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Proud of Indian Army’s Selfless Service and Supreme Sacrifice: LG Manoj Sinha

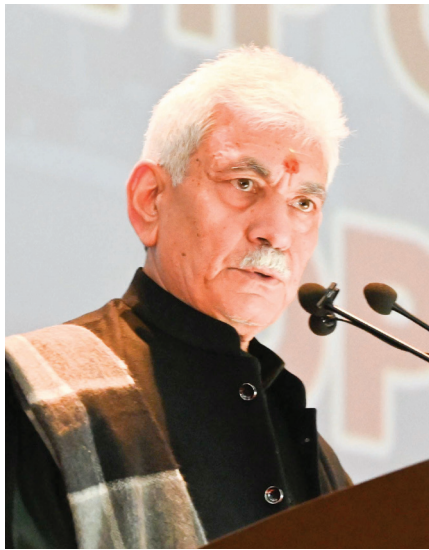
LG Adresses Closing Ceremony of Mega Eye Camp ‘Op Drishti’ at Command Hospital Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday lauded the Indian Army’s unwavering commitment, courage and humanitarian service, calling it a “symbol of unity and national integration,” as he attended the closing ceremony of the mega eye camp ‘Op Drishti’ at Command Hospital, Northern Command, Udhampur.

The four-day camp, organised for veterans, Veer Naris and civilians, featured cataract surgeries performed by a specialist team from Army Hospital Research & Referral (AHRR), Delhi. More than 1,000 individuals from remote districts—Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar and Ramban—were screened, and over 300 surgeries were successfully completed.

Commending the efforts of Northern Command, Armed Forces Medical Services, and the AHRR team, LG Sinha said the camp set “the highest example of humanitarian ideals before the nation.”



He also appreciated the service of Brig. Dr. Sanjay Mishra, a renowned ophthalmologist from AHRR Delhi, for his dedication to community welfare.

Highlighting the importance of
● Turn on Page 2

LG Sinha Attends ITBP’s 64th Raising Day in Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today participated in the 64th Raising Day celebrations of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at the 15th Battalion headquarters in Udhampur.

He interacted with ITBP personnel and conveyed his greetings on the occasion.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar; Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, GOC-in-C Northern Command; J&K DGP Nalin Prabhat; ITBP Director General Praveen Kumar; ADG Mukesh Singh, and other senior officials.

Op Sindoor Was a Trusted Orchestra: Army Chief

SAYS SYNERGY ENABLED DESTRUCTION OF 9 TERROR TARGETS IN JUST 22 MINUTES

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 22: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday described Operation Sindoor as a “trusted orchestra” in which every arm of the Indian military played a perfectly synchronised role, enabling the destruction of nine terrorist targets in just 22 minutes.

Speaking at the convocation ceremony of the New Delhi Institute of Management (NDIM), Gen Dwivedi said the May 7 operation was shaped by years of preparation, technological integration and institutional foresight.

“Operation Sindoor was a trusted orchestra where every musician played a simultaneous or synergistic role. That is how we could destroy nine terrorist targets in 22 minutes and bring the battle to an end in 80 hours,” he said. “There was no time for decision-making, had we not visualised and trusted the entire team.”

India launched Operation Sindoor after Pakistan-backed terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir became a threat. The military engagement between the two nations continued for nearly 88 hours, ending on May 10 after an understanding was reached.

Gen Dwivedi told graduating students that the operation reflected how intelligence, precision and technology converge during decisive action. “It was a response shaped not in the moment, but through years of imagining how these elements could come together,” he said.

Addressing the theme ‘Navigating Change: The Real Constant’, the Army Chief spoke extensively about evolving geopolitical tensions, the rise of geoeconomics, and technology’s role as a disruptive force in both warfare and business.

“As 55 conflicts rage across the world, the boundaries between peace and conflict are blurring,” he said. “The grammar of global engagement now consists of six Cs — cooperation, collaboration, co-existence, competition, contestation and conflict.”

He highlighted how technology has transformed both battlefields and markets. “Warfare has moved from trenches to intelligent networks, rifles to drones, boots to bots,” Gen Dwivedi noted, urging students to embrace the “velocity of relevance” in an era of rapid change.

Reflecting on his own journey, he said that when he was commissioned, “computers were nowhere on the horizon”, but today the
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Red Fort Blast a Strike on India, Not Any Faith: J&K BJP Urges People to Reject Communal Spin

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 22: Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson Tahir Chowdhary has called on citizens to firmly reject any communal narrative surrounding the November 10 Red Fort blast in Delhi, insisting that the attack was a targeted act of terrorism against India and not an assault on any religious community.

Describing the explosion, which claimed 15 lives, as a “planned and organised terror operation,” Chowdhary commended the swift coordination of security agencies and said invoking UAPA and other stringent laws against the accused was both necessary and justified.

“Terrorists want chaos and division. Giving this attack a communal angle is playing into their hands,” he said.

Chowdhary said arrests made so far, including those from Pulwama, point to a wider conspiracy behind the strike. He stressed that the Red Fort a symbol of India’s unity and democratic strength was chosen deliberately by those seeking to destabilise the nation.

“The attackers did not target Hindus or Muslims. They targeted India. They targeted peace. Terror has no religion,” he said.

He added that the nature of the explosives and the method of execution indicated a
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J&K Gets 50 Extra MGNREGA Workdays for Calamity-Hit Panchayats: CM Expresses Gratitude to Centre

■ MUKARAM ALI

JAMMU, NOV 22: The Union Government has approved an additional 50 days of MGNREGA employment for Jammu and Kashmir’s calamity-affected Panchayats, prompting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to thank Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the timely intervention aimed at easing the hardships of rural households.

The Chief Minister also lauded J&K’s Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, for his successful efforts in pushing the proposal with



the Ministry of Rural Development, calling the approval “a crucial support for families struggling in the aftermath of natural disasters”.

Under the revised provision, the MGNREGA work limit for the 2025–26 financial year has been raised from 100 to 150 days for households in the 1,962 Panchayats officially designated as flood-affected. The UT administration had sought special consideration after floods and landslides severely disrupted agricultural activity and rural income sources.

Officials said the recommendation
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PM Modi Proposes Four Initiatives At G20, Including One To Counter Drug-Terror Nexus

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JOHANNESBURG, NOV 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for a profound rethink of the global development parameters and proposed setting up of a G20 initiative to counter the drug-terror nexus and a global healthcare

response team.

Addressing the opening session of the G20 Leaders’ Meeting here, Modi said the G20 has long shaped global finance and growth, but prevailing models have deprived large populations of resources and driven the over-exploitation of nature – challenges felt acutely in Africa.

Modi also presented the principle of Integral Humanism — part of India’s civilisational values — which he said showed a way forward in striking a balance between development and nature.

The prime minister outlined four path-breaking new initiatives – the Global
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Srinagar Security Stable, Robust Measures Ensuring Peace: IG, CRPF

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 22: The security situation in Srinagar has witnessed significant improvement, with all necessary arrangements in place to maintain peace, CRPF Inspector

General (IG) for Srinagar Sector, Pawan Kumar Sharma, said on Saturday. He attributed the stability to strong coordination among all security agencies.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma said the CRPF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Indian Army

and the civil administration are working in close synergy to ensure a peaceful environment in the region.

“Every possible security measure has been taken across Srinagar and adjoining areas,”
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Court Permits Red Fort Blast Accused to Meet Lawyer at NIA Headquarters

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 22: A Delhi court on Saturday allowed Red Fort blast accused Jasir Bilal Wani to meet his counsel at the National Investigation Agency (NIA) headquarters, granting relief a day after the High Court directed him to approach the trial court for appropriate orders.

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India Poised to Lead Planetary Stewardship: Dr Jitendra

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

LUCKNOW, NOV 22: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; MoSPMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today asserted India’s capability to lead “planetary stewardship” and called for a global coalition to

address the pressing challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, emerging technologies, and planetary governance.

Addressing the panel discussion on “Climate Justice and Planetary Stewardship: Legal Frameworks for Existential Challenges” at the 26th “International Conference of Chief Justices of the World” at the World Unity Convention Centre, CMS Road

here, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that judges today stand at the crossroads of constitutional interpretation, scientific understanding, and moral responsibility, making their role pivotal in shaping the future of humanity.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the world is living through an era of “interconnected crises”- climate
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SIA Arrests Man in ‘White Collar’ Terror Module Case

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Police’s State Investigation Agency arrested a man here on Saturday in connection with a ‘white collar’ terror module case, officials said.

The arrested person has been identified as Tufail Niyaz Bhat, a resident of the Batamaloo area of the city here. He was arrested as part of the ongoing investigation into the ‘white collar’ terror module case, the officials added.

The entire module was busted after the Srinagar Police began an investigation into the pasting of posters that threatened police and security forces on walls in Bunpora, Nowgam, in mid-October.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthi personally led the investigation, and the CCTV footage analysis led to the arrest of the first three suspects — Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, and Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid.

Their interrogation led to the arrest of Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, a former paramedic
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CS for creating analytical tools on PMGS Portal to ease governance

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting of all concerned Administrative Heads to review the status of data layers uploaded on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) Portal across Jammu & Kashmir and to assess progress in leveraging the platform as a comprehensive decision-support system for holistic and evidence-based governance.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the critical importance of developing innova-

tive and user-oriented analytical tools on the PMGS portal to derive clear insights from the available datasets. He emphasized that accurate, granular and dynamic data is vital for informed policy formulation and efficient service delivery aimed at enhancing public welfare.

He took this occasion to urge all departments to move beyond conventional data uploading and focus on meaningful analytical integration to strengthen planning and monitoring mechanisms. He called for accelerating the creation of polygonal data instead of mapping

point data only.

The Chief Secretary directed the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department to take the lead in uploading detailed data layers concerning youth engagement across all districts of the UT. He called for comprehensive datasets covering skilling initiatives, employment trends, entrepreneurial activities, sports participation and educational indicators of youth to facilitate the formulation of targeted and impactful youth-centric policies.

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CS Pushes for Integrated Tourism Boost in Jammu Region

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the works and initiatives undertaken by the Tourism Department for promoting and strengthening tourism across the Jammu region. The review focused on evaluating progress, enhancing infrastructure, and formulating strategies to position Jammu as a vibrant, year-round tourism destination.

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DC Srinagar reviews functioning of KKGs established under HADP

Stresses Acceleration of Services Through KKGs to ensure efficient implementation of HADP

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 22: To review the progress in functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars of District Srinagar established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), a comprehensive meeting of line departments was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at Meeting Hall of the DC Office, here today.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the status of farmer and farm registrations on the KKG App, daily reporting mechanisms of Krishi Udyamis (KUs), and

the readiness of KKGs for the Phase-II launch. He also reviewed the KYC verification status of farmers visiting KKGs and the availability of IT and non-IT infrastructure, including PoS machines.

Further, the DC evaluated the status of seed, fertilizer, and pesticide license, along with the progress of CSC onboarding across the district. The meeting also discussed the engagement of Krishi Udyamis for Faqir Gujri Panchayat.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to accelerate the pace of service delivery through Kissan Khidmat Ghars to ensure efficient implementation of HADP initiatives aimed at farmer welfare. He directed



officers to ensure 100 percent coverage and saturation of farmer registrations on the KKG App by next week. He



further instructed that Krishi Udyamis, through CSCs, must provide agriculture and allied sector services at the farmer's

doorsteps, enabling KUs to emerge as capable agri-entrepreneurs.

The DC also emphasized substantially increasing farm registrations and KYC completion, directing the District CSC Coordinator to ensure timely

provision of login credentials to all KUs for seamless updates and reporting.

Earlier, the meeting was informed that over 8,700 farmers have so far visited KKGs in the district and registered themselves on the KKG App to avail the services being offered.

Besides Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, the meeting was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Agriculture Officer, District Officer Sericulture, Srinagar, Assistant Director, Fisheries, District Coordinator, CSC and Krishi Udayamis of District Srinagar and other concerned.

Literary event held in Wakoora with Cultural Academy, Paigam Adab-o-Ilm

GULFAM BARJI

GANDERBAL, NOV 22: A grand literary event was organized at Higher Secondary School Saadat Valley, Wakoora Ganderbal, through the joint efforts of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Paigam Adab-o-Ilm Dub Ganderbal. The program consisted of two sessions. In the first session, Maqamay were presented by Dr. Showkat Shahbaz, Mohammad Ashraf Mir and Syed Masood Shadab.



The second session comprised a poetics symposium (mushaira), presided over by Saleem Yusuf, President of the Inder Cultural Forum. Syed Asadullah Safvi and Syed Akhtar Hussain Mansoor were also present in the presidential panel.

Among the poets who participated in the mushaira were Ghaznafar Shahbaz, Ashfaq Hameed, Ghulam Hussain Haq-Nawaz, Manzoor Raees, Mir Rafiq, Majeed Rabtari, Ibrahim Sumblai, Syed Masood Shadab, and Syed Mohammad Madani.

The event was hosted by the renowned Urdu poet and broadcaster Dr. Showkat Shahbaz.

“An Interaction with Prof. Shad Ramzan” Held at Tagore Hall

A Prestigious Literary Event Organized by the Cultural Academy

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, NOV 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages today hosted a remarkable literary interaction titled “An Interaction with Prof. Shad Ramzan” at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall, Srinagar. The event celebrated the life and literary contributions of Prof. Shad Ramzan, an eminent Kashmiri writer, poet, translator, educationist, and critic.

The programme was presided over by noted educationist and critic Prof. Bashir Bashir, while renowned poet Prof. Naseem Shafaie graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Prof. Shad Ramzan, President of Adbee Markaz Kamraz Mohammad Amin Bhat, and Additional Secretary of the Academy Ideel Saleem were also present in the presidium.

The ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Additional Secretary Ideel Saleem, who warmly greeted the audience and highlighted the Academy's consistent literary and cultural initiatives. This was followed by an extensive scholarly paper presented by distin-



guished critic Dr. Satish Vimal, focusing on Prof. Shad Ramzan's intellectual and literary achievements, which received overwhelming appreciation from the audience.

The Academy honoured Prof. Ramzan with a traditional shawl and a commemorative memento. During the event, Prof. Ramzan shared valuable insights from his personal life, academic journey, and creative experiences, while expressing gratitude to the Cultural Academy for organizing the programme.

