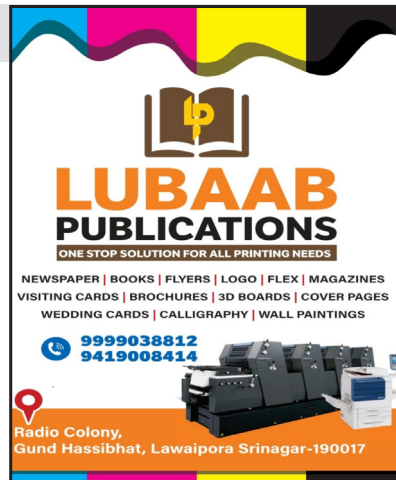


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HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



JKP Commandos Symbolise Our Unshakeable Resolve Against Terrorism: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 24: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the Jammu & Kashmir Police's Commando Train-

ing Centre (CTC) at Sunjwan, Jammu, where he reviewed the specialised training programmes and operational preparedness of the force.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor

closely assessed various tactical modules and counter-terror training being imparted to the trainees. He interacted with the personnel undergoing rigorous training

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Police Intensify Security With Surprise Locker Checks in Srinagar, Pulwama Hospitals

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: In a stepped-up security drive following the November 10 Delhi blast and the subsequent recovery of arms linked to a "white-collar" terror module, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday

conducted surprise inspections of hospital lockers in Srinagar and Pulwama districts.

According to a police spokesperson, the inspections were carried out in coordination with health department officials across district and private hospitals, medical colleges, PHCs and other health facilities in

Srinagar. Similar checks were undertaken simultaneously in Pulwama.

The move comes days after authorities recovered an AK rifle and ammunition from the locker of a doctor at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag on

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J&K to Kickstart 2026-27 Budget Consultations from December 1st

■ HT NEWS DESK/ KNO

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Department is set to commence discussions for the formulation of the 2026-27 Budget from December 1, initiating a comprehensive exercise involving 36 departments.

According to a communication accessed by Kashmir News Observer (KNO), administrative secretaries have been informed that the department-wise consultations will continue until December 16, 2025. The deliberations will focus on revised estimates for 2025-26 and

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Tri-Services Are India's Strategic Trinity: Army Chief

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: Army Chief General Upen-dra Dwivedi on Monday said the strength of armed forces lies in synergy and that the tri-services - the Army, Navy and the Air Force form the trinity of India's strategic strength.

Speaking during the commissioning of INS Mahe in Mumbai, the Army Chief, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the sea, land and skies form a single continuum of national security and together the tri-services form the trinity of India's strategic strength.

He also said that from Ladakh to the Indian Ocean and from information warfare to joint logistics, the Indian armed forces are in operation in every domain. "Operation Sindoor was an apt example of the synergy of the armed forces," he added.

He further said that in the age of multi-domain operations, the country's ability to act in concert from the depths of the ocean to the highest frontier will determine the security influence of the Indian republic.

Following the commissioning of INS Mahe, the

● Turn on Page 2

Collaboration With NSE Will Boost Confidence in J&K's Entrepreneurs: CM Omar Abdullah



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 24: In a major initiative aimed at strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's financial ecosystem, the Department of Industries & Commerce today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nation-

al Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). The agreement, formalised in the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeks to facilitate greater awareness among local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) about the advantages of formal listing and

access to capital markets.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, Director JKEDI, Directors of I&C Kashmir and Jammu, senior

● Turn on Page 2

CM Omar Dismisses Talk of 20% Peak-Hour Power Tariff Hike Amid Growing Criticism

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

JAMMU, NOV 24: Facing mounting public criticism over reports of a proposed 20% increase in electricity charges during peak hours in Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday clarified that the government has no plan to hike power tariffs and termed the controversy "unnecessary."

Speaking to reporters at the launch of the first-ever auction of seven limestone mineral blocks in J&K, Omar—who also holds the Power portfolio—said "I am also the Power Minister and so far no discussion to hike power tariff has taken place, leave aside my signature on the claimed proposal. There is no

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HADP Transforms J&K Agri, Generates 1.34 Cr Workdays

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today conducted an activity-wise, outcome-based comprehensive review of all 29 projects being implemented under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) aimed at boosting the Agriculture, Horticulture and Livestock sectors across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir in a structured, time-bound and result-oriented manner.

The high-level review meeting

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CS Reviews Constitution Day Prep in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the grand celebration of Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas) across J&K. The upcoming events on November 26, 2025, mark the

● Turn on Page 2

PM Modi to hoist saffron flag at Ram Temple

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI/AYODHYA, NOV 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Ayodhya on Tuesday to ceremonially hoist a saffron flag on the spire of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, symbolising the completion of its construction.

The right-angled triangular flag, measuring ten feet in height and twenty feet in length, bears the image of a radiant Sun symbolising the brilliance and valour of Lord Rama, with an 'Om' inscribed on it along with the image of Kovidara tree, a statement from the prime minister's office (PMO) said.

The sacred saffron flag will convey a message

of dignity, unity, and cultural continuity, embodying the ideals of Ram Rajya, the PMO said.

