this renaissance because it shapes the minds of the next generation. By giving children stories that reflect their own lives, Kashmiri writers are ensuring that cultural continuity is maintained. The impact of Kashmiri children's literature extends beyond the valley. For the Kashmiri diaspora, children's books become a way to connect with homeland. Families living abroad often seek literature that can introduce their children to Kashmiri culture, language, and values. Writers who produce such books are therefore addressing not only local readers but also global audiences. This diaspora readership adds another layer of significance to Kashmiri children's literature, making it a bridge between homeland and diaspora. In analyzing the contributions of Kashmiri children's writers, it is important to recognize that their work is not only literary but also social. They are shaping identity, preserving language, and nurturing resilience. Their books are tools of empowerment, allowing children to see themselves as protagonists of their own stories. In a region where narratives are often imposed from outside, children's literature offers an alternative narrative—one that is rooted in local experience and imagination. The future of Kashmiri children's literature depends on continued support for writers, illustrators, and publishers. It requires investment in libraries, schools, and cultural institutions that can disseminate these books. It also requires recognition of the value of children's literature, not as a secondary genre but as a central part of cultural production. Writers like Ambreen Rasool have shown what is possible when passion meets perseverance. Her journey from lawyer to author demonstrates the transformative power of literature. If more writers follow this path, Kashmiri children will grow up with a rich library of stories that reflect their world.

The writers of Kashmir are engaged in a vital project: giving voice to the valley's youngest readers. Their work is rooted in oral traditions yet responsive to contemporary challenges. They write in Kashmiri, Urdu, and English, weaving together folklore, heritage, and modern themes. They face obstacles but continue to create, driven by the belief that children deserve stories that belong to them. Their literature is not only about entertainment; it is about identity, resilience, and hope. Finally it is true as "A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest" – said C.S. Lewis.

About the writer
International Tagore Awardee
Children Story writer Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University who authored hundreds of children stories being included in his masterpiece of Children Literature Putu Shona .

Stay Healthy Even During Winter



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

The Kashmir Valley is blessed with four beautiful seasons, each carrying its own charm, colour, and climate. With the arrival of winter comes the famous forty-day harsh period known as Chil-lai Kallan, beginning on 21st December and lasting until the end of January. On this day, when day and night are of equal duration, the daylight gradually starts increasing by a minute or two until 21st June, the longest day of the year. These are all wonders of nature—phenomena that are beyond human control. The best we can do is appreciate them and keep ourselves healthy, grateful, and happy.

Blessings of the Almighty

Nature has bestowed upon us countless blessings—freshwater, clean air, green forests, nutritious fruits, vegetables, cereals, and countless other resources. We must remain thankful for every favour of the Almighty.

How to Be Thankful

Gratitude is a beautiful quality. We should thank one another for help in daily life and be grateful for every little blessing, including the food we eat.

Alhamdulillah for everything the Almighty has provided us. May Allah forgive our shortcomings and grant us endless rewards in this world and the



Hereafter. Ameen.

Seasons of Kashmir

Every season in Kashmir is delightful for those who have a healthy heart and a positive outlook.

Autumn: 21st September – 21st December. Winter: 22nd December – 21st March. Spring: 22nd March – 21st June. Summer: 22nd June – 21st September

Why Do Days and Nights Occur?

Day and night result from the Earth's

rotation, which takes 24 hours to complete. This cycle determines our day starting at midnight and continuing until the next.

How Are Seasons Formed?

Seasons occur due to the Earth's revolution around the sun, taking 365 days and 6 hours to complete one orbit.

Leap Year

Every four years, these extra 6 hours accumulate into one full day, which is

added as 29th February, making it a leap year.

Staying Healthy During Winter

Our bodies are designed by the Almighty to adapt to changing environmental conditions. However, winter demands extra care.

Important Winter Health Tips

Consume a healthy and balanced diet. Drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. Reduce long sitting hours and main-

tain physical activity. Choose warm, nutritious food such as cereals, meat, vegetables, and homemade recipes. Stay warm and dress in proper layers.

Importance of Physical Exercise

During winter, people tend to avoid outdoor activities due to cold weather. This is where gym centres play an important role.

Benefits of Gym Centres

A productive way to utilize free time. Encouragement through the company of health-conscious individuals. Keeps you away from unhealthy habits, especially drugs. Helps in building a better personality and positive mindset. Assists in maintaining weight, developing strength, and boosting immunity. Provides professional guidance to prevent injuries. Makes you feel warm during winter and strong during summer.

Gym centres also promote counselling on fitness, hygiene, lifestyle, and overall well-being.

Balanced Diet and Happiness

A balanced diet includes all essential nutrients—proteins, minerals, vitamins (A, B-complex, C, etc.), carbohydrates, and healthy fats.

Being happy keeps you mentally healthy, reduces anxiety, and improves cognitive abilities—making you more productive, confident, and focused in life.

Final Suggestions

Eat healthy and stay healthy. Avoid junk food and excessive oily items. Include fresh fruits and vegetables in your daily diet. Exercise regularly. Stay grateful and enjoy every moment of your life.

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THE VITAL ROLE OF SUNLIGHT IN HUMAN LIFE



Surinderpal Singh

The Sunlight is one of the most fundamental elements supporting life on Earth. Beyond its ecological and environmental significance, sunlight profoundly influences human physiology, mental health, and disease prevention. This essay explores the scientific mechanisms underlying sunlight's health benefits, including its crucial role in vitamin D synthesis, circadian rhythm regulation, mood enhancement, and immune function. Special attention is given to strategies for optimizing sunlight exposure during winter months when intensity and duration are reduced.

Sunlight, the primary natural source of ultraviolet (UV) radiation, has shaped human evolution, metabolism, and wellbeing. In modern medical science, it is increasingly recognized not merely as a source of light but as a biological necessity. The body's ability to harness sunlight for vitamin D synthesis and hormonal regulation underscores its integral role in maintaining health. Inadequate sunlight exposure, on the other hand, is linked to disorders such as rickets, seasonal affective disorder (SAD), osteoporosis, and immune dysregulation.