The session was followed by a vibrant and engaging interactive

segment, during which numerous literary personalities asked questions related to Prof. Ramzan's creative path and academic contributions. The participants included: Engineer Mohammad Shafi, Shamshad Kralwari, Mohammad Yousuf Shaheen, Ayash Aarif, Gulshan Badarani, Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, Shabir Mujahid, Shafiq Qureshi, Touseef Raza, Riyaz Ahmad Riyaz, Dr. Abid Ahmad, Mansoor Banhali, Rouf Adil, Masood Shadab, Dr. Samiullah, Dr. Arif Mir, Dr. Imtiyaz Hussain, G.M. Dilshad, and Dr. Shabir Ahmad Ganaie.

Speaking on the occasion, AMK President Mohammad Amin Bhat highlighted that Prof. Shad Ramzan is among the rare figures whose intellectual insight and creative excellence have enriched every dimension of Kashmiri literature.

In his presidential address, Prof. Bashir Bashir paid rich tribute to Prof. Ramzan's scholarly stature, stating that personalities like him are seldom born in the history of Kashmiri literature. He remarked that Prof. Ramzan holds an exceptional place for his equal command over creative writing, criticism, research,

and teaching, describing him as not just an accomplished poet and prose writer but also a beacon of intellectual guidance for the younger generation. He further added that such interactions are not only intellectually nourishing but also a source of hope and energy for the future of literature.

The event witnessed the presence of many prominent writers, poets, scholars, and literature enthusiasts including Dr. Nazeer Mushtaq, Lateef Niyazi, Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, Shehnaz Rasheed, Waheed Jeelani, Rasheed Nizami, Seth Rafi, Shakeel Azad, Imdad Saqi, Izhaar Mubashir, Muzaffar Hussain Dillbar, Zameer Ansari, Sagar Sarfaraz, Shehzad Manzoor, Majeed Majazi, Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Dr. Shabnam Aishai, Dr. Zulfiqar Siddiqi, Nasir Zameer, Saleem Salik, Dr. Asma Shah, Laila Rasool, Dr. Nelofer Naz Nahvi, Dildar Ashraf Shah, Katib Gulzar Ahmad, Musrat Jan, Aafia Qari, Yasmeen Tahir, Jameel Ansari, and Abdul Hameed Sheikh.

The event was conducted by Assistant Editor (Kashmiri) Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, while Editor (Kashmiri) Jawaid Iqbal Khan presented the vote of thanks.

MEGA ENROLLMENT DRIVE HELD AT GMS BONAPORA TREHGAM



HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, NOV 22: Girls Middle School Bunpora Trehgam today conducted a vibrant Enrolment Drive under the district-wide admission campaign. The event was graced by ZEO Trehgam Mr. Abdul Ahad Lone and ZEPO Trehgam Mr. G. N. Malik as Guests of Honour.

Addressing the gathering Zonal Education Officer Trehgam Mr. Abdul Ahad Lone highlighted the importance of quality education, improved infrastructure, and the all-round development of students, urging the community to strengthen their support for government schools.

Renowned educationist Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Mir and ZNO Enrolment Mr.

Mohammad Altaf Khan also praised the school's notable role in promoting girls' education and community engagement.

A major highlight was the on-spot admission of 16 new students, who were welcomed with gifts, books, and learning kits. Toppers of the recent Summative Assessment were also felicitated.

The event witnessed strong participation from civil society members, SMC representatives, parents, mothers, youth, and ex-panchayat members.

The programme was smoothly anchored by Mr. Abdul Razaq Gojri, while Head of Institution Mr. Parvaiz Iqbal Shah thanked all dignitaries and reaffirmed the school's commitment to a safe, inclusive, and enriching learning environment.

Rahul Sahai Calls on Union MoS Home Affairs Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 22: Rahul Sahai, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu & Kashmir, called on Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India, during the Minister's visit to Jammu today. The meeting was a courteous interaction, reflecting ICC Jammu's continuous engagement with the J&K Government on matters concerning trade, industry, and overall economic growth of the region. During the interaction, Sahai presented an idol of Mata Vaishno Devi Ji to the Hon'ble Minister as a gesture of respect and goodwill, and also extended a warm invitation to him to visit the holy shrine for Devi Darshan.

Sahai apprised the Minister of the evolving industrial landscape of Jammu & Kashmir and highlighted the major reforms and improvements witnessed since 2020 under the leadership of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha ji, particularly in infrastructure, industrial policy, investment facilitation, and business climate enhancement. He further stated that the newly formed government under Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah and his cabinet is carrying these initiatives forward, ensuring continuity in growth-led governance and support to the industrial sector.

In the meeting, Sahai discussed several important matters related to trade and commerce, such as strengthening industrial security, improving interstate logistics and supply chain movement, addressing infrastructure and land allot-



ment gaps, enhancing warehousing and cold-chain facilities, boosting MSME competitiveness, and fostering smoother coordination between trade bodies and government departments for timely resolution of issues. He emphasized the continued need for support from the Union Government to accelerate industrial expansion, improve ease of doing business, and create a stable and investor-friendly environment in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Hon'ble Minister appreciated the perspectives shared by Sahai and assured that the Ministry will remain supportive toward strengthening the trade and industry ecosystem of the Union Territory.

LoP Sharma thanks PM for raising MGNREGA person-days to 150 in J&K

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 22: Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, today extended heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and Hon'ble MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh for their timely and visionary decision to enhance the number of person days under MGNREGA from 100 to 150 for Jammu & Kashmir.

Sharma said the approval reflects the Union Government's deep commitment to the welfare of rural families in J&K, especially at a time when natural calamities have severely disrupted daily livelihood activities. With 1962 Panchayats officially declared as 'flood affected', the increased person days will act as a critical relief measure to support communities facing livelihood strain.

"This decision will bring immediate stability to thousands of vulnerable rural households," the LoP stated. "It will not only help mitigate economic distress but will also facilitate the creation of durable, long-term community assets under MGNREGA, contributing to sustainable development across J&K."

Sharma reaffirmed that the Opposition stands firmly with all efforts aimed at strengthening livelihood security, empowering rural communities, and ensuring equitable development across the Union Territory.

DC Srinagar conducts on site visit of Sanat Nagar Flyover, load testing underway for operationalisation of the flyover

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR NOV 22 : Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday conducted an on-site inspection of the Sanat Nagar Flyover to assess the pace and status of the ongoing work on the Rs 30 crore project aimed to decongesting traffic on the City's busy bypass corridor.

SSP Traffic Police, Aijaz Ahmad; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid; Superintending Engineer R&B, Tetheer Manzoor; Executive Engineer R&B, Nasir Amin; Tehsildar Chanapora and



other Officers and official accompanied the DC during the visit.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the remaining works and inspected the concluding components of the project, which has entered its final stage of completion.

He was further apprised that mandatory load testing of one tube has been already completed and second is expected to be done by tomorrow, paving the way for final finishing works.

He was also informed that the installation of poles and lighting is also nearing completion, with only minor works pending before the structure becomes

fully operational.

The DC directed the executing agencies to ensure expeditious completion of the remaining components while maintaining the highest standards of quality and safety.

He emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to expedite the final touches so the key infrastructure project is thrown open for public use at the earliest, in sync with the safety norms and testing.

The DC added that the completion of the flyover is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion in the Sanat Nagar bypass corridor and provide major relief to the commuters.

KVIB holds Awareness-Cum-Interaction Programme in Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 22: The Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), District Office Budgam, organized an Awareness-cum-Interaction Programme today at Government Polytechnic College, Nagaam Chadoora Budgam.

The event was attended by representatives from DIC Budgam, senior officials from J&K KVIB, representatives from Block office, and other officials from line departments.

The programme aimed to inform and sensitize the rural unemployed educated youth, aspiring entrepreneurs, artisans, beekeepers and other stakeholders from Block Nagaam Chadoora and adjoining areas about self-employment opportunities and schemes such as PMEGP and JKREGP. Participants received guidance on project formulation, loan procedures, and available government support.

Addressing the gathering, the District Officer KVIB Budgam, highlighted financial assistance schemes, employment generation programs, technical training and marketing support available to rural as well as urban entrepreneurs from J&K KVIB.

District Officer KVIB Budgam also shared performance highlighted that in 2024-25, 498 PMEGP cases were disbursed involving Rs 1379.92 lakh in margin money, generating 2988 jobs, while 15 JKREGP cases were disbursed with Rs 48.30 lakh in margin money, creating 120 rural employment opportunities.

The event witnessed active participation from locals interested in modernizing and expanding their livelihoods/entrepreneurship.

The initiative reaffirms J&K KVIB's commitment to promoting rural entrepreneurship, strengthening village industries, and supporting sustainable economic development.

The initiative received an enthusiastic response from participants, who actively engaged in discussions about entrepreneurship opportunities and government support mechanisms.

This awareness camp represents J&K KVIB's continued commitment to empowering rural entrepreneurship and fostering sustainable economic development in the block. By focusing on traditional industries alongside other village industries, the Board aims to strengthen local economies while preserving indigenous skills and practices.

The programme marks another significant step in the Board's ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between government schemes and grassroots beneficiaries, ensuring that rural communities have access to the resources and knowledge necessary for economic self-reliance.

The camp concluded with distribution of informative material, booklets and registration procedure to the participants.

Women's Degree College Baramulla celebrates Annual Day-cum-Harud Festival 2025

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 22: Government Women's Degree College Baramulla today celebrated its Annual Day-cum-Harud Festival 2025 with great enthusiasm and vibrant cultural spirit.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

DC Baramulla formally inaugurated the Harud Festival 2025, during which a variety of thematic stalls were installed by students, local participants and other stakeholders. The stalls showcased local crafts, skill products, education-based exhibits and promotional displays, highlighting creativity, innovation and active community involvement.



The event also featured vibrant cultural performances, presentations and student felicitation segments as part of the Annual Day celebrations, adding colour and energy to the programme.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the college administration, Principal and faculty for organising the event and praised the efforts of the students for their enthusiastic participation. He highlighted the importance of such platforms in nurturing talent, building confidence and promoting academic and cultural excellence. He encouraged students to utilise educational opportunities and contribute positively to society.

Principal Women's Degree College Baramulla, briefed the DC about the activities and achievements of the institution. They expressed gratitude for the continuous support of the district administration in strengthening academic and co-curricular initiatives.

DLSA Bandipora holds Special Lok Adalat on Criminal Compoundable Matters

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 22: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora, conducted a Special Lok Adalat today, exclusively dedicated to the disposal of criminal compoundable cases across the District Court Bandipora and the Munsiff Courts of the district.

The initiative underscores the continuing institutional commitment to conciliatory justice, timely dispute resolution, and augmentation of accessible legal redressal mechanisms.

The Special Lok Adalat was organized under the leadership of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority).

The proceedings were supervised by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, and Mir Wajahat, Principal District & Sessions Judge with Bench Member Advocate Malik Mushtaq. The Second Bench was presided over by Amandeep Singh, Chairman TLSC (Munsiff/JMIC) Bandipora, with Bench Member, Mehak Mehboob, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Bandipora. The Third Bench was presided over by Mushtaq Ahmad Hurra, President, Bar Association



Bandipora. For the expeditious and amicable settlement of the listed matters, three benches were constituted which included first Bench at District Court Bandipora, Presided over by Mir Wajahat, Principal District & Sessions Judge with Bench Member Advocate Malik Mushtaq. The Second Bench

was presided over by Amandeep Singh, Chairman TLSC (Munsiff/JMIC) Bandipora, with Bench Member, Mehak Mehboob, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Bandipora. The Third Bench was presided over by Mushtaq Ahmad Hurra, President, Bar Association

Sumbal with Bench Member, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Public Prosecutor, Munsiff Court Sumbal.

A total of 814 criminal compoundable cases were taken up before these benches, out of which 704 matters stood amicably settled, and an amount of 19,71,187 was realized as settlement amount.

The District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora, reaffirms its resolve to promote participatory justice, reduce pendency through lawful conciliation, and strengthen public confidence in the justice delivery system.

DLSA Srinagar organizes Special Lok Adalat on "Criminal Compoundable Cases"

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: In accordance with the calendar of activities issued by J&K Legal Services Authority for the month of November 2025, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat on "Criminal Compoundable Cases" at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Criminal Compoundable Cases, was held Under the directions of Justice

Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority and under the guidance of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the supervision of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. and Sessions Judge) Srinagar.

To ensure smooth and effective settlement, two benches were constituted for the proceedings. The first bench was presided over by Fida Hussain Nayek, Municipal



Magistrate Srinagar and Junaid Imtiyaz Mir, Sub Judge/ Judge Small Causes Srinagar, while the second bench was presided over by Vikas Bhardwaj, 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar and Zirgham Hamid, 1st Additional Munsiff Srinagar.

The Special Lok Adalat underscores the commitment of DLSA Srinagar and the J&K Legal Services Authority towards strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and promoting timely, accessible, and amicable justice for the public.

J&K Judicial Academy Srinagar organises workshop on Wildlife Protection Laws

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOV 22: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), organised a One Day Workshop on Wildlife Protection Laws for Judicial Officers of the Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh at the Academy premises in Mominabad, Srinagar.

During the programme, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, lighted the constitutional mandates enshrined in Article 48A and Article 51A(g), underscoring the duty of the State and every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment and safeguard

wildlife. He reflected on the unique ecological sensitivity of Jammu & Kashmir and the growing challenges related to illegal wildlife trade and habitat threats, stressing the urgent need for stronger enforcement and judicial awareness.

Senior Manager and Head, J&KWTI, Dr. Tanushree Srivastava, while speaking during the program outlined the scope and objectives of the workshop and emphasized the importance of enhancing institutional capacities to address wildlife crimes effectively.

Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, in his keynote address, emphasized Jammu & Kashmir is not immune to the threats posed by wildlife crimes. He stressed the need for the judiciary to remain proactive and sensitive in enforcing wildlife protection laws and called for consistency and rigor in adjudicating such offences to preserve the



region's fragile ecological balance.

Chief of Enforcement & CEO, WTI, Jose Louies, led Technical Session by tracing India's long cultural legacy of wildlife protection, symbolized famously by the Ashokan Lion Capital, reflecting the country's inherent commitment to coexistence with nature. He outlined the primary drivers of illegal wildlife trade including demand for pets, cultural and traditional practices. Highlighting that poachers have increasingly become aware of enforcement techniques, thus, posing serious challenges to effective detection.

The guest lecture was delivered by Former Judge, Bombay High Court & Chairman, Maharashtra State Commission for Backward Classes Justice Sunil B. Shukre. He provided an in-depth exposition of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, explaining its conservation-centric objectives and the strict standard of scrutiny adopted by the

judiciary. Referencing Supreme Court judgments, he discussed the "broader probabilities" approach applied in wildlife cases, especially in light of evidentiary challenges arising from offences committed in remote wilderness areas.