The flag will rise atop a 'shikhar' constructed in the traditional North Indian Nagara architectural style, while the surrounding 800-metre Parkota, a circumambulatory enclosure built around the temple, designed in the South Indian architectural tradition, showcases the temple's architectural diversity, it said.

During his stay in Ayodhya, the prime minister will visit Saptmandir which houses temples related to Maharshi Vashishtha, Maharshi Vishwamitra, Maharshi Agastya, Maharshi Valmiki, Devi Ahilya, Nishadraj Guha and Mata Shabari.

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Winter break upto 8th class from Dec-01: Sakina Itoo

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: The government Monday said that the winter vacations upto 8th standard will commence from December-01 for the winter zone of Kashmir division.

It also said that the vacations for other classes upto 12th standard will be from the second week of December.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Education Minister, Sakina Itoo said, "The proposal for winter vacation upto 8th standard has been approved and the vacations

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J&K to Present UT Artisan Awards

38 artisans to be honoured for keeping craft heritage alive

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: The Handicrafts and Handloom Department is all set to confer the annual UT Artisan Awards for the year 2024 amongst the selected craft-persons, who have kept the famed handicrafts legacy alive in Jammu & Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who is also Minister In-Charge Industries & Commerce, shall distribute the coveted awards here at the picturesque SKICC on November 25, in

presence of the Commissioner/Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh.

In a press release issued here today, a spokesman of the Department stated that 38 artisans and weavers, 20 from Kashmir and 18 from Jammu Division respectively, shall be conferred with the prestigious UT Artisan Awards in different notified crafts, who have been selected by the Government. "All arrangements have been made at SKICC Auditorium for the gala function. The award for the artisans shall accompany a citation and cash

prizes of ₹50,000, ₹30,000 & ₹20,000 for first three places in each craft," he added.

Identifying welfare of artisans and weavers as the primary objective of the department, the spokesman asserted that the coveted annual Artisan Awards distribution is an effort of the Government to recognize the contribution of our artisan community who toil hard to keep the handicrafts heritage alive in Jammu & Kashmir. "Apart from UT Artisan Awards, which are given out annually, our artisans

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Omar thanks Centre for its support

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday reaffirmed his government's commitment to ensuring transparency in the auctioning of mineral blocks in Jammu & Kashmir, stating that the new e-auction mechanism will unlock economic potential in some of the most underserved regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister made these remarks during the launch and roadshow of the e-auction of the first seven limestone mineral blocks of J&K, held at the Convention Centre, Jammu. The e-auction was jointly commenced by

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Jammu & Kashmir Day inaugurated at IITF 2025, celebrating heritage, entrepreneurial spirit

HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 24: The Jammu & Kashmir Pavilion at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 was abuzz with excitement as it celebrated Jammu & Kashmir Day in style.

The event was graced by esteemed guests and featured captivating cultural performances that showcased the region's rich heritage.

The festivities at the Pavilion brought together the senior officials and representatives,

who gathered to mark the occasion with enthusiasm and pride.

During the inaugural address, Managing Director, JKTPO, Sudershan Kumar, highlighted the unique cultural and economic richness of Jammu & Kashmir. He extended special appreciation to the region's artisans and entrepreneurs for their outstanding contribution to heritage and trade.

It was noted that the Jammu & Kashmir Pavilion stands as an emblem of authentic crafts-

manship and entrepreneurial spirit. The visitors were encouraged to experience the region's treasures, including world-renowned handicrafts, premium handlooms and exceptional agricultural and horticultural products.

FA/CAO, JKTPO, Imran Mehmood, highlighted the region's spectacular landscapes, rich traditions and warm hospitality. His message emphasized that Jammu & Kashmir is not just a destination of natural beauty but also one of emerging opportunities for the tourists,



investors and partners, encouraging the public to visit Jammu & Kashmir.

The efforts of various departments and organizations in empowering the local artisans

and exhibitors were commended. It was highlighted that the significant rise in participation, from 30 exhibitors in previous years to over 140 this year, signals growing confidence and

ambition among the local entrepreneurs.

The JKTPO further expressed gratitude to all the participants, officials and visitors for their support, reiterating their dedication towards empowering the local talent, creating new market avenues and showcasing the best of Jammu & Kashmir on broader platforms.

The celebration included mesmerizing cultural performances, featuring Dogri and Kashmiri folk dances and songs, capturing the essence of the region's diversity and heritage.

The Pavilion showcased over 140 exhibitors, including women entrepreneurs, specially-abled business owners and cooperative societies, presenting a wide array of products such as GI-tagged saffron, Pashmina shawls, Kani shawls, Sozni embroidery, Besholi paintings, Kashmiri carpets and Paper Mache crafts.