THE SCIENCE OF SUNLIGHT AND HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

Sunlight contains a spectrum of electromagnetic radiation, of which ultraviolet B (UVB) rays are biologically most active for human health. When UVB rays strike the skin, they trigger a photochemical reaction converting 7-dehydrocholesterol into previtamin D₃, which subsequently transforms into cholecalciferol (vitamin D₃). This compound is then hydroxylated in the liver and kidneys to form calcitriol, the active form of vitamin D responsible for calcium absorption, bone mineralization, and immune regulation.

Sunlight also influences the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, regulating hormonal secretions like melatonin and serotonin, which govern sleep cycles and mood. Thus, sunlight exposure serves as a synchronizer of the human circadian rhythm, impacting both physical and psychological health.

HEALTH BENEFITS OF SUNLIGHT EXPOSURE

VITAMINS D SYNTHESIS AND BONE HEALTH

Vitamin D is indispensable for maintaining calcium and phosphate balance, which supports healthy bone and muscle function. Inadequate exposure



leads to conditions such as rickets in children and osteomalacia or osteoporosis in adults. Studies show that moderate, regular sun exposure can fulfill 80–90% of the body's vitamin D requirements without supplementation.

IMMUNE SYSTEM REGULATION

Vitamin D, produced through sunlight, modulates both innate and adaptive immune responses. It enhances macrophage and dendritic cell activity while balancing T-cell responses, thereby reducing autoimmune reactions and improving defense against infections such as influenza and tuberculosis.

CARDIOVASCULAR AND METABOLIC HEALTH

Recent research links sunlight exposure to reduced blood pressure and improved cardiovascular function. Ultraviolet radiation stimulates nitric oxide release from the skin, causing vasodilation and improved circulation. Additionally, vitamin D plays a role in glucose metabolism, reducing the risk of metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MOOD REGULATION

Sunlight exposure influences serotonin production, a neurotransmitter associated with mood stability and happiness. Reduced sunlight in winter can lead to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)—a type of depression marked by lethargy and sadness. Controlled exposure to natural light or light therapy has been shown to alleviate these symptoms effectively.

CANCER PREVENTION AND OVERALL LONGEVITY

While excessive UV exposure increases the risk of skin cancer, moderate sunlight has a protective effect against certain internal cancers. Vitamin D's role in cell differentiation and apoptosis helps prevent uncontrolled cellular proliferation, reducing risks of colon, prostate, and breast cancers.

RISKS OF EXCESSIVE OR INADEQUATE SUNLIGHT EXPOSURE

Excessive sunlight, especially without protection, may cause photoaging, sunburn, cataracts, and skin

cancers such as melanoma. Conversely, inadequate sunlight results in vitamin D deficiency, impaired immunity, and increased risk of chronic diseases. Hence, a balance between adequate exposure and protective measures is crucial for optimal health.

MAXIMIZING THE BENEFITS OF SUNLIGHT IN WINTER

During winter, shorter days and weaker UVB rays make it challenging to synthesize sufficient vitamin D. However, several evidence-based strategies can help optimize sunlight exposure:

1. Midday Exposure:

The period between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. offers the most potent UVB rays even in winter. A 15–30 minute walk with face and hands uncovered can significantly boost vitamin D levels.

2. Outdoor Activities:

Engaging in light exercise, such as brisk walking or yoga, in open areas maximizes sunlight absorption and promotes circulation.

3. Reflective Surfaces:

Snow and light-colored surroundings enhance UV reflection, increasing the effectiveness of sunlight exposure.

4. Balanced Diet:

Include vitamin D-rich foods such as fortified milk, egg yolk, mushrooms, and fatty fish (salmon, sardine). These support endogenous synthesis and compensate for limited sunlight.

5. Use of Vitamin D Supplements:

Under medical guidance, supplements may be recommended to maintain serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels above 30 ng/mL during low sunlight periods.

6. Open Windows and Morning Light Exposure:

Natural indoor light can help regulate circadian rhythm, even if UVB penetration is limited.

IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Before making significant lifestyle changes, individuals—especially the elderly, those with skin disorders, or people taking photosensitive medications—should seek a medical evaluation. Blood tests to assess vitamin D levels, calcium metabolism, and skin type considerations can guide safe and personalized sunlight exposure plans.

Sunlight is a natural healer and regulator—vital not only for sustaining life on Earth but also for maintaining human health at the molecular, physiological, and psychological levels. Its ability to stimulate vitamin D synthesis, enhance immune defense, support cardiovascular health, and uplift mood establishes it as a cornerstone of preventive medicine. While modern lifestyles have confined many to indoor spaces, a conscious effort to reconnect with sunlight—especially in winter—can profoundly enhance wellbeing.

THE AUTHOR IS A FACULTY IN SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT SRI AMRITSAR SAHIB PUNJAB.

Urgent need to boost healthcare for chronic diabetes patients

■ HEALTHLINE

With a quarter of the 21st Century almost over, diabetes remains a major global health concern among both young and old. The complexities from this non-communicable disease tear into the fabric of society, with problems ranging from costs of treatment to the debilitating conditions of those affected.

The United Nations has recognised 14 November as World Diabetes Day since 2006 in a bid to build awareness and consciousness about ways and means to control and combat the disease. The theme of this year's World Diabetes Day, adopted by the World Health Organisation, is "Diabetes across life stages," and recognises that every person living with diabetes should have access to integrated care, supportive environments and policies that promote health, dignity and self-management.

Data from recent studies indicate a high prevalence, with an overall 12.4 per cent rate in a study of older adults, significantly higher in urban areas (19 per cent) than rural



(6 per cent). Other data from a recent study reports an overall diabetes prevalence of 12.41 per cent among older adults in West Bengal, with urban areas showing a prevalence of 19 per cent compared to 6 per cent in rural areas.