Advocate, High Court of Delhi & Legal Advisor, WTI, Lovish Sharma led Technical Session II. He explained the structure and schedules of the Wildlife Protection Act, elaborating on key sections and significant case law. He also reviewed key provisions and significant case law shaping contemporary wildlife jurisprudence.

Former District & Sessions Judge, Assam Judicial Service, Darak Ullah, during technical session focused on the judicial approach required for ensuring successful convictions under wildlife laws, including effective evaluation of evidence, application of statutory presumptions, and awarding compensation in appropriate cases. He shared

practical insights from his judicial experience, illustrating how courts can overcome challenges inherent in wildlife crime prosecution.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Biswajit Saika, conducted a demonstration on wildlife article identification, explaining how enforcement agencies examine confiscated articles, distinguish genuine wildlife derivatives from synthetic ones, and document material for prosecution. The session familiarized judicial officers with on-ground procedures followed in wildlife crime investigations.

The workshop was marked by rich discussions, practical demonstrations, and reflective exchanges, reinforcing the Judicial Academy's ongoing commitment to equipping the district judiciary with the knowledge and sensitivity required to address wildlife crimes with clarity, competence, and ecological consciousness.

Commissioner Secretary FCSCA reviews functioning of FCS & CA Jammu

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOV 22: Commissioner Secretary, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Saurabh Bhagat, today presided over a comprehensive review of the FCSCA Department's functioning in Jammu. Director FCSCA Jammu, Rifat Kohli besides senior officers of the department including district officers attended the meeting. The Director apprised the Commissioner of the department's current performance, ongoing projects and future plans aimed at to enhance efficiency, transparency

and citizen-centric service delivery.

During the briefing, the Director FCSCA Jammu outlined the current stock and distribution status of food grains. She informed that 100 percent ration provisioning for winter dumping stations has been achieved, reflecting the department's commitment to timely and reliable supply to the targeted eligible beneficiaries.

The meeting had detailed discussion on various schemes designed to streamline welfare operations. These included digitization of Migrants' ration cards, SMART-PDS (Smart Public



Distribution System) and the Aadhar-enabled Allocation and Supply Chain Management System (AeSCM).

Further, deliberations were held on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of a Training-cum-Conference

Hall in Jammu under the SASCI scheme, with a focus on timely progress and adherence to quality standards. The meeting

underscored the need for capacity-building of all officials at all levels with emphasis on targeted workshops and training programs, thereby improving service delivery to consumers.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the importance of prompt and responsive service to the public, directing the officials to complete the digitization of migrants' ration cards within the prescribed timelines in close coordination with the Relief Organization. He was also informed about the ration provisioning for Darbar Move employees at the fair-price shops located near the Darbar

Move staff quarters/ accommodations. The discussions concluded with a consensus on continuing capacity-building efforts and maintaining high standards of governance and accountability. The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed special UT Schemes wherein individual beneficiaries of AAY and PHH are provided additional 5 Kg ration, thus increasing the availability to 10 Kg. Pertinently, the Directorate of FCS&CA, Jammu is providing 10 Kg ration per head to 37,412 number of AAY(S) beneficiaries and 6,30,694 number of PHH beneficiaries under PMFSS.

DC Kupwara chairs NCORD meeting, reviews measures for containing drug abuse

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review various measures put in place by different departments for curbing the drug abuse in the district.

SSP Kupwara, Syed Tahir Al Geelani; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ASP Handwara, ACR, SDM Lolab, AC Panchayats, CMO, MS District Hospital, were present in the meeting. Besides, Principals of GDCs and Tehsildars attended the meeting virtually.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on the agenda points and the officers presented detailed reports on the work done as per their roles and responsibilities.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner impressed upon all the officers to make coordinated efforts and work aggressively for eradication of drug abuse and addiction in the district. He directed the concerned officers to focus on rehabilitation of drug victims by providing them self employment avenues under different schemes.



Reviewing the measures under Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI), it was given out that awareness programmes are being conducted in schools and colleges against the drug consumption to keep the youth away from the drug addiction. Principals of GDCs were asked to ensure installation of CCTVs at main gate points and around boundary wall of the Colleges so as to keep surveillance over drug related activities.

The Tehsildars along with Police were directed to identify drug hotspots where CCTVs shall be installed to keep close vigil on the drug abuse. Meanwhile, the CMO informed that 1409 substance abusers have been identified out of which 791 are under treatment at Drug De-Addiction Centre Kupwara, besides, 432 have been recovered so far.

SSP Kupwara also gave feedback about the enforcement measures made by the Police in the district to contain the drug abuse.

Later, the DC chaired a separate meeting of concerned officers to review the coordination at district level under NDPS Act. SSP Kupwara, ADC Kupwara, ASP Handwara, ACR and other concerned were present in the meeting.

DSEK strengthens School Infrastructure at GHSS Chursoo Highlights Commitment to Quality Education

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, today inaugurated a newly established Reception Centre and Mini Auditorium at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Chursoo, Awantipora.

Speaking during an Enrollment Drive organized on the occasion, the Director reaffirmed that ground-level inspection and continuous monitoring of schools are essential components of an effective education system. He further added that the department remains committed to enhancing school facilities across the region to ensure a conducive learning environment for every child.

During the event, the school

unveiled a notable student publication titled "All for Thy Name", authored by the student of the said school, Adnan Gul, reflecting the institution's focus on promoting creative and academic excellence.

On this occasion, the Director also facilitated the formal enrollment of nearly two dozen students, encouraging parents to actively support their children's educational journey.

Outstanding student performers were felicitated with certificates and awards in recognition of their achievements.

In his address, the Director commended the school administration for its efficient utilization of available resources and acknowledged its continuous efforts to improve academic



DAAM facilitates visit of specially abled persons, ex-servicemen to Burzhaom Archaeological Site, SPS Museum Srinagar

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: In a unique initiative during the world heritage week celebration, the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museum (DAAM), J&K under the supervision of the Director, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, A special visit was organized for a group of specially-abled individuals and ex-servicemen to the SPS Museum Srinagar and Burzhaom Archaeological Site today.

The initiative aimed to provide an enriching cultural experience, promote historical awareness, and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of ex-servicemen and the inspiring spirit of specially-abled participants.

During the visit, the visitors explored the museum's significant historical artifacts, heritage collections, and exhibits that reflect the region's rich cultural evolution. At the Burzhaom Archaeological Site, experts briefed the visitors about the site's history, excavation processes,



and notable findings, making the tour both educational and engaging.

The ex-servicemen shared their experiences, which added a meaningful dimension to the visit and inspired the younger participants.

Participants expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the thoughtful arrangements and the opportunity to connect with the region's heritage in a comfortable and memorable manner.

Director Agriculture Kashmir chairs review meeting on HADP, CSS, CAPEX, NABARD Schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 22: In a bid to assess the physical and financial progress of key agricultural initiatives across the Kashmir Division, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today convened a high-level review meeting at the Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The session focused on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development



(NABARD)-funded projects.

All Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) and District Development Officers (DDOs) from the division were present, ensuring a thorough district-wise evaluation.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation highlighted scheme-wise and component-wise expenditures, physical achievements, and progress against set targets under HADP projects, CSS, CAPEX, and NABARD.

The Director emphasized the critical importance of expeditious and judicious utilization of allocated funds to deliver maximum benefits to the farming community. He urged officers to maintain utmost transparency and accountability in all financial transactions while accelerating project implementation to prevent any lapses.

"Strengthening agricultural infrastructure, integrating technological interventions, and ensuring seamless scheme delivery are pivotal to enhancing productivity and uplifting the socio-economic status of our farmers," said the Director. He directed the officers to intensify outreach efforts, actively engage with farmer communities, and promote awareness about HADP initiatives and modern farming techniques for grassroots-level success.

Reiterating the department's commitment, the Director affirmed that Agriculture department remains dedicated to fostering resilient agriculture and sustainable farmer welfare across Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Budgam reviews Progress of HADP

Directs Departments for Accelerated Implementation, Timely Deliverables

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 22 Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

A comprehensive project-wise and department-wise assessment of all twenty approved HADP projects was undertaken during the meeting, covering key sectors including agriculture, horticulture, animal and sheep husbandry, floriculture, fisheries and allied activities.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 16,894 applications have been received across various interventions of

HADP in Budgam. Out of these, 15,325 applications have been approved at the District Nodal Officer (DNO) level, while 15,218 have been cleared at the CBO/CEO level, reflecting a high degree of responsiveness and effective scrutiny.

The DC noted that Budgam continues to register encouraging progress, with several interventions exhibiting near-complete saturation at the beneficiary level.

A detailed review of major projects including, Seed and Seed Multiplication Chain, Promotion of Niche Crops, Promotion of Vegetables and Exotic Vegetables, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Promotion of Beekeeping, Farm Mechanization, Mushroom Production, Formation of FPOs, Commercial Floriculture, Rainwater

Harvesting and Water Management, Soil and Land Resource Development, and Automation and Digital Agriculture look was carried out.

The status of approvals, establishment of beneficiaries, and cumulative achievements for 2023-24 and 2024-25 was thoroughly examined.

The financial progress of all ongoing HADP interventions was also reviewed, with attention given to funds released, expenditure booked, and the pace of implementation.

During the meeting, the DC stressed that real-time monitoring must be strengthened to verify progress at the grassroots level.

Departments were directed to ensure that pending utilisation certificates to be submitted without

delay.

He Emphasised on the need for enhanced field inspections, cross-department coordination, and consistent outreach to farmers and stakeholders so that benefits reach all eligible individuals in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Departments were asked to ensure weekly reporting of progress, elimination of pendency at all stages, and strict adherence to project guidelines.

The DC further underlined that HADP represents a major shift in the agricultural development framework of Jammu and Kashmir, and that Budgam should maintain steady progress to ensure timely completion of all set targets.

It was conveyed that

departments must reinforce on-ground execution mechanisms, streamline beneficiary facilitation processes, and ensure that each intervention results in measurable improvement across the agriculture and allied sectors.

The DC directed that all departments shall ensure door-to-door facilitation of beneficiaries, particularly in areas where pendency still exists. It was further instructed that field-level officers must intensify inspections to verify the timely establishment of units sanctioned under various HADP components.

The DC stressed that no delay shall be allowed in the procurement and distribution of machinery, planting material, livestock units, or technical equipment approved under the programme.

HT EDITORIAL

Great News! MGNREGA employment days increased from 100 to 150 days in J&K

In a significant development the Government of India has approved additional 50 days of employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act popularly known as MGNREGA. As on date 100 days of employment are available to the labour force carrying under various works under the Act. The enhancement of 50 days means that the labourers of Jammu & Kashmir would be entitled to 150 days of employment under MGNREGA.

The enhancement of 50 days employment for the labour force of Jammu & Kashmir has come as a huge relief for the labourers who wanted the same to be enhanced so that there are more days of employment. Since the union ministry for rural development has heeded to the request the labourers more so working in the far flung areas of the union territory are over the moon and feel that the government is quite aware about the problems being faced by them.

Both the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed gratitude to the central government for enhancing the employment days for the labour force under MGNREGA of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Both Sinha and Omar extended gratitude to Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture & Rural Development. They said that the enhanced support will play a vital role in helping vulnerable communities overcome economic distress.

Omar has went a step ahead as he has also congratulated the Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar and his team for successfully pursuing with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, to approve an additional 50 days of employment under MGNREGA for rural areas affected by natural calamities in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister said that this crucial decision will assist thousands of households impacted by recent floods and landslides by ensuring enhanced livelihood opportunities and timely relief.

The Government of India has formally raised the MGNREGA work limit from 100 to 150 days for affected households in Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2025-26. This decision follows the declaration of 1,962 Panchayats as flood-affected, after the UT administration sought special relief to address the adverse impacts on agricultural activities and rural livelihoods. The department of agriculture and farmers welfare had recommended this extension, which will directly benefit the most vulnerable families by creating stable incomes, reducing economic hardships, and enabling the creation of durable community assets.

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Sukh-Naag an attractive and mesmerizing River in District Budgam



The District Administration Budgam and the Tourism Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will discover many other hidden facts about this beautiful place once it is taken up as an official tourist destination. Though the administration has made efforts for the upliftment of the district, Budgam still lacks several basic facilities required for the tourism sector

What adds the best attributes to the paradise known as the Kashmir Valley? The world has accepted Kashmir as a place of calmness—unique, incredible, lavish, and winsome. The Kashmir Valley has renowned tourist destinations and mesmerising, snow-clad mountains. Kashmir has immense potential beyond being one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The lush green deodar and fir trees enhance and beautify it. The Pir Panjal forest range stretches to a great extent. Almighty Allah has bestowed the universe with different attributes and has given great potential to the human mind to feel, praise, and understand that every object in this universe has its own importance.

Every individual should contribute his or her best for humankind and for the upliftment of his or her nation. A nation's strength is directly proportional to the strength of its individuals. This simply indicates that every person has a role to play in the development of the nation. The tourism sector plays an immense and pivotal role in the economic growth of the country and creates a huge opportunity for unemployed youth. The Kashmir Valley is famous for various reasons. There are world-famous cuisines prepared here for tourists, and the Kashmiri people associated with this sector are appreciated worldwide for their generosity and hospitality.

Today, in this article, I am going to highlight the beautiful attributes of one of the prominent, mesmerising, and incredible springs of District Budgam—the Sukh Naag River. The Sukh Naag River is located in the lap of the Pir Panjal mountains of Parihas,



Doodhpathri, and Sitaharan Khag. Literally, the river is commonly known as Sukh Naag, comprising two Kashmiri words: Sukh meaning calm, and Naag meaning spring. The Sukh Naag River beautifies and quenches the thirst of several villages alongside it, such as Arizal, Zanigam, and Beerwah, and finally opens into the River Jhelum. Sukh Naag is one of the major tributaries of the Jhelum.

The Sukh Naag River is famous throughout the district and has great significance among the native people. It originates from the upper mountain hills of Tosamaidan. Its origins include Dammam Sar and other springs that enrich the lush green forests of the area. It deserves to be brought onto the tourism map but needs attention from the administration. The Sukh Naag River has great potential to attract tourists and generate revenue for the state, along with employment opportunities for the locals. There are more interesting facts about the river: for instance, it is just a 40-min-

ute walk from the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) Raiyar-Ich, Tangnar.

The District Administration Budgam and the Tourism Department of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will discover many other hidden facts about this beautiful place once it is taken up as an official tourist destination. Though the administration has made efforts for the upliftment of the district, Budgam still lacks several basic facilities required for the tourism sector. There are well-known tourist destinations in the district as well—Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, and more. Tosamaidan is a newly introduced tourist destination with great potential, but it needs assistance from the central government.