According to the study, published in the April 2025 issue of Science Direct, nearly one-fourth of older adults with diabetes in West Bengal experience limitations in activities of daily living. The prevalence of daily living difficulties among older adults with diabetes was 24.1 per cent in West Bengal compared to 18.9 per cent at the national level. The risk of disability among diabetic elderly was significantly higher in West Bengal.

There is, therefore, an urgent need to enhance healthcare services for individuals in West Bengal who face higher levels of diabetes and disability, speakers at a programme organised in the city by Diabetes Awareness & You said. The social welfare organisation held skits to allay misconceptions and portray ways and means to avail treatment at hospitals and homes.

A weeklong survey was also conducted by a tertiary care hospital on CIT Road among admitted patients.



TAD organises Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in Mendhar

Rana urges tribal youth to remain rooted in rich cultural traditions



HT NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR, NOV 15: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana today called upon the tribal youth to wholeheartedly embrace modern education while remaining deeply connected to their rich cultural identity.

He emphasized on the importance of maintaining a harmonious balance between progress and tradition, urging young people to take pride in their heritage and empower themselves without losing sight of their ancestral wisdom and values.

The Minister said this while addressing a gathering during Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2025 celebrations at OP Hill Stadium, Mendhar organised by District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with Tribal Affairs department.

The event, presided over by the Minister, witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of local tribal communities, cultural practitioners, students and officials from various government departments.

In his address, the Minister commended local tribal artists, artisans, performers and community activists for their invaluable contributions in preserving traditional art forms and promoting the welfare of tribal communities.

He highlighted the pivotal role played by cultural custodians in safeguarding tribal

heritage and reiterated the Government's commitment to supporting such initiatives alongside contemporary developmental efforts.

Rana further called for systematic documentation and preservation of tribal history, culture, language, and art, stressing that such efforts are essential for strengthening tribal identity.

He noted that integrated cultural and developmental interventions are crucial for ensuring holistic progress and socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated, "Omar Abdullah led government is fully committed to the well-being and comprehensive development of the tribal population spread across Jammu and Kashmir."

He also highlighted the Union Government's renewed focus on tribal welfare and underlined the need for coordinated, mission-mode implementation of welfare initiatives to maximize their impact at the grassroots level.

Applauding the District Administration's Responsive Governance Programme, the Minister said that the initiative provides tribal workers and government officials with essential tools, training, and knowledge required to deliver effective, people-centric governance.

Highlighting recent government interventions, Rana informed the

gathering that special attention has been devoted to upgrading tribal hostels to provide safe, well-equipped, and conducive learning environments for tribal students.

He noted that the deployment of mobile medical units and operationalization of Van Dhan Kendras have been prioritized to ensure last-mile service delivery and livelihood enhancement for tribal families.

On the occasion, the Minister also inspected a special exhibition showcasing traditional tribal arts, crafts, household artefacts, and

historical narratives celebrating the contributions of tribal heroes.

A vibrant cultural programme was presented by local artists, reflecting the rich cultural diversity and heritage of the tribal communities of the region.

Secretary Tribal Affairs, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the wide range of initiatives undertaken by the Tribal Affairs Department to accelerate the development and empowerment of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of SHABIR AHMAD DEADER S/O GH MOHD DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of MOHAMMAD NADEEM DEADAR , MOHAMMAD HASHIM DEADER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the DEADER caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 154000 in wards (One lack Fifty Four Thousand)the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1.... SHABIR AHMAD DEADAR SELF 44 imamati
- 2.... SHAMEEMA BEGUM wife 40 house wife
- 3....MOHD NADEEM son 16 years student
- 4..MOHD SALEEM Son 14 years //
- 5..MOHD HASHIM SON 09 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self.

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as MEHRAJ UN DIN MIR in my Aadhar card while my correct name is MEHRAJ UD DIN MIR S/ O GH MOHD MIR as per my driving license which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in office of concerned aadhar authorities with in seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name....MEHRAJ UD DIN MIR
S/ OGH MOHD MIR
R/O ...KHESHIPORA KREERI.
Distt. ...BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as GHULAM RASOOL GANAIE S/O GH MOHI UDDIN GANAIE in my driving license bearing license no JK- 0520160058280 while my correct name is GH RASOOL GANAIE S/O GH MOHI U DIN GANAIE as per Adhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with ARTO BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name.. GH RASOOL GANAIE
S/O GH MOHI U DIN GANAIE
R/O ...AMARGARH SOPORE**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of MOHD SHAREEF KATARI S/O GH MOHD KATARI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of self ,IQBAL HUSSAIN , AJAZ AHMAD , IRSHAD AHMAD S/O MOHD SHAREEF KATARI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 156000 in wards (One lack Fifty Six Thousand)the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1.... MOHAMMAD SHAREEF KATARI SELF 58 years labour
- 2.... RANI BEGUM wife 57 house wife
- 3....AJAZ AHMAD son 26 years student
- 4..IRSHAD AHMAD Son 25 years student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self.

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that the mother's name has been wrongly entered in the Date of Birth Certificate of my child issued by the Block Development Officer (BDO), Wagoora.

The details are as under:

Child's Name: KAAMIL HABIB

Father's Name: HABIB ULLA BHAT

Incorrect Mother's Name (as recorded): MASRAT AKHTER

Correct Mother's Name: MASRAT BEGUM

Date of Birth: 19/06/2019

Place of Birth: CHC KREERI

I am applying for correction of the said error in the records. Anyone having any objection to this correction may contact the office of the Block Development Officer, Wagoora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objections will be entertained.

**Name: HABIB ULLA BHAT
Address: BURZAWACHAN KREERI
Contact No.: 9596078385**

Public Notice

IT is hereby notified that my Daughter's and son applying for Birth certificate in municipal committee handwara namely Aarisha Binit Quyoom DOB 18/04/2021 Mohammad Rohaan Bhat DOB 13/04/2023 Hoorian Binit Quyoom DOB 26/09/2024 prantage Ab Quyoom Bhat

R/o Shihilhal, Tehsil Handwara District: kupwara. if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his / her objection in the office of the Municipal committee handwara within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained

**With regards
AARISHA BINIT QUYOOM DOB 18/04/2021
MOHAMMAD ROHAAN BHAT DOB 13/04/2023
HOORIAN BINIT QUYOOM DOB 26/09/2024
PRANTAGE AB QUYOOM BHAT
R/o SHIHILHAL TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA**

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh NIT No: 125 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026 e-tendering | Date: 14-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract or	M. H of Account
1	Balance work of Multi Utility indoor Hall for Sports Training centre Awareness Campus etc at K-07	4.98	200/-	9960/-	30 days	25.11.2025	DEE	Capex Budget (Forest)

Project Authority: Forest

Position of funds: Available

Position of AAA/ TS / Accorded

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	14.11.2025	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14.11.2025	24.11.2025 (upto 4.PM)
3	Bid Submission start date	14.11.2025	
4	Bid submission End date	24.11.2025 (4.00 PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	25.11.2025(12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore	

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore, (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore . Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the quoted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

- 3(b). Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.01 of 2025-26

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

No: 7864-76 | Dated: 14-11-2025

**For and on behalf of the
Lt. Governor of J&K UT,
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore**

DIPK: 8140/25 | Dated: 15-11-2025

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JANJATIYA GAURAV VARSH PAKHWADA CONCLUDES WITH MEGA EVENT IN KULGAM

District Admin Facilitates Live Streaming of PM's Address

■ **FAROOQ RATHER**

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 15: The Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada concluded today with a grand event at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, marked by vibrant participation from members of the tribal community, public representatives, district officers, and students.

As part of the nationwide commemoration, the District Administration facilitated the live streaming of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's address, enabling the participants to connect with the national-level celebrations.

The programme was presided over by DDC Chairperson Kulgam, Mohd Afzal Parrey, and attended by DDC Members including Jameela Chowdhary, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Sheikh Gulzar Ahmad, Gh. Mohi-Ud-Din Lone, besides ADC Kulgam Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACR Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; and other district officers. A significant turnout from the tribal community added to the event's enthusiasm.

During his address, the DDC Chairperson highlighted the inspiring life, values, and sacrifices of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, recalling his crucial role in India's freedom movement and his tireless efforts to



safeguard tribal rights. He also shed light on various government initiatives aimed at tribal

upliftment and appreciated the District Administration for effectively implementing these schemes at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Member Manzgam, Jameela Chowdhary paid heartfelt tribute on the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, describing him as a symbol of courage, resilience, and inspiration. She underscored the importance of promoting and preserving Gojri culture, terming it an essential component of the region's cultural heritage.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC reiterated Birsa Munda's monumental contribution to India's freedom struggle and emphasized the government's

continued commitment to advancing tribal rights and welfare. Other speakers also reflected on the lasting legacy of Birsa Munda and stressed the need for sustained efforts toward tribal empowerment and inclusive development.

The event also featured an impactful skit by students of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), vividly portraying the life, struggles, and exceptional contributions of Birsa Munda, which received appreciation from the audience. The programme concluded with a renewed sense of pride and commitment toward upholding tribal heritage, welfare, and unity across the district.

Army's White Knight Corps Celebrates Children's Day Across Jammu Region

■ **HT NEWS DESK / DIPR**

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15 : On the occasion of Children's Day 2025, the troops of Indian Army's White Knight Corps organized a series of engaging and enriching events across Jammu Region, strengthening its bond with local communities and inspiring youth. The celebrations aimed at providing not just fun but also valuable learning experiences to the students.

At Jamia Khadeeja School in Dhara, Poonch District, the Army held an informative session on the significance of the day, followed by interactive activities and inspiring speeches by students and teachers. The event fostered a joyful atmosphere, encouraging children to aspire towards a brighter future.

In Nowshera, Indian Army organized a tug-of-war competition for students of Govt Middle School Nonial, while at Pir Topa, under Op Sadbhavana, local children enjoyed cultural performances, games and educational activities, strengthening community ties. A total of 36 children and 3 teachers participated in the event, which was highly appreciated by the local population.

At Pine Wood School Sabra, a refreshing picnic at Children's Park Rajouri provided 65 students and 6 teachers with a break from academics, featuring games, snacks and lunch, reflecting the Army's commitment to nurturing young minds.

Additionally, Crossed Swords Gunners conducted an Anti-Drug Awareness lecture at Govt Middle School, Narbhara, sensitizing students about the dangers of substance abuse and encouraging them to choose a healthy lifestyle.

Valley View Army Public School in Rajouri celebrated Children's Day with a picnic to the historic Dhanidhar Fort, offering students a unique blend of exploration, enjoyment and experiential learning, sparking curiosity about local history and culture.

Additionally, the Indian Army celebrated Children's Day at Govt School Dori Dager in the Sunderbani sector with the UNICEF-inspired theme "My Day, My Right." Students were inspired and empowered through awareness and motivational sessions, making it a powerful day for the youth in the border region.

The Indian Army remains committed to supporting the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, guiding them towards a future full of hope, discipline and purpose.

JMC launches initiative to restore traditional water bodies in Jammu

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15: Jammu Municipal Corporation has launched a comprehensive initiative to restore and revitalize the traditional water bodies under its jurisdiction. With ponds, wells and traditional water sources rapidly disappearing due to urbanization and increasing aridity, the Municipal Corporation is committed to conserving natural resources and raising public awareness about their importance.

Taking a major step towards the conservation of traditional water ponds, the Jammu Municipal Corporation continues to strengthen its efforts. Today, in Ward No. 75, Durgochak area of Sangrampur, MLA Surendra Kumar, along with Municipal Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav, laid the foundation stone for the conservation and complete restoration of a historic pond. A total of Rs. 23.36 lakh has



been earmarked for the project. The rejuvenation plan includes cleaning the pond, installing guardrails, constructing a walkway around the pond, planting ornamental plants, and developing

high-quality green banks. The aim is to restore the ecological balance of the water body and transform it into a clean, green and attractive recreational spot for the local community.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA urged people to maintain cleanliness around water bodies, avoid dumping garbage and participate actively in the conservation of natural sources

of water. He emphasized that the preservation of ponds and other water bodies is a collective responsibility and called upon the local community to cooperate with the Municipal Corporation in maintaining such assets.