Dear readers, In Sha Allah, in the future I will bring more interesting information and facts about these destinations and help you understand how beautiful the Sukh Naag River truly is.

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The unseen battle of Specially abled children in J&K



Behind every beautiful sunrise over the Dal Lake or every bustling schoolyard in Srinagar lies a reality many prefer to overlook. For children with disabilities — whether physical, intellectual, or sensory — life in Jammu and Kashmir is a constant uphill climb. Their fight is not only against physical limitations but also against the invisible barriers of stigma, isolation, and indifference.

Specially abled children in Jammu and Kashmir continue to fight an unseen yet unyielding battle for dignity, inclusion, and opportunity. Their struggle begins at birth and persists throughout their lives, defined not only by physical or cognitive challenges but also by a society that still struggles to see them as equals. Beneath the region's breathtaking mountains and tranquil valleys lies a quieter story—one of courage, resilience, and determination in the face of indifference.

Behind every beautiful sunrise over the Dal Lake or every bustling schoolyard in Srinagar lies a reality many prefer to overlook. For children with disabilities — whether physical, intellectual, or sensory — life in Jammu and Kashmir is a constant uphill climb. Their fight is not only against physical limitations but also against the invisible barriers of stigma, isolation, and indifference. In a society that often views disability through the lens of pity or shame, these children strive not just to live, but to belong.

According to official records, over 3.6 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir live with disabilities, though experts believe the real number is much higher. Among them are thousands of children — each with dreams, laughter, and potential like any other. Yet, their paths are strewn with obstacles. In far-flung villages, children born with hearing or visual impairments often go undiagnosed for years. Families, unaware of available therapies or too poor to afford them, do what they can — sometimes carrying their children for miles to hospitals in Srinagar or Jammu, only to return with little hope and empty pockets.

Education, which should be a gateway to freedom, becomes another closed door. Most schools in the region are not built for inclusivity. There are no ramps for wheelchairs, no Braille textbooks for the visually impaired, no interpreters for those who cannot hear. Teachers, however kind, are rarely trained to teach children with special needs. In rural districts, where distances are long and winters harsh, many children never even make it to school. Some watch their siblings pack their bags each morning, wondering why they cannot do the same. Their classrooms remain confined to the four walls of their homes — silent, lonely, and full of unspoken dreams.

Even in urban centers like Srinagar or Jammu, where awareness is growing, the struggle persists. The few specialized schools available are often overcrowded or too expensive for ordinary families. Many

parents face impossible choices — to send their child far away for education or to keep them close, safe, but uneducated. Either way, they carry a heavy burden of guilt and helplessness. For the children, the cost is deeper — they begin to internalize the belief that the world was not made for them.

But beyond policy failures and infrastructure gaps lies a more painful truth — society's indifference. In many parts of Jammu and Kashmir, disability is still treated as misfortune, even punishment. Families of specially abled children often endure whispered comments, pitying stares, or cruel judgment. Some parents, in their heartbreak, hide their children from the world to shield them from humiliation. Yet, within those hidden rooms, you will find stories of incredible resilience — children who paint with their toes, learn to read through touch, or communicate through gestures filled with joy. Their spirit refuses to surrender.

Healthcare, too, remains a distant promise for many. While early diagnosis and therapy can make a world of difference, specialized services are rare and scattered. In districts like Kupwara, Kulgam, and Doda, rehabilitation centers are few, and therapists even fewer. Parents often undertake exhausting journeys across mountains and snow just to keep hope alive. Some sell their livestock to buy a wheelchair or a hearing aid; others rely on faith and persistence when medicine fails them. Every small milestone — a first step, a clear word, a steady hand — becomes a celebration of love and perseverance.

Amidst all this, there are flickers of light. Some organizations have become beacons of hope, offering therapy, counseling, and education to those forgotten by the system. Their centers echo with laughter, music,

and stories of transformation. Here, children once confined by silence learn to speak through art and play. Here, parents find not pity, but understanding. These small spaces of compassion prove that change is possible — when empathy replaces apathy.

There are also stories of triumph that rise like spring blossoms after a long winter. A girl from Pulwama, born visually impaired, now teaches Braille to younger children. A boy from Baramulla, who lost his legs to an accident, paints breathtaking landscapes that capture the very mountains that once limited his movement. Another child from Jammu, born with hearing loss, has become a motivational speaker, helping others like him find their voice. These are not tales of charity — they are stories of strength, of what happens when a spark of opportunity meets the flame of determination.

Yet, for every success story, there are hundreds of unheard ones — children who remain locked away from the world, their laughter stifled by silence and shame. What they need is not sympathy, but inclusion. They need schools that welcome them, teachers who understand them, and communities that celebrate, not conceal, their differences. Above all, they need a society willing to see them — not as burdens, but as children with boundless potential.

The government, to its credit, has introduced several welfare programs — disability pensions, scholarships, and employment quotas — but the journey from policy to practice is uneven. Bureaucratic red tape, lack of awareness, and poor implementation mean that benefits often fail to reach those who need them most. The system must shift from a model of charity to one of empowerment — where access, dignity, and equality are non-negotiable rights, not favors. The unseen battle of specially abled children in Jammu and Kashmir is, in truth, a mirror reflecting society's conscience. Their fight is not only for ramps and wheelchairs but for recognition and respect. They are not seeking sympathy; they are seeking space — a rightful place in classrooms, playgrounds, and dreams. Their resilience exposes the cracks in our compassion and challenges the world to do better.

As dusk settles over the valley and the call to prayer echoes across the Dal Lake, somewhere a mother whispers words of encouragement to her child struggling to walk. Somewhere a father lifts his son into a wheelchair, determined that tomorrow he will reach school. Somewhere a teacher stays after class, helping a child read a single line of Braille. These small, unseen acts of love and endurance are what hold the valley together.

Disability does not define these children; courage does. Their strength is a quiet revolution — a reminder that inclusion is not a gift but a right, and that the truest beauty of Jammu and Kashmir lies not only in its mountains or meadows, but in the indomitable spirit of its children who refuse to be left behind.

The author is a senior analyst and can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com
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Muzamil Mehmood: Inspiring Kashmiri Youth to Serve the Nation with Pride



U M BHAT

In the heart of Kashmir's Beerwah subdivision, where hope often battles hardship, Muzamil Mehmood stands out as a voice of purpose and progress. A young social reformer and community leader from Manchhama village, Muzamil has dedicated his life to building a more aware, united, and responsible society.

Losing his father early in life, Muzamil could have chosen the path of despair. Instead, he turned grief into strength and service. A graduate of Government Degree College Beerwah, his leadership journey began between 2014 and 2016 as a volunteer with the National Service

Scheme (NSS). Those formative years taught him that genuine leadership is born from compassion and commitment to others.

Since then, Muzamil's name has become synonymous with grassroots social work in Budgam district and beyond. His initiatives — from blood donation and medical camps to women empowerment programmes — have reached people across all walks of life. His unwavering goal is clear: to uplift communities through education, health, and moral awareness.

Determined to shield the young generation from the drug menace, he has organized anti-drug and cybercrime awareness rallies, inspiring thousands to choose discipline over addiction. He has also conducted and actively participated in Tiranga Rallies, spreading the message of national unity, integrity, and patriotism among youth across the Valley.

Muzamil's passion for a cleaner, greener environment is equally noteworthy. Through cleanliness campaigns, cannabis eradication drives, and tree plantation programmes, he has mobi-



lized volunteers to restore public spaces and nurture environmental awareness across Kashmir.

Under national programmes such as

"Sewa Parv 2025" and "Swachhata Hi Seva 2025," he successfully led a series of welfare activities including blood donation camps, anti-drug drives, and plantation campaigns, earning him a Certificate of Appreciation from the Director, Urban Local Bodies Kashmir.

His dedication has not gone unnoticed. Over the years, Muzamil has received more than 150 awards and certificates from various government departments, NGOs, and social organizations — recognizing his outstanding service in youth empowerment, health awareness, and community development.

A believer in the transformative role of education, Muzamil organizes book launch events and educational seminars that bring together students, authors, and community leaders. His aim is to spark critical thinking and creativity among the youth — the real architects of tomorrow's Kashmir.

Beyond social service, Muzamil has harnessed the power of sports as a medium for social change. By organizing cricket tournaments, martial arts competitions, and cycling events, he moti-

vates young people to channel their energy into teamwork, fitness, and discipline — steering them away from drugs and negativity.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when fear and uncertainty gripped the Valley, Muzamil was seen on the ground, distributing masks, medicines, and essential supplies to those in need. His sense of duty never paused, even in the face of global crisis.

Today, Muzamil Mehmood represents the spirit of a new Kashmir — resilient, compassionate, and progressive. His guiding philosophy, "Replace drugs with dreams, replace silence with strength," continues to inspire hundreds of young people to take ownership of their future.

Influenced by the success stories of sports icons like Umran Malik, Parvez Rasool, and Abdul Samad, Muzamil believes that every Kashmiri youth holds the potential to be a change-maker.

In a time when society is in dire need of authentic role models, Muzamil Mehmood has become more than an individual — he has become an inspiration, a reformer, and a movement in himself.



DR. SHIV SETHI

While thinking of Indian authors running for Nobel, [there are so many], there is a name which stands apart from the mainline media probables. He is none other than Dr. Jernail Singh Anand, author of 17 world class

from Panjab University, Chandigarh. He was also conferred Ph.D degree Honoris Causa by the University of Engg and Management, Jaipur for his extraordinary contribution to world literature. He is Professor Emeritus with European Institute of Roma Studies, Belgrade.

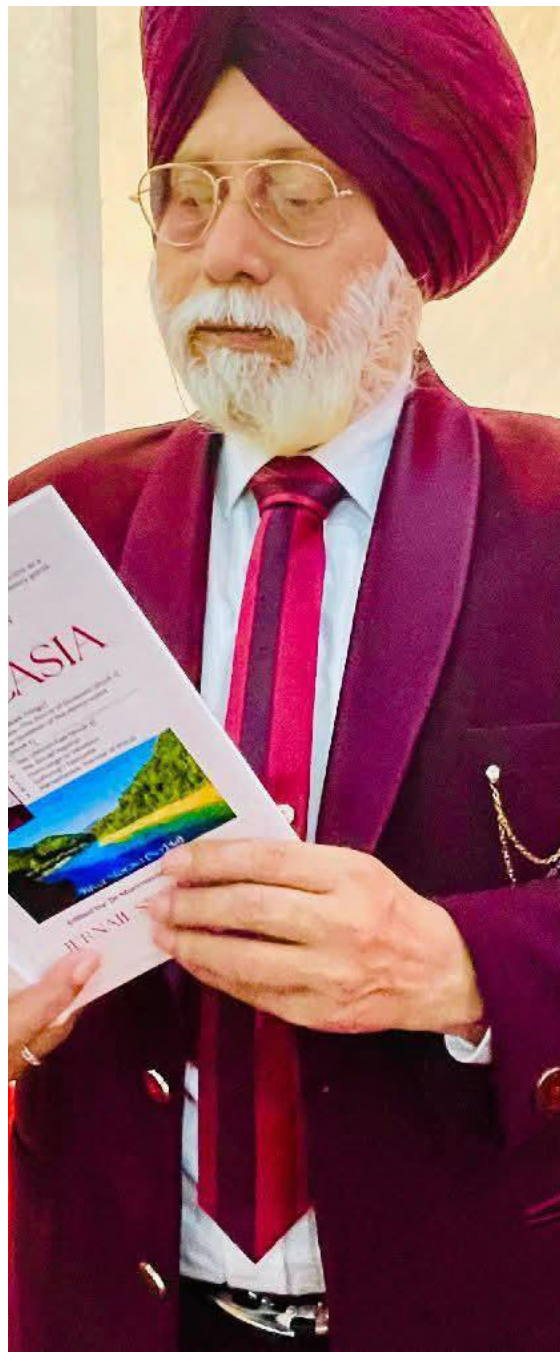
Dr. Anand's career in creative writing started with 'Confessions of a Corpse' [short stories] in 1985 followed by 'The Monster Within' [quasi-fiction]. Subsequent major works included 'Beyond Life Beyond Death' in 2001 and 'Bliss: The Ultimate Magic' in 2007. He penned seven books of poetry in Punjabi. 'Bliss: the Ultimate Magic' and 'I Belong to You' [both spiritual masterpieces] were translated into Persian by Prof. Nargues Muhammadi, [Iran]. Dr. Anand innovated the theory of Biotext along with Dr. Roghayeh Farsi, Univ of Neyshabur, Iran, where a research project was con-

and it has been translated into Bengali [by Dr. Tamali Neogi], Hindi [Rajni Chhabra] and Persian [Dr. Roghayeh Farsi] who has also translated his novel 'The Broken Narrative' into Persian.

The Trilogies

The Cosmic Trilogy deals imaginatively with the onslaught of the AI. 'The Alternate Universe', 'The Divine Order Crashes', and 'The Celestial Assimilation' discuss how Crazza, an AI magnate offers to enhance humanity with the help of machines, and how angels oppose his transparent work, and how in the last work, 'Celestial Assimilation', God asserts his might, and brings everything in harmony with God accepting machines as one of the creative segments in the universal order: Vegetation, Beasts, Machines, Men and Angels, and Gods agree to grant consciousness to machines as well.

Anand as a Poet



JERNAIL SINGH ANAND: INDIA'S TRYST WITH THE NOBEL

epics, [total oeuvre 190 plus books.] The literature buffs are nearly oblivious of this unassuming poet, but the world across the borders very well knows its winner of Charter of Morava [Serbia] and Seneca award [Italy]. He is the only poet in India whose name has been etched on the Poets' Rock in Serbia. He was also made Honorary Member of the Association of Serbian Writers, Belgrade. Dr. Anand is a common name, pronounced with respect, in the literary domains, of Italy and Serbia, Germany, US, Russia from where he has got literary accolades, like Franz Kafka Award [Germany, Ukraine & Check Rep.] and Maxim Gorky Award [Russia].

Dr. Jernail Singh Anand is one of the most influential voices in contemporary Indian poetry. According to Dr. Maja Herman Sekulic, a Serbian-US literary icon, and a Nobel nominee, Dr Anand is the "greatest philosopher among poets, and the greatest poet among philosophers, as well as one of the leading authors of modern fantastic literature that ranges from J.R.R. Tolkien, father of modern fantasy to Brandon Sanderson." Prof. Siyoung Dong, eminent Korean scholar, remarks that his "grand epic poem [In Conflict with the Unknown] echoes the philosophical languages of human history, especially the philosophical discourses of 20th century philosophers Heidegger, Jaspers and Sartre." Dr Dragan Stanic considers him "a sage walking the postcolonial paths of dialogue between the cultures of India and the West."