On this occasion, 300 streetlights were also handed over for installation in the ward. The Municipal Commissioner said that the Corporation is working diligently to upgrade civic infrastructure and improve facilities across all wards. He added that the installation of streetlights across the city is progressing rapidly to illuminate streets, enhance public safety and improve the overall urban environment.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Joint Commissioner (W) Firdous Ahmad Qazi, Executive Engineer Electrical, Simarpal Singh, Executive Engineer Division III, Akhil Dutt and other officials.

Army Organises Children's Day Celebrations at Govt High School, Sunail, Akhnoor

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

AKHNOOR, NOVEMBER 15 : On the occasion of Children's Day, the Crossed Swords Division, under the aegis of the White Knight Corps, organised a Quiz and Drawing Competition at Government High School, Sunail, centred on the theme "Nurturing Young Minds." The celebration aimed to inspire creativity, curiosity and intellectual development among students. A total of 200 students and 23 teachers took part with great enthusiasm, making the event lively

and engaging. Children showcased their talent, confidence and innovative thinking through colourful drawings and interactive quiz rounds.

The Indian Army's continued efforts to reach out to the local population reflect its commitment to fostering a secure, educated and empowered environment for the youth. Events like these not only encourage academic and creative excellence but also instil values of discipline, teamwork and national pride among young learners. Teachers and staff appreciated the Indian Army's initiative for creating

a positive and inspiring atmosphere for students on this special day. The Indian Army also distributed certificates and mementos to the winners, acknowledging their hard work and participation.

The event concluded with motivating words from the Indian Army representative, who urged students to dream big, stay focused and contribute meaningfully to the nation's growth and development. The celebrations left a lasting impact, reinforcing the bond between the Indian Army and the local community.

White Knight Corps Enhances Combat Medical Preparedness: MoU Signed for Advanced Medical Support

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15 : In a strategic step towards enhancing the nation's combat medical readiness, the Commandant of 166 Military Hospital and the Principal Director of Acharya Shri Chander Medical College & Hospital, Jammu, have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This pivotal agreement aims to provide comprehensive medical support during hostilities and wartime operations, ensuring that both military personnel and civilians receive timely and effective healthcare in critical moments.

The MoU lays out a framework for bolstering medical infrastructure, focusing on essential resources such as critical care beds and operation theatres, which will be made available to address emergency surgical needs during conflicts. Furthermore, blood transfusion facilities, ambulances and dedicated surgical teams will be on standby, ensuring rapid medical response to combat injuries. In addition to these basic life-saving measures, the MoU also includes specialized medical care such as dialysis and angiography support, ensuring the highest standard of care under challenging conditions.

Super-specialist support is a key feature of this partnership, with experts in cardiology, neurosurgery, vascular surgery, urology and reconstructive surgery available to provide advanced treatments as needed. This multi-dimensional support system will ensure that a wide array of medical needs, from trauma care to specialized surgeries, can be addressed efficiently and effectively.

The signing of this MoU underscores the commitment of both institutions to ensure that healthcare infrastructure is prepared and resilient, even in the face of conflict. By pooling their resources and expertise, the two institutions aim to provide uninterrupted, high-quality medical services during emergencies and times of war, ultimately protecting the lives of those who serve the nation.

This collaboration is a vital step towards enhancing national security by ensuring that the military and local communities are supported with a robust, well-equipped medical system capable of handling the most demanding situations. Through this partnership, both institutions reaffirm their dedication to serving and protecting the nation, ensuring that medical care is never compromised, no matter the circumstances.

Kishtwar celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas amid massive public participation

■ **HT NEWS NETWORK**

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 15: The District Administration Kishtwar, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, organized a grand and vibrant celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas to mark the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

The district came alive with an inspiring display of unity, culture and traditional heritage through a series of well-coordinated events held at Government Degree College, Kishtwar.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal was the chief guest on the occasion.

The formal programme commenced on the College Campus with the lighting of the lamp and floral tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda followed by a welcome address by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, who highlighted the importance of preserving and celebrating tribal heritage.

The Government departments, including Handloom and Agriculture, set up impressive stalls showcasing traditional crafts,



indigenous produce and local heritage. Artisans presented live demonstrations of weaving and clay utensil-making, reflecting the unique craftsmanship deeply

rooted in tribal culture.

A diverse and captivating cultural programme unfolded, featuring Buddhist cultural dances, Gojri songs & dance and

performances by renowned artists, including Gojri singer Bashir Mastana and Buddhist singer Tashi Rock. The tribal community performed a dynamic Gatka dance,

showcasing their martial traditions and adding a powerful visual element to the event. Additionally, groups of tribal people presented traditional tribal songs, celebrating their rich oral traditions and cultural identity. Colourful dance performances by students from various schools further enriched the festivities.

A large number of participants including officers of the civil and police administration, students, officials, artists, teachers and members of the public took part in the event.

Similar programmes were organized at the sub-division, tehsil and block levels across the district, ensuring inclusive participation and widespread observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.

The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony and a Vote of Thanks, expressing appreciation for the contributions of participating departments, cultural groups and volunteers.

The District Administration extended heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders for their support in ensuring the smooth, meaningful and successful conduct of the celebrations.



Tablighi Jamaat back in headlines amid Delhi Blast investigation

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 : In a recent development in the Red Fort blast case, several members of the Tablighi Jamaat were detained by investigating agencies from the Faiz Ilahi Mosque in Chandni Chowk.

The mosque is reportedly where Dr. Umar Nabi, the alleged suicide bomber stayed.

"Due to the presence of the suspect, Dr. Umar, the Jamaati members were questioned," a source said. However, they were later released after the questioning. The mosque management committee was asked to provide details on the records maintained for visitors.

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has filed a fresh FIR in the case. While the main investigation



has been transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the

Special Cell lodged this FIR to initiate a probe into the conspiracy

angle.

According to police sources,

overnight raids were conducted by the Delhi Police in the Dhauj and Nuh areas of Haryana and other areas adjacent to the national capital, with NIA officials accompanying them. Three doctors from Al Falah University in Faridabad have reportedly been detained during the operation.

Police Sources confirmed the names of two of the detained doctors as Mohammad and Mustakim, who were taken into custody from the Nuh area. "These two doctors were in contact with Dr. Muzammil," the source said.

Interrogation of Mohammad and Mustakim is ongoing, as authorities continue to investigate whether they had any role in the procurement of explosives. UNI

Cong chief condemns J&K police station blast, calls for strong anti-terror steps

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday expressed deep sorrow over the devastating blast at Nowgam police station in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed nine people and injured 24 others on Friday night.

Taking to social media platform X, Kharge extended heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and called for swift medical aid and adequate compensation for those affected.

"It is extremely disconcerting and sad to know that 9 precious lives have been lost and 24 people have been injured," Kharge said. "The injured must be treated with prompt medical supervision and adequate compensation must be provided to the



victims."

Kharge also urged the union government to strengthen intelligence and anti-terror operations, describing the incident as a "wake-up call." He called for an all-party meeting to address the growing terrorism threat, saying, "Congress stands united with the nation, against the scourge of terrorism."

The blast occurred around 11:20 pm while police and forensic teams were examining explosives seized in connection with a "white-collar" terror module case. The explosion is believed to be linked to a recent terror bust in Faridabad, Haryana, where 2,900 kg of IED-making material was recovered.

Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat confirmed the incident was an accidental explosion rather than a deliberate terror attack and promised a thorough investigation.

The tragic incident has intensified calls for enhanced security measures in the region, highlighting the continued challenges faced by law enforcement in countering terrorism while safeguarding public safety. UNI

Congress Leaders honor Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary, Mark Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 : Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra paid heartfelt tributes to the iconic tribal leader Birsa Munda on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary, which is officially celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

Rahul Gandhi recalled Munda's unwavering commitment to conserving Jal, Jangal, Zameen (water, forest, and land). He stated that Munda's "courage, struggle, and sacrifice will always continue to inspire



us for the honor of tribal identity and justice."

Mallikarjun Kharge lauded Munda's leadership of the Ulgulan movement against British colonial rule, asserting that "His life message will continue to inspire the countrymen." Kharge also extended greetings to the people of Jharkhand on their Foundation Day, wishing them happiness, prosperity, and well-being.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra honored Munda's dedication to tribal rights, saying, "The struggle and sacrifice of Lord Birsa Munda ji for the poor, the deprived, and the tribal society will continue to inspire the nation forever."

Birsa Munda, born on November 15, 1875, led a powerful movement advocating for tribal autonomy and land rights, and his legacy continues to inspire India's tribal communities and the spirit of freedom. UNI

50 new electric buses added to DTC fleet to ensure pollution-free public transport: Delhi CM

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday said her government is shifting the public transport system to Electric mode (EV), and that 50 new electric buses have been added to Delhi Transport Corporation's fleet.

She said that it's the government's top priority to provide the residents of the national capital with state-of-the-art, convenient, safe and pollution-free public transport, while enhancing greenery and making the capital clean.

According to the CM, the addition of these new EV buses will not only help in reducing pollution, but will also provide the passengers with an eco-friendly and comfortable mode of transportation.

Gupta has said that Delhi government is working hard on every front to control pollution, be it bringing down the



garbage mountains, conducting cleanliness drives on a war footing, and also the dust mitigation efforts that have been intensified.

Taking to social media, CM assured that continuous efforts are being made to make Delhi more green. CM, on Friday also laid the foundation stone for the Automated Testing Centre for vehicles, at the DTC depot located in Tekhand, while she also flagged off the new E-buses.

She said that this is going to be the second big ATS in Delhi, and will be

ready by March next year, where around 72,000 vehicles will be tested using advanced systems. This will ensure transparency in the process of testing vehicles' fitness, and based on technology.

Meanwhile, Gupta also reviewed the ongoing cleanliness campaign in the Tughlakabad and Tekhand areas and also inspected the waste collection points and the fixed compactor sites, instructing the officers concerned to monitor and ensure that waste management is carried out in the best manner.

During her visit to the area, she also conducted a surprise check at the veterinary hospital situated in Tughlakabad, and gave clear instructions to the hospital administration regarding cleanliness and improving the overall situation with regard to the services. She directed the officials regarding the basic repairs, and to take steps to make the functioning better. UNI

37 garbage hotspots identified in N-E Delhi as govt unveils clean-up plan

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 15 : The Delhi government has launched an extensive cleanliness campaign across the city, with all the cabinet ministers and MLAs participating in the initiative.

In a statement issued here today, Office of the Delhi Development Minister stated that Development Minister Kapil Mishra commenced the cleanliness drive in North-East Delhi's Ghonda Chowk, here today.

As part of the campaign, special cleaning operations and monitoring instructions have been issued to officials for the identified hotspots in the area. Ghonda MLA Ajay Mahawar, local municipal councillor, and district administration officials were also

present. The Minister, along with the local teams, inspected the cleanliness arrangements in the area and issued necessary directions.

During the programme, Mishra said that from today, the entire cabinet and all MLAs are launching a comprehensive cleanliness campaign in every ward of Delhi. "Areas with severe garbage issues will receive special cleaning and continuous monitoring," he said.

He said he has been given the responsibility for North-East Delhi and the trans-Yamuna regions.

"The administration has identified 37 hotspots in the area. We will visit these places daily to review the cleanliness status and ensure that the campaign



progresses consistently and effectively. Daily morning monitoring of these garbage hotspots will be done, and corrective measures will be taken," he added.

He stated that previous governments neglected several

issues related to roads, traffic lights, and sanitation for years. "But now, all ministers and MLAs will inspect various areas daily and receive morning reports on cleanliness progress. With the cooperation of the municipal corporation, district administration, and local

representatives, this campaign is a crucial step towards making Delhi clean and safe."