Dr. Jernail Singh Anand [b. 1955] who hails from Punjab, now based in Chandigarh, dedicated more than 35 years to teaching, retiring as Principal of a degree college. He acquired doctorate degree comparing the poetry of Walt Whitman and Prof Puran Singh

ducted comparing him with two Iranian Poets. Dr. Farsi, his literary biographer, compared his book 'Beyond Life Beyond Death' to T.S. Eliot's 'The Wasteland' and 'Bliss' to Kahlil Gibran's 'The Prophet'.

Dr. Anand visited Italy for Kibatek Poetry Festival in Feb 2016, Nigeria for establishing the World Institute of Peace, Nov. 2016 [he is chairman, Board of Directors], Italy in Oct. 2024 to receive Seneca Award, and in Nov. 2024 to receive Giants of Culture Award and a doctoral degree honoris causa, before visiting Belgrade and Matica Srpska, Novi Sad for a Lecture on Dynamics of Spirituality.

Dr. Anand has been honoured with hundreds of awards like the Cross of Peace and Cross of Literature from World Union of Poets, Italy, and Lifetime Achievement Award by Art 4 Life Foundation, USA. He is the Founder President of the International Academy of Ethics. Balakavi Movement sponsored by IAE has spread its wings to several other countries like Russia and Tjakistan.

What makes Dr. Anand the most worthy aspirant for the highest award in literature is the creation of 17 epics, a feat which remains unparalleled so far. Starting with "Geet: The Unsung Song of Eternity", Dr. Anand went on to write 'The Satanic Empire' 'The Mahabharata' 'The Plague' etc. The most important work are two trilogies. The Mahakaal Trilogy recreates the dark atmosphere of the 'Paradise Lost', by creating a new corporate centre of Evil in Lustus. It explores his exploits and his final fall in two major wars with angels, establishing the reign of Queen Ultronia in 'The Ultronic Age'. 'Lustus: the Prince of Darkness' has been recognized as the most phenomenal work of modern times,

Anand's poetry, often epic in scope, transcends traditional boundaries, weaving together mythology, spirituality and modern issues like technology and globalization. His style is marked by vivid imagery, satirical wit, and a cosmic perspective. Unlike canonical Indian poets like Tagore or Naidu, Anand's focus is more philosophical and futuristic, tackling the ethical dilemmas of AI, societal conformity, and the erosion of human values in contemporary society. His evolving oeuvre from Mahakaal Trilogy to Cosmic Trilogy suggest he is a visionary poet philosopher, comparable to William Wordsworth in his moral and philosophical depth, yet distinctly modern in his focus on technology and globalization. Dr. Anand has built a poetics which combines ethics, Vedic spirituality, social critique and planetary consciousness dwelling on the ethical dimension of language, and the relationship between matter, consciousness and transcendence.

From Knowledge to Wisdom

Dr. Anand holds startling views on Knowledge, which, without Wisdom, remains in dark shadows of the Demon and proves dangerous. A poet is invested with a divine power, and like a prophet, he has to give direction to the universe. Scholarship and academism should leave ivory tower and let wisdom flow to the common man from their laboratories and debating tables and touch the lives of the common people with a language which is instantly understood.

Equal emphasis should be placed on research as well as creativity which has been sorely ignored. On reviving the genre of the epic, Dr. Anand feels that epics are by far the best creations of all times, and poetry, the best genre. If the world has scant interest

in poetry or epics, it means the it has gone for anything but the best.

Dr. Maja Herman Sekulic appears to be spot on in evaluating the lifework of Dr. Anand when she says: "What is unique in Anand's epics is a unique blend of epic traditions with elements of science fiction, ecology, Western and eastern mythologies, and philosophies with a deeply ethical sense of humanity and morality. In his Cosmic Trilogy, he finds a way to a "harmonious relationships/Between the five realms of creation/ Vegetations, Beasts, Machines, Men and Angels".

Prior to Dr. Anand, Rabindra Nath Tagore [1913], received the Nobel Prize in Literature for his work 'Gitanjali' [a translation from Bengali], and V.S. Naipaul [2001] was born in Trinidad to Indian parents. Dr Anand, however, will be the first poet whose entire work is in English except a few books in his mother-tongue, with phenomenal success with epic like 'Lustus: The Prince of Darkness', 'Epicasia Vol 1 and 2' (12 epics dedicated to Serbia) 'Philosophia de Anand' and 'The Alternate Universe'.

Dr. Shiv Sethi is an eminent author, columnist and reviewer



Ginger Packet WITH IMMENSE HEALTH BENEFITS

■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Today we are experiencing the cold days of winter, so it is common to get involved in a number of health-related issues like cold, throat infections, cough and many more.

So, try ginger every day in your food items and take a sufficient quantity of ginger for better health.

Our body needs an adequate amount of food and all the basic components of food. These include minerals, vitamins, fiber, fats, etc. Humans are the most beautiful creatures of the Almighty in this universe. The Almighty has bestowed upon us infinite blessings in various forms, whether it's food items, natural objects or the whole environment that covers us like a blanket.

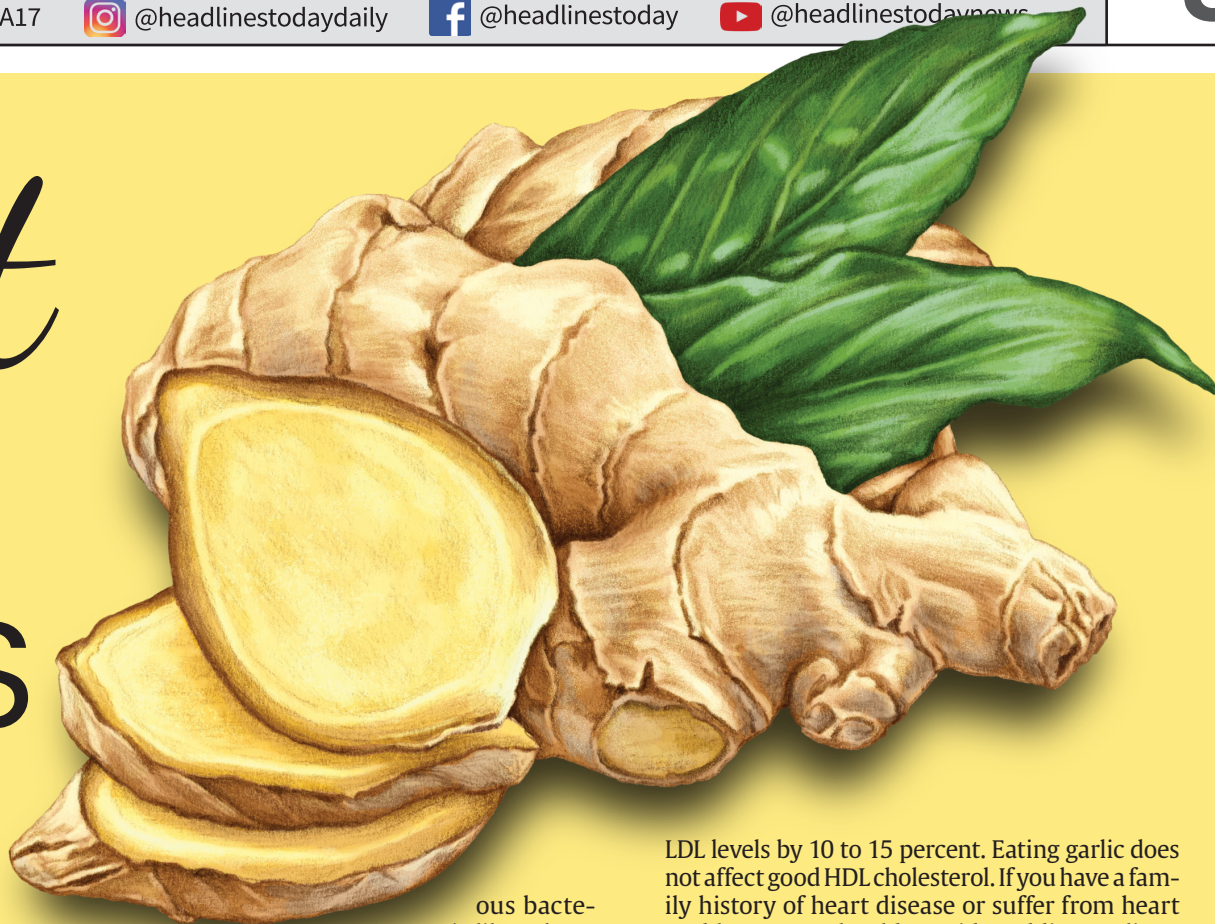
Today I am going to highlight the health benefits of ginger (adrak). Ginger has immense health benefits such as: it helps to detox our body, it has antibiotic properties, and it can help with the prevention of cancer.

(Note: Some lines mentioned "garlic," but your title is about ginger. If you want, I can correct that fully.)

We are exposed to a wide range of chemicals and compounds daily while living in the world. Many of these compounds are not healthy and may even be harmful to the body. The environment, water and food include: personal care products containing chemicals, household cleaners, radiation from nuclear plants, pesticides and chemicals used in agriculture.

Garlic is a powerful detox food that promotes glutathione production by liver enzymes. It provides important detoxifying components, including multiple bioactive selenium and sulphur compounds.

Garlic has antibiotic properties. Garlic contains allicin. Allicin is a bioactive antibiotic that can fight infections and bacteria in sliced, crushed or diced cloves. Garlic extracts have been shown to suppress the growth of protozoa, viral infections, and numer-



ous bacteria like Salmonella, as well as fungal elements. Allicin is believed to be a possible antibiotic replacement. It also helps when used along with prescribed antibiotics.

Garlic helps prevent one of the lethal diseases nowadays called cancer (CA). According to research, consuming fresh garlic can help reduce the risk of colon cancer. According to the IOWA Women's Health Study, women who ate garlic regularly along with vegetables and fruits were 35% less likely to get cancer.

Garlic also helps reduce cholesterol levels. Cholesterol is a fatty component in the blood. There are two kinds of cholesterol: bad LDL cholesterol and good HDL cholesterol. Too much LDL and not enough HDL can cause serious health issues. Garlic has been shown to lower total cholesterol and

LDL levels by 10 to 15 percent. Eating garlic does not affect good HDL cholesterol. If you have a family history of heart disease or suffer from heart problems, you should consider adding garlic to your diet.

Garlic helps reduce blood pressure among patients. It is a special spice to include in your diet if you suffer from high blood pressure or hypertension. Even if you do not like the taste of garlic, taking garlic supplements will still give you benefits such as lowering high blood pressure, treating fever and many more. Keep in mind that the amount of supplement you take should equal four cloves of garlic each day.

Dear champs, I care a lot about your health. For God's sake, take fresh and healthy food items. One more thing: exercise is very important for you if you want to stay fit, smart, attractive and healthy.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Covid virus mutation may have made it more contagious: Study

The virus that causes Covid-19 is accumulating genetic mutations, one of which may have made it more contagious, says a study involving more than 5,000 patients in the US.

That mutation, called D614G, is located in the spike protein that pries open our cells for viral entry, according to the paper published in the peer-reviewed journal mBio.

The patients involved in this study of SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences were from Houston, Texas.

The paper shows "the virus is mutating due to a combination of neutral drift-which just means random genetic changes that don't help or hurt the virus-and pressure from our immune systems," said Ilya Finkelstein, Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Austin and co-author of the study.

During the initial wave of the pandemic, 71 per cent of the novel coronaviruses identified in patients in Houston had this mutation.

When the second wave of the outbreak hit Houston during the summer, this variant had leaped to 99.9 per cent prevalence, said the study, adding that this mirrors a trend observed around the world.

A study published in July based on more than 28,000 genome sequences found that variants carrying the D614G mutation became the globally dominant form of SARS-CoV-2 in about a month.

SARS-CoV-2 is the coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

The good news is that this mutation is rare and does not appear to make the disease more severe for infected patients.

"The virus continues to mutate as it rips through the world," Finkelstein said.

"Real-time surveillance efforts like our study will ensure that global vaccines and therapeutics are always one step ahead."

The scientists noted a total of 285 mutations across thousands of infections, although most do not appear to have a significant effect on how severe the disease is.

Manipal Hospital launches clinic to offer Oncology, Super-Specialty OPDs in Sgr

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: HCMCT Manipal Hospital, a renowned healthcare provider based in Delhi, today announced the launch of the Manipal Clinic in Srinagar to offer super-specialty OPDs for patients in the region. The clinic will provide access to expert consultations from specialists at HCMCT Manipal Hospital, Delhi, covering oncology, spine care, cardiac sciences, neurology, and gastroenterology.

Renowned robotic cancer surgery specialist Dr. Surender Kumar Dabas will be visiting Srinagar to provide consultations and treatment for patients suffering from cancer. With this clinic, the hospital brings advanced capabilities such as robotic surgery and minimally invasive surgical solutions, enabling early diagnosis, precision-driven treatment, and improved access to world-class care.

Cancer cases continue to rise in Srinagar and the Kashmir valley, with lung, head and neck, and oesophageal cancers being most common among men, while breast and colorectal cancers are more prevalent among women. Lifestyle factors such as tobacco use, poor diet, and the lack of regular screening significantly contribute to this surge.

The growing burden highlights the urgent need for increased awareness and timely screening, as late-stage cancers often become more complex to treat. Promoting early diagnosis can significantly improve survival rates and reduce the overall cancer burden in the region.

Speaking on the launch, Dr. Surender



Kumar Dabas, Chairman-Manipal Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MCCC) and Onco Robotic Surgeries, North-West Cluster, said, "With this Manipal Clinic, we aim to ensure that people in Srinagar have timely access to advanced cancer care without the need to travel long distances. With minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgeries, patients can benefit from faster recovery, reduced pain, and improved clinical outcomes. By combining cutting-edge treatment options with a comprehensive, patient-centred approach, we hope to empower individuals to fight cancer more effectively and achieve a better quality of life."

Appointments and clinic manage-

ment will be overseen by Dr. Mehavish, ensuring smooth coordination and patient support. "The aim is to make high-quality specialist care easily accessible for the people of Srinagar. By streamlining appointments and coordinating expert visits, we want every patient to feel supported and cared for throughout their treatment journey," said Dr. Mehavish.