Speaking about the recently concluded Bihar Assembly elections, Mishra said the victory represented the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies and his direct connect with the people. "Those who spread falsehoods against the country and the armed forces, and try to divide society, are repeatedly given a clear message by the public," he said.

On security arrangements, he said that security agencies remain vigilant. "Terrorist elements may attempt anything out of frustration, but they can neither intimidate Delhi nor affect the nation's security." UNI

November 10 terror attack near Red Fort brings up theory of 'white collar terrorism'

■ BY RAMESH BHAN

NEW DELHI, NOV 15: The 10/11 terror attack in Indian capital and involvement of doctors in it, brings up another face of terrorism--'white collar terrorism', proving it has transcended from proxy war to 'Clash of Ideologies.'

It is clear that the doctors involved who had spent years in medical studies, had some other agenda and medical education was just a façade. Today it is doctors, tomorrow it can be by any respectable profession. An alarming trend, indeed.

Although no one claimed responsibility for the 10/11 terror attack, the chain of events and investigations have pointed to the involvement of Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar once said "terrorism is not something that is being conducted in dark corners of

Pakistan. It is done in broad daylight."

The 10/11 terror attack took place at 1852 hrs near the historic Red Fort. Why Red Fort?

The basic strategy of terrorists is to gain as much publicity as possible. Publicity for terrorist acts has a ripple effect and instils fear among the people. Red Fort is a symbol of India's prestige. Attack on Red Fort would have served two purposes—maximum number of casualties because of the crowded Chandni Chowk and an attack on India's symbol of prestige. The "Doctor terrorists" had also conducted a survey of some crowded places including Azadpur fruit and vegetable market—Asia's biggest and crowded all the time. A blast there would have resulted in hundreds of casualties.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the blast may have been a possible suicide attack in which a terrorist blew himself up in a car near Red Fort. The

government and investigating agencies initially refrained from calling it a terrorist attack. However, after two days of intensive investigations by several security agencies including the elite National Investigation Agency (NIA), the government on November 12 called the incident a terrorist act.

DNA analysis conducted as part of the investigations confirmed that the blast was triggered by one Umar Mohammed, a doctor at a private medical college in Faridabad. The arrest of doctors in subsequent raids at various places gave it the name of "white collar terror."

Although terrorism is an old global phenomenon, terrorist activities against India in particular caught up speed with the launch of 'Operation Tupac', brainchild of former Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq. Operation Tupac is the codename of an ongoing military-intelligence contingency program that has



been active since 1980s and run by Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). It has a three-part action plan to provide covert support to anti-India separatists and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

The program is ongoing as the ISI has maintained its support for Kashmiri terrorists and other ideological militants in their fight against the Indian administration in Jammu and Kashmir. The November 10 terror attack in Delhi is a link in that chain.

American political scientist

Samuel P. Huntington said in 1993 that future wars would be fought not between countries, but between cultures. Huntington later expanded his thesis in 1996 in a book 'Clash of Civilizations and Remaking the World order.' Terrorism, a global scourge, is a stark reminder that it is a new avatar of the Clash of Civilizations.

However, for lack of a proper definition, terrorists are designated as "freedom fighters" in some countries. That is true of Pakistan-trained terrorists—terrorists in India but "freedom

fighters" in Pakistan.

Even the United Nations has not been able to come up with a proper definition of terrorism. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) proposed by India in 1996, is pending clearance at the UN because of lack of definition of terrorism. The CCIT is a proposed treaty to provide a legal framework to combat all forms of international terrorism. It aims to criminalize terrorism, deny terrorists access to safe havens and resources and establish a basis for international cooperation. However, its finalization is stalled by disagreements among member states on the definition of terrorism. There is also no single window at the UN where nations facing terrorism, can present their case, although the UNSC organises seminar and meetings to discuss individual terrorist attacks. But in general terms, there is no mechanism even at

the UN. That brings up an important question—Has the United Nations failed on such an important issue which threatens global peace in the name of ideologies? India has always expressed dissatisfaction at the way UN handles the serious issue of terrorism and has repeatedly called for passing of the CCIT. United Nations has constituted a Committee that makes a list of global terrorists and terrorist organisations. The Committee is authorised to recommend travel ban on designated terrorists, seizure of their properties among other restrictions. The basic strategy of terrorists is to instil fear among people. Salman Rushdie said "How do you defeat terrorism? Don't be terrorised." "The fight against terrorism is an international struggle of free world against forces of darkness," Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister from March 2001 to April 2006, said. UNI



Bumrah's magic seals opening-day honours for India

■ **SIDHARTH MONGA**

KOLKATA: It was pitches in 2015-16, it was the tosses in 2019-20, but India took the pitch and the toss out of the equation in dismissing South Africa for 159 on the first day of the 2024-25 series. The visitors won the toss on a decent batting surface at Eden Gardens, raced away to 57 for 0 in 10 overs, but then became victims of Jasprit Bumrah's 16th five-wicket haul and excellent support work from Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj. India, with a new No. 3 in Washington Sundar, were 37 for 1 in 20 overs possible before stumps.

Guilty of playing too little bowling in the past, India went in with six of them as Washington moved to No. 3, making room for Axar Patel in the XI. For a while, as Siraj struggled for rhythm and Axar was taken down, it seemed India would need all the bowling they could muster.

However, Bumrah had been excellent at the other end. Out of those 57, he had conceded only nine runs in five overs. He pushed himself for two more overs in that first spell, and produced two near unplayable deliveries. He

went round the wicket to swing one in to Ryan Rickelton and then nip it away a touch to take the off stump. In his next over, he got Aiden Markram with one that kicked off a length. Bumrah ended his spell with figures of 7-4-9-2 out of a score of 62 for 2.

It might not have been an unplayable pitch, but it had enough to keep bowlers interested. Kuldeep found that with some quick turn in his first spell. Accordingly, he and Shubman Gill went for a backward short leg as opposed to one in front of square. In no time he had Temba Bavuma edging one there for a sharp catch for Dhruv Jurel, who handed over the big gloves to the returning Rishabh Pant but retained his spot in the XI on the back of a century against West Indies and two against South Africa A.