HCMCT Manipal Hospital, Delhi, remains committed to expanding access to advanced medical expertise closer to patients across the country. The launch of this super-specialty clinic marks a significant step in strengthening early diagnosis, specialised treatment, and continuity of care for patients

in the region.

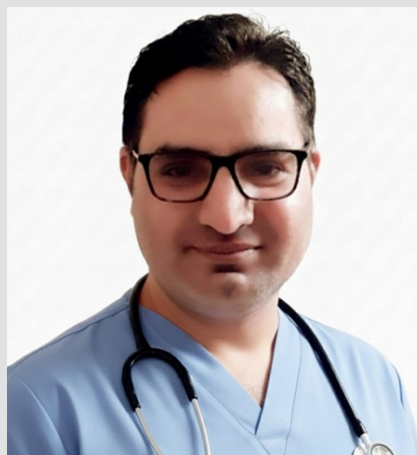
Manipal Hospitals is among the top healthcare providers in India serving over seven million patients annually. Its focus is to develop an affordable, high-quality healthcare framework through its multispecialty and tertiary care delivery spectrum and further extend it to out-of-hospital care. With the completion of the acquisition of Medica Synergie hospitals and AMRI Hospitals Limited (acquired in Sept 2023), the integrated network today has a pan-India footprint of 38 hospitals across 19 cities with 10,500+ beds and a talented pool of 7,200+ doctors and an employee strength of over 20,500.

Dr Tasaduk Awarded Prestigious 'IPFPH' Honour by UK's Faculty of Public Health

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom has awarded International Practitioner Membership (IPFPH) to Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, recognising his professional achievements and substantial contributions to global public health.

The honour is one of the most respected international memberships awarded by the FPH to public health professionals working outside the UK. Through this membership, Dr Itoo gains the right to use the post-nominal title IPFPH.

International Practitioner Membership is reserved for experienced public health



practitioners having many years of experience in public health practice and who have demonstrated strong commitment to advancing health and wellbeing in their regions.

Dr Itoo, a distinguished doctor, public health advocate, medical educator and writer -- is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH), UK and a Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium). He is also a member of leading global medical organizations including the American College of Physicians (USA), and Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).



BIG Jammu Talent Finale Celebrates Young Stars with Power Packed Performances

Jammu Shines as Students Excel at the Grand Finale of BIG Jammu Talent

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 22: The Grand Finale of BIG Jammu Talent, organized by 92.7 BIG FM, concluded with an exceptional celebration of creativity and youthful brilliance as schools from across Jammu gathered during the day to showcase their finest performances. Supported by Cambridge Blanket as the Title Partner, Campus Daddy as the Presenting Partner, Surjit Hospital and Kushal Shah Amarnath Jewellers as the Co Powered partners, Imprimis IVF as the Associate Partner and State Times as the Print Partner, the event created a vibrant and inspiring atmosphere for participants, judges, teachers and families.

The finale was graced by Sh. Vishesh Paul Mahajan, JKAS, Transport Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir, who attended as the Chief Guest and applauded the initiative for giving young students a meaningful stage to express their talent. In his statement, he said that he was deeply impressed by the confidence and discipline displayed by the children and added that platforms like BIG Jammu Talent



are essential in shaping a bright and expressive young generation. He also conveyed that every student who performed today is already a winner for having the courage to take the stage and showcase their abilities.

The performances in the categories of Solo Singing, Group Dance and Short Play were evaluated by an eminent jury. The Singing category was judged by Sonali Dogra and Ravi Raghuvanshi, the Short Play category by

Sanjeev Gupta and the Group Dance category by Dr. Priya Dutta. The finale witnessed extraordinary talent as Devangi Sharma from Delhi Public School Jammu secured the first position in Singing, followed by Varun from Jammu Sanskriti School as First Runner Up and Anaya Singh from KC International School as Second Runner Up. In the Short Play category, Delhi Public School Jammu emerged as the Winner, KC International School Jammu secured

the First Runner Up position and The Sri Ram Universal School & St. Xavier's Convent Senior Secondary School jointly finished as the Second Runner Up. The Dance category saw St Xavier School Barnai winning the top position, Delhi Public School Jammu declared First Runner Up and KC International School Jammu securing the Second Runner Up position.

A major highlight of the day was the electrifying performance by

Sonali Dogra, who enlivened the entire stage with her powerful and soulful singing. Her performance added immense energy to the finale and became one of the most cherished moments of the event. The school children enthusiastically accompanied her on stage, dancing and celebrating with joy as the audience cheered, creating a heartwarming and unforgettable scene.

RJ Juhie extended heartfelt gratitude to all participating schools, principals, teachers and parents for their consistent encouragement throughout the competition. She noted that the overwhelming participation reflects the growing love for performing arts in Jammu and strengthens the vision of BIG Jammu Talent to nurture young voices, dancers and theatre enthusiasts.

92.7 BIG along with the partners of the event congratulates all winners and finalists and expresses sincere appreciation to every participant who contributed to making the Grand Finale an inspiring and successful celebration of Jammu's extraordinary young talent.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Muskan Akbar D/o Mohd Akbar Para R/o Ratsun Beerwah, have passed/appeared in Class 10th under Roll No. 101065277, Session Annual, Year 2021 through J&K Board of School Education.

An error has been committed by the parents in recording my Father's Caste as *Parray* instead of *Para*.



Now, I have applied for correction in the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub-Office Anantnag, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

The correct particulars are as under:

Name: Muskan Akbar
Father's Name: Mohd Akbar Para
Mother's Name: Maryam Banoo
Date of Birth: 17-05-2006

Manzgam ranks 5th in India; DC credits focused grassroots development

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 22: Block Manzgam of Kulgam district has secured an impressive 5th rank at the national level and 3rd rank in Zone 1 in the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) Rankings for Q2 (July–September 2025–26), released by NITI Aayog.

This recognition underscores the sustained progress of Block Manzgam across key governance and development indicators, including health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure.

The achievement is attributed to the dedicated efforts of the District Administration Kulgam, active community participation, and the strategic implementation of developmental initiatives under the ABP framework.

Commenting on the accomplishment, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), said that the performance of Block Manzgam reflects a coordinated approach, focused planning, and consistent monitoring of targeted interventions aimed at strengthening service delivery and ensuring inclusive grassroots



development.

He further stated that the district administration remains committed

to deepening these efforts to achieve even greater milestones in the upcoming quarters.

BJP Media Department J&K Holds Organisational Review Meeting in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 22: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir convened an important organisational review meeting of the party's Media Department at Party Headquarter J53 Jawahar Nagar Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over and Chaired by BJP State Co-Media Incharge J&K Advocate Sajid Yousuf Shah alongside Zaman Noor, Co-Convenor Media Department J&K and Co-Convenor BJP Media Relations Ishfaq Sofi.

The meeting was attended by BJP district Media Incharges, Coordinators and BJP Publicity teams.

The meeting focused on strengthening communication strategies, enhancing media outreach, and streamlining coordination across district and state-level media units. Key discussions centered on developing a comprehensive development communication strategy to highlight welfare schemes, infrastructure projects and developmental initiatives, with particular emphasis on tangible benefits reaching grassroots level including employment generation, education improvements and healthcare facilities.

Sajid Yousuf Shah conducted a detailed assessment of ongoing media activities, digital initiatives, public engagement patterns and coverage dynamics across print, electronic and social media platforms. Discussions also centered around improving rapid response mechanisms to address misinformation within 24 hours and ensuring timely dissemination of party viewpoints on key political and developmental issues.

Zaman Noor highlighted the crucial role of the Media Department as the party's frontline communication arm and emphasised capacity-building, disciplined coordination and proactive engagement with journalists and media houses across the Kashmir valley.

Balwant Thakur launches innovative Performing Arts Course at IIM Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 22: In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at integrating creativity with contemporary management education, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur—renowned theatre personality, cultural architect, and former cultural diplomat of India—introduced an innovative course titled Performing Arts for Management Excellence to the new batch of IPM course at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu.

Addressing an enthusiastic group of 150 management students, Thakur emphasized the transformative influence of performing arts on personality development and leadership growth. He noted that in today's volatile and demanding professional landscape, management students must not only be intellectually competent but also emotionally agile and creatively empowered.

"Performing arts have the remarkable power to reshape personalities from within," he said. "For management students, these practices offer far more than artistic engagement, they build presence, poise, confidence, and the ability to command any room. When students participate in theatre, movement, storytelling, or improvisation, they learn to overcome inhibitions, dismantle mental barriers, and discover their authentic voices. This inner transformation forms the foundation of impactful leadership."

Balwant Thakur elaborated on how performing arts help cultivate empathy, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and collaboration, all essential traits for effective managers. By portraying characters, responding spontaneously in improvisational settings, or performing as part of a group, students gain a nuanced understanding of human emotions and interpersonal dynamics. This, he observed, strengthens their ability to interpret subtle cues, engage meaningfully with teams, and respond with heightened awareness.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No:	M&HDB/TS/2025-26/68/3347-51
Date:	21-11-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized Service Providers of OEMs /Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Laacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion
01.	P/F of 10W Hydraulic Oil for various Snow Clearance Machines of M and H Sub-Division 2 nd	0.45150	200.00	903/-	10 days

Note:

- AAA: -Administrative Approval accorded by Chief Engineer M&HD Kashmir vide No. M&HED/K/Acctt/ of 2025-26/108 Dated: 30-08-2025.
- Technical Sanction: - Technical Sanction Accorded by Assistant Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Sub-Division 2nd Baramulla vide No. M&H/SD-2/TS/06 of 11/2025; Dated: - 18-11-2025.
- Executing Agency: - Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	21-11-2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 21-11-2025 to 27-11-2025
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	From 21-11-2025 (18:15 HRS)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	27-11-2025 (18:55 HRS)
5.	Date of Opening of Cover 1 st	28-11-2025 (13:00 HRS)

The bidders are required to submit their offers in *two (02)* covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

01.	Tender Fee	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKA0TEHSIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
02.	EMD	Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 02% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 03% to 10% Performance Guarantee from (L1) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.
03.	Terms & Conditions	Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
04.	Tax Clearance	Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
05.	GST	Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
06.	Undertaking	Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
07.	Contractor Registration	Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.
08.	Eligibility / Work Experience Certificate	The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt. /Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Assistant Executive Engineer.

Note:

- The successful bidder has to furnish EMD document physically to the Divisional office alongwith fee receipt within three days from the date of opening price bid, without which his bid shall not be accepted for further processing of contract in his favour.
- No EMD exemption shall be given to bidders.
- Bidders / Firms shall refrain from uploading irrelevant documents.
- Contractor/ Firm shall upload the contact / communication details separately on single page.

A. Cover-II shall contain:

- Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department. In no case, financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for 180 days and the contract shall be valid for one complete year, starting from the date of allotment of the said contract.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla after evaluation of technical bid and decision thereof.
- Bidder shall be penalized as per tender conditions if they withdraw their bid during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the rate below %age inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The department reserves the right to debar /blacklist such firm(s).
- Conditional tenders shall not be entertained.
- Unbalanced Bid: In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee within 07 days after opening of price bid as per the Circular directives of the J&K U.T Finance Department issued vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-22-158; Dated: - 08.08.2025 and relevant clauses of J&K (PWD) Engineering Manual 2020.
- The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer M&HD Baramulla.

No: M&HDB/TS/e-tender-68/3347-51 | Dated: 21-11-2025

DIPK: 8347/25 | Dated: 22-11-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

DC Ganderbal inaugurates SAANS Campaign 2025–26 to protect children from Pneumonia

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, NOVEMBER 22: In order to combat childhood Pneumonia, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today launched the Social Awareness and Actions to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) campaign roll-out 2025-2026 in the district.

District Programme Officer ICDS, Bureeda Majid; Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal, Dr. B.A.Khan; District Health Officer and Block Medical Officers from all blocks along with the Head Bal Raksha Bharat were present on the occasion.

SAANS campaign is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to reduce childhood mortality.



The programme began with an interaction with health teams and

frontline workers who play a vital role in reaching families and children across the district.

At the outset, a brief presentation was made about the ways and means adopted under SAANS campaign to prevent childhood pneumonia through timely care, awareness, and community participation.

DC appreciated the efforts of health workers, highlighting that their dedication forms the backbone of such public health initiatives.

Later the DC flagged-off the SAANS moving Vehicles for wider outreach and audience engagement at community level.

ASHAs of the district will further engage with families and children with this versatile platform through localised Audio messages.

DC Budgam chairs DLAMC Meeting Directs for 100% Aadhaar Saturation, Mandatory Biometric Updates

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired the District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee (DLAMC) meeting and reviewed the district's overall Aadhaar performance, including saturation across age groups, functionality of enrolment centres, Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs), and verification pendency on the State Aadhaar Portal.

As per the status presented during the meeting, the DC directed all departments to prepare a comprehensive action plan to cover the left-out population from projected population figures for 2024–25. He emphasised ensuring 100% Aadhaar enrolment and updation across all categories. He instructed PO ICDS to ensure full Aadhaar coverage of children aged 0–5 years, including newborns, and to fully operationalise CELC tablets to expedite enrolment at Anganwadi Centres.

The DC directed CMO Budgam to conduct regular inspections in hospitals for on-the-spot Aadhaar enrolment and timely issuance of Birth Certificates through CRS.

Reviewing the status of operational stations, the DC directed all departments to immediately make all Aadhaar Enrolment Stations fully functional and identify additional high-footfall government premises for opening new centres or holding special mega camps.

The DC instructed CEO Budgam to hold mega Aadhaar enrolment and updation camps in all Higher Secondary Schools, High Schools and Colleges. He also directed the CEO to ensure completion of Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBUs) at 5 and 15 years of age, in line with UIDAI guidelines.

The chair was informed that the district has an MBU pendency of 24,489 cases. To address the pendency, the DC directed the School Education Department to launch awareness drives, mobilise students through class teachers, and ensure matching of school records with Aadhaar details including name, date of birth, mobile number and email, which are essential for board exams, scholarships and competitive examinations. The DC directed all SDMs to monitor

school and college drives and ensure 100% Aadhaar coverage in their respective jurisdictions. He instructed BDOs in rural areas and EOs in urban areas to conduct block-level and municipal-level mass enrolment camps, ensuring that Date of Birth certificates are issued on the spot to facilitate enrolment.

Reviewing the portal details, the DC noted that all 18+ new enrolment applications must be verified and disposed of within 30 days.

For 100+ ANH verification, the DC stressed that service assignment must be completed at district and tehsil levels. He called for immediate verification of all pending cases as per field reports and directed that training be organised for district and sub-district officials for efficient portal handling.