Tony de Zorzi and Wiaan Mulder somehow saw South Africa through to lunch, but immediately after they had to face the double

trouble of Bumrah and Kuldeep. In just six overs, both had been sent back for an addition of just 15. Mulder, who got off the mark with a reverse-sweep off Kuldeep, fell lbw on the same shot for 24. De Zorzi got a similar delivery to the one that Rickelton did, but this one nipped in and beat him on the inside edge.

The ball had just started to reverse for Bumrah, and Siraj took over to continue the nightmare for South Africa. Kyle Verreynne's big back lift was always an invitation for Siraj, who eventually hit him pad first right in front. In the same over, he hit the top of off of Marco Jansen.

Axar Patel, 3-0-20-0 in his first spell, now returned to find some turn.

With his long arms and low release creating an extreme angle, Axar becomes dangerous once he gets one to turn. He now had Corbin Bosch playing for the non-existent turn and had him lbw with what proved to be the last

ball before tea.

Tristan Stubbs, the specialist batter, didn't farm strike and left the two spinners Simon Harmer and Keshav Maharaj at the mercy of Bumrah, who had them both in one over to go level with BS Chandrasekhar on five-fors and into India's top five. It consigned South Africa to their second-lowest score against India in the first innings of a match.

Batting wasn't quite straightforward for India either, which is where South Africa dearly missed Kagiso Rabada, who was out with a rib injury. In fading east Indian light, Jansen was on the money but couldn't quite find the length with which he could threaten the stumps. He still got the wicket of Yashasvi Jaiswal on the cut.

KL Rahul and Washington had to be watchful with little to gain really. In the brief period of spin possible, Maharaj came close to bowling Rahul, and Harmer showed he was a much-improved bowler from the one that toured India in 2015-16. That Bumrah five-for began to look even more important with a few puffs of dust towards the end of the day.

ESPNCricinfo



Rib injury sidelines Rabada from first Test against India

■ **FIRDOSE MOONDA**

KOLKATA: Kagiso Rabada sustained a rib injury during South Africa's first training session in India on Tuesday, which ended up ruling him out of the Eden Gardens Test on the morning of the match. No decision has been made on whether he will be available for the second Test, which starts in Guwahati next week.

ESPNCricinfo has established that Rabada was taken for a scan the morning after injury occurred. However, he still attended Wednesday's training session. The extent of his participation in that session is unclear, though. He did not take part in Thursday's optional training - which is regular practice for many senior players - and underwent a fitness test before play began on Friday morning. After experienc-



ing discomfort during the test, a late call was made, ruling Rabada out of the Test match.

Corbin Bosch, who has played three Tests prior to this tour, was named in the XI in Rabada's place. Bosch was also part of South Africa's Test squad in Pakistan, but did not play in either of the matches on the tour. He is now one of three seamers in South Africa's line-up for the first Test; the other two are Marco Jansen and Wiaan Mulder.

South Africa do not have any other seamers in their squad, after Lungi Ngidi was left out of both the Pakistan and India series in a horses-for-courses approach to playing in the subcontinent. Despite Rabada's injury, no replacement players have been called up to the squad yet.

South Africa will play another Test, followed by three ODIs and five T20Is, over the next five weeks in India. The white-ball squads have not yet been announced, but it is expected that South Africa will select as close to a first-choice T20I squad as possible, with next year's T20 World Cup in mind. Rabada is expected to be part of that T20I squad.

ESPNCricinfo

Southee returns to KKR as bowling coach for IPL 2026

■ **ESPNCRICINFO**

KOLKATA: Tim Southee, the New Zealand fast-bowling great, has been appointed Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) bowling coach for IPL 2026, as reported by ESPNCricinfo earlier.

"We are delighted to welcome Tim Southee back to the KKR family, this time in a coaching capacity," KKR chief executive Venky Mysore said in a statement. "Tim's vast experience and technical expertise will be instrumental in shaping our bowling unit. His leadership qualities and calm approach make him an ideal mentor for our young bowlers."

Southee, who hasn't retired as a cricketer but has taken on coaching assignments over the past year, including with the England men's national team, said returning to KKR, who he represented as a player, felt like a natural step.

"KKR has always felt like home to me, and it's



an honour to return in this new role," he said. "The franchise has an incredible culture, passionate fans, and a great group of players. I look forward to working closely with the bowlers and helping the team achieve success in IPL 2026." His appointment came amid significant changes to KKR's coaching group, now headed by Abhishek Nayar.

Former bowling coach Bharat Arun and spin coach Carl Crowe have both moved to Lucknow Super Giants, while Ottis Gibson, who served as assistant coach last season, has exited the setup. Shane Watson has joined as their new assistant coach, and Dwayne Bravo continues in his role as team mentor.

JK Tyre's FMSCI National racing championship set for a grand finale

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

COIMBATORE: JK Tyre's FMSCI National Racing Championship, India's premier racing championship is gearing up for its action-packed grand finale at the Kari Motor Speedway from Saturday. After months of fierce competition and nail-biting finishes,

the weekend is all set for the season's final showdown. Now in its 28th edition, the championship stands as India's longest running racing championship. Three-time MotoGP World Champion Freddie Spencer will grace the race weekend.

From rookies chasing their first podium to seasoned pros fighting for cham-

pionship glory, the finale promises edge-of-the-seat racing across all categories.

India's most competitive single-seater category, LGB Formula 4, is also the longest-running class in the JK Tyre National Racing Championship, serving as the crucial bridge between karting and formula racing. After Round 2, Diljith TS (Dark Don Racing) leads the stand-

ings with 53 points, followed by Dhruv Goswami (MSport Racing) on 45 points, and Mehul Agarwal (Dark Don Racing) with 28 points. Strong performances by seasoned drivers here have kept the championship battle wide open as the LGB Formula 4 heads into its final round to decide the 2025 National Champion.

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