The DC instructed departments to encourage residents to update their Proof of Identity (POI) and Proof of Address (POA) at the nearest enrolment centre as most of the residents have not updated their Aadhaar for over 10 years. He instructed to conduct awareness programs on Aadhaar updation across villages, towns and schools, and promote the mAadhaar mobile app for easy access and verification.

During the meeting, the DC reiterated the importance of achieving complete Aadhaar saturation across all age groups, operationalising all Aadhaar centres, clearing the MBU pendency, ensuring timely verification on the State Aadhaar Portal for both 18+ and 100+ categories, running awareness campaigns in schools, Anganwadi centres and public spaces, and ensuring accurate demographic data for all school-going children.

The DC stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination, stringent monitoring and a time-bound strategy to achieve complete Aadhaar saturation in Budgam. He highlighted that updated Aadhaar information is essential for access to government schemes, welfare benefits, scholarships, pensions and other essential public services.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, PO ICDS, CPO Budgam, ACD, all SDMs, all Tehsildars, all Executive Officers, BDOs and representatives of UIDAI.

Labour Commissioner J&K issues final compliance notice to defaulter Trade Unions

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22: In a significant move to strengthen transparency and statutory governance, Labour Commissioner & Registrar Trade Unions, Jammu & Kashmir S. Charandeep Singh has issued a fresh and final notice, directing all defaulter Trade Unions and Associations to immediately submit their pending Annual Returns within 10 days. Under Section 28 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, every registered trade union is required to file its Annual Returns for the year ending 31st December by 31st July of the following year. However, despite repeated reminders and earlier notices issued by the department, a considerable number of unions have continued to remain non-



compliant.

Referring to the earlier notices that had clearly called upon the unions to fulfill this mandatory statutory requirement, the Labour Commissioner has now issued a final compliance directive. "Unions that fail to file their pending returns within the stipulated 10-day period will be considered defaulters with no further opportunity for explanation, making them liable for strict action, including the cancellation of their registration," the Notice reads.

Labour Commissioner J&K and Registrar Trade Unions, J&K, has emphasized that submission of Annual Returns is not only a legal obligation but also essential for ensuring accountability, transparency and proper functioning of trade unions across the Union Territory.

The Labour Commissioner J&K directed all Deputy Labour Commissioners and Assistant Labour Commissioners to ensure compliance at once and verify that all returns are submitted in Form 'D' within the prescribed period. The Labour Department reiterated that maintaining proper records, adhering to statutory reporting requirements, and complying with by-laws are fundamental duties of every registered trade union. All defaulting unions have been urged to treat this final notice with utmost seriousness and complete their pending submissions without delay to avoid statutory consequences.

DC Ramban discusses revision of stamp duty rates for 2026

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the functionaries of Revenue and other departments to deliberate on the revision of stamp duty rates for the year 2026.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR, Shokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD, Sheraz Ahmed; GM DIC, Ravinder Anand; Executive Engineer PWD, Ranjeet Singh and other concerned officers.

During the discussion, the DC highlighted the need to address discrepancies in prevailing land values and stamp duty structures. He said the primary objective is to ensure that the revised rates reflect ground realities, while supporting transparent and accountable revenue generation.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers to thoroughly re-evaluate existing rates and propose justified enhancements, along with clear reasoning for the enhanced



valuations. He emphasized that the new rates must strike a balance between government revenue requirements and fair regulation of sale-purchase transactions.

The DC further noted that with growing development activities across the district, certain areas are witnessing increased construction-related transactions, necessitating a realistic revision of stamp duty rates to align with current market trends.

DSEJ reviews academic, school infrastructure development scenario in Jammu District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22: Director School Education Jammu (DSEJ) Naseem Javed Choudhary today chaired a meeting here at Convention Hall to assess the academic activities, infrastructure development, counselling and digital initiatives being implemented in the schools of District Jammu.

The meeting was attended by the Personal Officer DSEJ, Joint Director (Secondary), Joint Director (Elementary), Joint Director JSK and Chief Accounts Officer DSEJ.

The Chief Education Officer Jammu gave a comprehensive presentation on the schemes being implemented in district Jammu. The Director School Education Jammu evaluated the overall progress of the district in the education sector and

implementation of the schemes including UT Capex, District Capex, Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN.

Additionally, the Director reviewed the functioning of VSK Jammu and different digital initiatives.

It was informed that out of 1187 schools in the district, 1173 schools have adopted the Live Attendance Bot, which enables real-time monitoring of staff/student attendance. The Director also reviewed the progress of JK Study Buddy. He issued directions to ensure timely completion of all digital surveys and reporting processes.

The progress under PM POSHAN, as reflected on the ARMS Portal as on 21 November 2025, was also reviewed. The Director instructed the concerned officers to ensure proper implementation of the scheme and submit reports



regularly to maintain transparency and efficiency in the delivery of midday meals.

Reviewing Early Childhood Care and Education, the Director noted that 944 schools are currently running pre-primary classes with a cumulative enrolment of 7561 children. He also discussed the status of Aaya workers and their salary disbursement and emphasized strengthening foundational learning by ensuring

adequate support staff and proper facilities for young learners.

The Director further reviewed the various RTE entitlements and interventions under Samagra Shiksha. He emphasized the need for optimal sharing of resources among schools to enhance effectiveness, avoid duplication and ensure that all students benefit equally from available materials and support structures. A detailed presentation on civil

works was also made during the meeting, showcasing the recently completed buildings and ongoing construction activities under Samagra Shiksha, District CAPEX and UT CAPEX. The Director examined the progress visually and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of pending works while maintaining the highest quality standards.

In conclusion, the Director School Education appreciated the efforts of the entire departmental team and instructed all field officers and Heads of Institutions to strengthen instructional delivery, enhance student-centric services and ensure efficient execution of all ongoing schemes and initiatives across District Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Cluster Principals (All), Zonal Education Officers (All) and HOIs of PM Shri Schools.

Light after shells: Indian Army Doctors gave New Vision to Civilians caught in Pakistan's Fury post Operation Sindoor

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 22: For countless souls across the rugged, remote borderlands of Jammu and Kashmir, life had become an exercise in enduring the silent tyranny of darkness, their world reduced to indistinct shapes and memory. Into this pressing need, an Advanced Surgical Eye Camp at Command Hospital Northern Command Udhampur, roared into existence, representing a monumental and compassionate healthcare offensive. The advanced surgical eye camp successfully screened a total of 1500 individuals, including serving personnel, dependents, Veer Naris (war widows) and local civilians.

The initial comprehensive screening skillfully conducted by a diverse team of ophthalmologists stationed across the operational area of Jammu and Kashmir, was instrumental in mobilizing patients from remote, far-flung border regions under the leadership of

Maj Gen Sanjay Sharma, Commandant Command Hospital Udhampur. Individuals journeyed from places like Poonch, Jammu, Rajouri, Ramban and Udhampur, overcoming significant geographical barriers to seek care.

The pinnacle of the camp's success was the deployment of cutting-edge, specialized ophthalmological equipment, representing the world's current best practice, which facilitated sophisticated cataract, retina and vitreous surgeries.

Among the countless beneficiaries the story of Surinder Singh, a 72-year-old patriarch from Poonch, resonates with a particular, heart-breaking intensity. Surinder Singh was not merely battling blindness for 2-3 yrs, he was carrying the heavy, indelible scars of loss. He had witnessed the unfolding tragedy in his very neighborhood during 'Operation Sindoor,' where the relentless shadow of conflict stole the lives of his neighbors—the vital

breadwinners, the pillars of their families. He transformed his gratitude into action, becoming a tireless champion who used his restored sight and his intimate understanding of grief to personally mobilize those fellow citizens paralyzed by sorrow and hardship. Similarly, Abdullah Shafeeq, a retired soldier, 56-year-old from Mendhar, proved pivotal in coordinating and facilitating the provision of these specialized ophthalmological facilities to residents impacted by the recent conflict. The camp delivered life-changing results, perhaps best exemplified by Rajkumari Devi, 96 yrs, having received the gift of clear sight, now has the precious ability to witness the world in full clarity. The genesis of this impactful medical mission lay in a shared vision of service, conceptualized by the Honourable Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, following a request from the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha. Responding

swiftly to this call for vital healthcare outreach, Shri Rajnath Singh personally instructed the Army Chief, General Upendra Dwivedi, to ensure the immediate and successful conduct of this specialized camp within the operational area of Udhampur. The critical responsibility for executing and overseeing the camp's successful completion was entrusted to Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, the Northern Command Army Commander, underscoring the mission's dual purpose: to provide expert medical care while showcasing the compassionate, human face of the Indian Army. Rooted in its commitment to the nation, the Army has consistently been a forefront pillar in delivering essential medical facilities under the banner of Operation Sadbhavna, driven by an unwavering spirit of nationalism and patriotism.

To guarantee clinical excellence, the Army Chief further directed the highest echelons of military

medicine—DGAFMS Surg Vice Admiral, Aarti Sarin and DGMS Army Lieutenant General, C G Muralidharan—to meticulously plan and execute the camp's operations. This advanced surgical camp was led by Brigadier Sanjay Kumar Mishra, a globally recognized and exceptionally renowned ophthalmologist in India. As the most highly decorated officer of the Army Medical Corps, his exceptional surgical skill is underscored by the fact that he has also had the distinct honor of operating on two serving Presidents of our nation. Brigadier Mishra's clinical leadership was paramount during the camp, where his team successfully performed more than 400 intricate surgeries. This impressive tally included complex procedures for cataracts, glaucoma, and retinal ailments, executed with the invaluable assistance of a highly specialized team of ophthalmologists and dedicated paramedical staff from the Army Hospital (Research & Referral).

Govt GN Hospital hosts CME on Dental Sciences & Oral Health

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 22: Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar on Saturday organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) session on Dental Sciences & Oral Health. As many as 60 Dental Surgeons from four Districts— Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi participated in the event. The CME was divided into an opening ceremony and scientific Session. Director Health Services (Jammu), Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar inaugurated the event in presence of Deputy Director Dentistry, Dr. Sanjay Sharma; Medical Superintendent, Dr. Narinder Singh Bhatial and Sr. Consultant Dentistry, Dr. Rohit Kohli. In his inaugural address, the Director Health Services appreciated the work done by Dental Surgeons in the field and motivated them to take up the Administrative Job for better patient care.

During the Scientific Session, Associate Professor Indira Gandhi Government Dental College Jammu, Dr. Ajay Gupta spoke on "Fundamentals of Post and Core". Assistant Professor Dr. Amrit Pal Singh threw light on "Facial Infections", while Consultant GMC Rajouri Dr. Israr spoke on "Maxillofacial Injuries".

Pain & Palliative Care Specialist, Dr. Rohit Lahori acquainted the participants on "Trigeminal Neuralgia" while Sr. Consultant Dentistry, Dr. Rohit Kohli spoke on "Osseo Integration in Dentistry" and Dr. Bhavneet Kaur, Consultant Dentistry talk covered "Pedodontic Sutras".

G20: With US absent, India announces new trilateral tech & innovation partnership with Canada and Australia

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

JOHANNESBURG/NEW DELHI, NOV 22: In a strategic move, amid the absence of the United States, India teamed up with Canada and Australia today to announce the formation of a new trilateral technology and innovation partnership, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the announcement, posting pictures with the Prime Ministers of Canada Mike Carney and Anthony Albanese of Australia.

The formation of the trilateral technology and innovation partnership that includes Canada comes amid the warming

relations between New Delhi and Ottawa, which had plummeted under the previous regime of Justin Trudeau. It also comes as relations between the US and Canada have soured over the trade war involving tariffs, and amid US President Donald Trump's suggestion that Canada could become the US' 51st state.

The United States of America has decided to boycott the G20 summit in Johannesburg over its unproven claims of "white genocide" in South Africa. US President Donald Trump has designated his charge d'affaires in Pretoria to be present on Sunday to accept the gavel of the rotating presidency, with the 2026 set to be



held in Miami, Florida.

At the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor was announced, and the MoU was signed by India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the European Union, France, Germany, and Italy to establish the corridor.

PM Modi, announcing the new trilateral technology and innovation partnership ACITI today, wrote on X today that the partnership would deepen their collaboration in emerging technologies, support diversification of supply chains, clean energy and mass adoption of AI, across three continents and three oceans.

"A new trilateral technology

and innovation partnership!

"Had an excellent meeting with Mr. Anthony Albanese, PM of Australia and Mr. Mark Carney, PM of Canada on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg.

"We are delighted to announce an Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership today.

"The initiative will deepen collaboration between democratic partners across three continents in emerging technologies, support diversification of supply chains, clean energy and mass adoption of AI.

"We look forward to working together to guarantee a better future for the coming generations!" UNI

BJP's data fraud weakened GRAP framework, claims Bharadwaj

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 22: Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj on Saturday accused the BJP-run Delhi Government of manipulating pollution data to suppress mandatory Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) restrictions, worsening the city's air quality crisis.

Bharadwaj alleged that the Supreme Court-mandated graded response framework has been undermined by data tampering, with pollution levels of 500-700 being reported as 300-400 to avoid enforcement. He added that both private and government construction sites continued operating despite GRAP Stage 3 prohibitions.

During a media interaction on Friday, Bharadwaj



noted that the Supreme Court had set up an independent body- the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)- to monitor and address Delhi's recurring winter pollution crisis.

The commission formulated the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), a contingency framework designed to automatically activate restrictions as pollution levels rise. These measures include steps such as closing schools to reduce bus emissions and limit children's exposure to hazardous air.

The AAP Delhi unit chief alleged a complete breakdown of the system due to what he claimed was deliberate manipulation of pollution readings by the government. "This time the government has committed large-scale fraud in the entire pollution-measurement system. If the actual pollution level is 500, the government reports it as 350. If it is 700, the government reports it as 400. Because of this manipulation, the graded response that should have been triggered is not being implemented," he said.

Bharadwaj also accused the government of ignoring official construction bans enforced under GRAP Stage 3. "Even the GRAP rules that are technically in force are not being followed. GRAP Stage 3 is in place today, but if you step outside my home you will see construction going on day and night. Next to my house in Chirag Delhi, construction is happening continuously. If you go to Vinod Nagar, government road construction is going on non-stop," he added. UNI

Flying Squads inspect Sonipat industrial areas for compliance of pollution norms

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 22: Amid rising pollution in the national capital region, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) sent flying squads to check for violation of environmental rules in Haryana's Sonipat, where 29 units were found violating the norms.

The commission has stated that stringent inspections are essential to curb non-compliance, reduce emissions at source, and provide relief to citizens residing near such non-compliant polluting entities.

These enforcement efforts are aimed at ensuring that industries and construction sites follow the prescribed norms and do not contribute to air pollution in the region.

On Friday, a total of twenty



flying squad teams of the commission were deployed for the operation, and enforcement action was conducted in both conforming and non-conforming industrial areas of the district.

The inspection was led by the District administration, which

included Deputy Commissioner (DC), Duty Magistrates, and Police personnel, who ensured a smooth process during the inspections.

The areas for the checks were allocated to the flying squads by the district administration, and a total of 101 inspections were

carried out, including at six Construction & Demolition (C&D) sites, while the rest were industrial areas.

In the non-conforming areas, 55 checks were conducted with 21 violations detected (including 2 C&D sites).

In conforming industrial areas, 46 inspections were conducted and 8 violations were recorded (including 3 C&D sites), officials said.

Use of unapproved fuel, absence of Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) and other such parameters were checked during the drive, where 20 units were found with malfunctioning systems.

Those units that operated without valid Consent to Operate (CTO) from the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) were taken into account.

The CAQM stated that the inspection in Sonipat was part of the larger enforcement initiative of the committee to intensify on-ground monitoring, particularly during the GRAP period, in close coordination with state governments, authorities and agencies concerned. UNI

WFH back on the table as Delhi chokes: CAQM tightens GRAP, moves stricter curbs to earlier stages

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 22: Saturday morning presented a familiar sight as commuters were seen coughing and wheezing their way through toxic air, some masked, others simply braving the haze. Now, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has recommended a partial reprieve, urging government and private offices to shift employees to work-from-home as pollution levels remain locked in the 'very poor' category for over a week.

In its advisory issued on Saturday, the pollution watchdog asked NCR state governments and the Delhi administration to consider allowing offices to function with 50 per cent staff on-site, with the rest working remotely. The Centre, too, may permit work-from-home for its employees in Delhi-NCR.

The decision comes after the Supreme Court, on November 19, urged the Commission to take proactive steps in consultation with stakeholders to prevent further deterioration of air quality in Delhi-NCR. Taking cognizance of the apex court's directions and deteriorating air quality in the city, CAQM on Saturday revised the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), imposing stricter measures in earlier phases.

According to the revised protocol, two key Stage 4 measures that allow residents of Delhi-NCR to work remotely will now apply under GRAP Stage 3. The order states that NCR state governments and the GNCTD may permit public, municipal, and private offices to operate with 50 per cent staff strength, with the remaining employees working from home. The Central government may also allow work-from-home arrangements for its employees in Delhi-NCR, it added.

To better respond to Delhi's annual winter pollution scourge, CAQM has also shifted several stricter measures from GRAP Stage 3 to Stage 2. Earlier, staggered office timings for state and central government offices in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar were triggered only under Stage 3. Under the revised notification, these will now be enforced at Stage 2.

CAQM has also advised the government to ensure an uninterrupted power supply at the Stage 1 level, a measure that was earlier enforced only under GRAP Stage 2, to curb the use of diesel generator sets and reduce emissions from this highly polluting source.

GRAP measures are activated in phases based on air quality: Stage I

when the AQI crosses 201 ('poor'), Stage II at 301 ('very poor'), Stage III at 401 ('severe'), and Stage IV when it exceeds 450 ('severe'), triggering the strictest emergency curbs.

On Saturday, the 24-hour average AQI in Delhi touched 370, with forecasts indicating that pollution levels may worsen. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System has predicted that the city's air quality could slip into the 'severe' category and remain between 'very poor' and 'severe' for at least six days due to stagnant wind conditions and winter inversion.

By 10 am, Delhi's 24-hour rolling average AQI stood at 361, only slightly lower than Friday evening's reading of 364, placing the capital dangerously close to the 'severe' pollution band. With GRAP Stage 3 already in effect-restricting non-essential construction and demolition work and curbing the entry of certain vehicle categories, including those below BS-IV norms- authorities have advised residents to limit outdoor activities, especially during early mornings and late evenings.

On Thursday, the Delhi government also directed all schools and educational institutions to suspend sports and other outdoor physical activities until air quality improves. UNI

Dalits, OBCs' legacy highlighted at grand Jhalkari Bai Jayanti celebration

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 22: Reaffirming the historic contributions of Dalit, OBC, and other marginalised communities, the Delhi government on Saturday celebrated the Jayanti of Veerangana Jhalkari Bai Koli Ji at a grand event organised by the Akhil Bharatiya Koli-Kori-Shankhwar Society in Nand Nagri.

Speaking at the ceremony, Delhi's Minister for Social Welfare and SC/ST/OBC Welfare, Ravinder Indraj Singh, said the nation owes profound debt to these communities for their enduring legacy of courage, wisdom, generosity, and social reform.

The minister emphasised that icons such as Maharishi Valmiki, Danveer Karna, Emperor Ashoka, Sant Ravidas, Sant Kabir, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, and Dr BR Ambedkar represent only a fraction of the extraordinary heritage of India's marginalised sections.

He said that Veerangana Jhalkari Bai Koli stands as one of the brightest symbols of this legacy, an embodiment of unparalleled bravery and unwavering patriotism.

Paying tribute to her valour, he recalled how Jhalkari Bai faced a lion at the age of 14 and later became the shield of Rani Lakshmi Bai during the First War of Independence in 1857.



"Had Jhalkari Bai not been present in her era, the history of Jhansi and India's resistance might have been entirely different," he noted.

Singh announced that the Delhi Government will celebrate Jhalkari Bai Jayanti with grandeur every year and continue organising public service programmes on the Jayantis of all great leaders and Veeranganas.

He also revealed that Jhalkari Bai's name has been newly added to the government's Honour Roll of historically overlooked national contributors.

Earlier in the day, the minister distributed assistive devices to 160 senior citizens in Qutubgarh. The event saw the presence of several community leaders, representatives from various states, and members of the Koli-Kori-Shankhwar community. UNI

DELHI CYBER CELL BUST MULTI-STATE INVESTMENT FRAUD SYNDICATE; 4 ARRESTED

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 22: Delhi Police Crime Branch dismantled an interstate investment fraud syndicate by arresting four key members who allegedly duped victims across the country of more than Rs 10 crore through fake online trading platforms, an official said today.

According to the police, the action stems from an E-FIR which was registered on June 14 after a resident of the city reported losing Rs 49.35 lakh to a fraudulent website, 'fxprovip.com'.

"The victim was first contacted through Facebook Messenger by a woman posing

as 'A', who later shifted the conversation to WhatsApp and persuaded him to invest via a seemingly legitimate trading portal," said Aditya Gautam, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime).

Following a digital surveillance and financial trail analysis, the officers from Cyber Cell got their hands on Atul Kumar (34), Varsha Sharma (35), Ajay Sharma (28), and R (54) on Thursday.

Amid the investigation into this case, the officer disclosed that the accused were part of a well-structured operation that relied heavily on "mule" bank accounts, accounts opened in the names of financially vulnerable individuals, for routing



and withdrawing cheated funds.

Ajay, who is believed to be a major account provider in the syndicate, arranged

multiple fraudulent bank accounts and supplied their credentials to co-conspirators.

"Atul and Varsha allegedly operated mule accounts that received Rs 3.69 lakh of the defrauded money, while R reportedly received Rs 300,008 in her account," the officer said.

Police added that the implicated bank accounts had surfaced in more than 67 cybercrime complaints across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and other states. Several of these cases also relate to 'digital arrest' scams.

Further investigation into this case is ongoing by the team, the DCP stated. UNI



Pant–Harmer duel may define Pant’s first Test as captain

■ **KARTHIK KRISHNASWAMY**

MUMBAI: Standing in as captain is never straightforward, and Rishabh Pant may have it trickier than most when he becomes India's 38th Test captain on Saturday. He won't just be leading a side without its regular captain and superstar No. 4. He'll be leading an India team that's 1-0 down in a two-Test series, which means they either win this Test match or lose the series.

Roughly a year ago, India hadn't lost or even drawn a home series in 12 years. Since then, they've lost one to New Zealand, 3-0, and could now lose this one to South Africa.

Pant will be leading India at a home venue they may not feel entirely at home in. This is Guwahati's first Test match, and conditions are a bit of an unknown, with the added twist of geographical considerations that will mean unusually early starts that may not fully mitigate the effect of early sunsets. So much could hinge on decisions made while still getting to grips with these conditions.

"See, we feel at this top level, playing international cricket, you are going to be put under pressure like this, that you might be 1-0 down in the series," Pant said in his pre-match press conference on Friday. "But at the same time, as a team, we don't want to dwell too much on the result every time we play cricket because we need to have a clear mindset that, regardless [of whether] we are one up or they are

one up, we still have to give our 200% when we [get] on the field.

"Taking that undue pressure is not required to play cricket, I feel. You've got to keep it simple. Just go out there and try to do your best, and eventually, the team who is going to play better cricket will win the match." This was the broad, recurring theme of Pant's first press conference as captain. Don't put undue pressure on yourself. Focus on the controllables. Pant knows that even the controllables are only so controllable. He was asked, for instance, about his decision to start day three of the Kolkata Test with Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel in tandem rather than one of the two left-arm spinners and Jasprit Bumrah, and whether he might have chosen differently in hindsight.

On that morning, India endured a frustrating wait for a wicket, with Temba Bavuma and Corbin Bosch putting on a match-turning partnership for the eighth wicket.

"A lot of discussion happened as a team, and we felt going with a spinner was that thought process for us," Pant said. "Yes, there is always a chance [you could have brought] a fast bowler in, that's for sure; [that thought comes in] when someone gives you a wicket afterwards.

"But that's the challenge as a captain [which] you want to face each and every day. You are going to be questioned, but eventually you are going to do what you believe is right in that given frame of mind. And trust that that person who has

the ball will do the job for the team."

As the Bavuma-Bosch stand stretched on, India's fans may have harboured conflicting thoughts, because it was equally possible to think that Pant was keeping Axar on for too long, and that he was changing bowlers too frequently and not allowing them to settle. It's one of the classic conundrums of Test-match captaincy: there's a lot of time in the game, but it can get away from you in no time.

"I feel, especially in red-ball cricket, because it goes [on for a] longer period of time, small tactical changes you can overcome because it gives you time in the game," Pant said. "But at the same time, you have to keep your emotions in check and [not] let the game drift away from you for too long. You try to be as close as possible to the game during the pressure situation."

By this, Pant probably meant stay in the game for as long as possible, and take decisions that give you the best chance of doing so. He often does this brilliantly when he bats. He takes calculated risks when the bowlers are dictating terms, putting pressure back on the bowling team by upsetting their plans and field placements. In good batting conditions, when he knows runs will come if he stays in, he often makes some of his most measured, risk-free starts.

Either way, when Pant bats for any length of time against any bowler, you usually know he has a plan, whether it's a conventional one or something only he could have con-

ceived and backed himself to execute.

In Kolkata, however, Pant, for once, looked uncertain when he faced the offspinner Simon Harmer, seemingly unsure of his ability either to attack or defend in those conditions. Across the two innings, in which he made 27 and 2, Pant faced 23 balls from Harmer, and played nine false shots. Before this match, Pant had played nine or more false shots against a spinner in six other Test matches. The false shots came over far longer periods in those six games; he scored at least one half-century in each of them. You can, of course, only read so much into numbers like this from a one-off Test on a pitch of extreme variability. Guwahati's conditions, from all pre-match indications, should be far more reasonable to bat in. No bowler, if this is so, should look nearly as unplayable as Harmer did at Eden Gardens against India's left-hand batters, and in particular Pant.

But Harmer's threat in Kolkata wasn't all to do with the pitch. He bowled with exacting control of length while varying his speeds and trajectories effortlessly. He will continue to pose problems even in decent batting conditions. Pant probably knows this, and is probably already formulating his response.

And this could well turn out to be a key contest in Guwahati. South Africa know all about Pant's ability to change games quickly, having seen it even in Kolkata when he took Keshav Maharaj for 22 runs in just ten balls in the first innings.

ESPN Cricinfo

ISPL North Zone Trials Wrap Up in Jammu

450 PLAYERS SET TO ENTER SEASON-3 AUCTION RACE

■ **HT SPORTS DESK**

JAMMU, NOV 22: The North Zone leg of the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) Season-3 Simulation Matches concluded on Thursday at the Country Cricket Stadium Jammu, marking another crucial step toward the much-anticipated third edition of the country's fastest-growing street-cricket league.

Across two intensive days—November 21 and 22—120 shortlisted players competed under the supervision of a seasoned selection panel comprising Mushtaq Rather, Shameet Shetty, Shantanu Gaichor, Harshad Paghdare and support staff member Shahbaaz Khan. The trials saw spirited performances as young cricketers from across northern states battled for a spot in the next stage.

With zone-wise simulations completed across India, the top 450 players from all regions will now advance to the Player Auction of ISPL Season-3. The league's wide scouting network continues to offer aspiring cricketers from every corner of the country a legitimate pathway to professional recognition.

Season-3 of the ISPL—featuring eight celebrity-owned teams—is scheduled to be held in Surat from January 9, 2026 to February 6, 2026. Adding to the excitement,



the tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP) will drive home a Porsche 911, one of the most coveted prizes in Indian franchise cricket.

The ISPL, now gearing up for its third season, continues to reshape India's grassroots cricket landscape with its innovative format, nationwide talent hunt, and growing fanfare.

9th District Bandipora Handball C'ship Concludes

Friends Handball Club Bandipora lifts title

■ **AASHIQ HUSSAIN**

BANDIPORA, NOV 22: The two-day 9th District Handball Championship concluded today at Playfield Naidkhai Bandipora.

The championship was organized by District Bandipora Handball Association in collaboration with J&K Handball Association and sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Commanding officer (CO) 13 RR was the chief guest while as Padmi Shree Award-



ee Faisal Ali Dar was guest of Honor. The dignitaries presented the trophies to the winning and runners-up teams along with individual prizes.

In his address, Faisal Ali Dar praised the sports talent in J&K, highlighting the achievements of local athletes at national and international levels. He encouraged further nurturing of talent by the J&K Handball Association (JKHA).

He congratulated the winners, runners-up and all participating teams, lauding

the sportsmanship exhibited during the final matches, championship.

Among others present on the occasion were Principal Govt Hr Sec School Naidkhai, respectable citizens of Bandipora, students, Sports lovers and office bearers of Bandipora Handball Association.

The Final match was played between Friends Handball Club and Future Handball Club between in which friends Handball Club defeated Future Handball Club by 26–23 Goals.

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