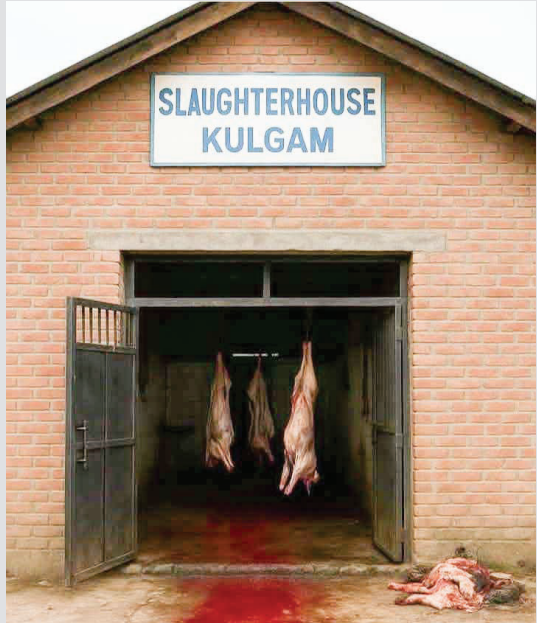
The event concluded with a vibrant display of Jammu & Kashmir's spirit, blending its enduring cultural legacy with modern entrepreneurial ambitions.

Kulgam Administration Issues Public Notice, Mandates Use of Slaughterhouse

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 24: The District Administration Kulgam has issued a public notice mandating that no animal shall be slaughtered within any Municipal area except at a duly established slaughterhouse.

According to the official order, the newly established slaughterhouse at Adpora, Kulgam has been made fully operational and designated as the only authorised facility for slaughtering within Muni-



pal limits. All meat shop owners have been instructed to strictly comply with this directive.

The administration has clarified that slaughtering animals at any unauthorised location within Municipal areas will not be allowed under any circumstances.

Authorities have urged full cooperation from meat traders as well as the general public to ensure a hygienic, regulated, and safe meat supply across the district.

Three-day national workshop on data analysis begins at KU

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR NOV 24: The Department of Commerce, University of Kashmir (KU), on Monday began a three-day national workshop on "Mastering Data Analysis Using Microsoft Excel" at the Main Campus.

Designed to strengthen analytical competencies, the workshop focuses on mastering core data analysis skills, using Excel for informed decision-making, hands-on practice, and collaborative learning.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, "In today's academic and professional landscape, data literacy is no longer an additional skill; it is essential. Workshops like this help our students and professionals translate

raw information into meaningful insights."

She added that the University is committed to expanding practical, skill-oriented training across disciplines.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, and Dean College Development Council KU, Prof. Khurshed Butt, said that such initiatives enhance analytical capabilities among students, scholars and professionals, enabling them to apply data-driven approaches in research, administration, and industry-related tasks.

In his keynote address, Prof. Narain, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, said that Excel remains one of the most widely used and adaptable analytical tools, adding that effective data analysis strengthens evi-



dence-based decision-making across sectors.

Earlier, Head, Department of Commerce KU, Prof. Pervaz Ahmad Shah, in his welcome address, highlighted the department's continued efforts to integrate practical skill-building modules into academic programmes and training activities.

The three-day workshop features intensive hands-on training sessions on data handling, analytical functions, visualisation techniques, dashboards, and problem-solving exercises. It is being attended by students, scholars and professionals from within and outside the University.

The inaugural session was attended by deans of various schools, faculty members, scholars, and students of the campus.

Educated but Unemployed J&K's youth caught between degrees and diminishing opportunities: Altaf Dar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: Socio-Political Activist, Senior Trade Union Leader, and civic reformer Mohammad Altaf Dar has expressed deep concern over the growing crisis of educated unemployment in Jammu & Kashmir, calling it a "silent emergency" that threatens the social and economic stability of the region.

M Altaf Dar Rajbagh said that every year thousands of well-educated youth complete their degrees with great expectations, yet struggle to secure dignified employment. "Our young graduates possess academic qualifications, but the job market

demands practical skills, industry exposure, and professional competence areas where our current system falls short," Dar stated.

He highlighted that an outdated and theory-heavy education system continues to produce graduates in oversaturated fields, while emerging sectors such as information technology, renewable energy, hospitality, skilled trades, and digital services face an acute shortage of trained professionals. Poor career guidance, he said, further pushes students into courses without understanding real market demand.

M Altaf Dar Rajbagh warned that the rising unemployment rate among

educated youth is already fueling brain drain, psychological stress, and growing frustration, which can have long-term social consequences.

He emphasized that Jammu & Kashmir urgently needs education-market alignment, recommending a shift toward skill-based learning, industry internships, start-up incubation support, and strong collaboration between universities and private industries.

"We must prepare our youth for real-world challenges and restore their hope. The state's future depends on how effectively we respond to this widening gap between education and employment," he added.

Candle Symbol Shines Bright in Langate as Ganie Re-Elected President of Shopkeepers and Traders Union

DR. AB QAYOOM

LANGATE, NOV 24: The election symbol "Candle" lit up Langate with renewed hope and confidence today as Lateef Ahmad Ganie, owner of A-One Modern Bakery, was re-elected President of the Shopkeepers and Traders Union Langate. Ganie secured 211 votes, winning by a margin of 91 votes, reaffirming the trust the trading community has placed in his leadership. "It is a great honour for me that the traders have re-elected me as their president. I will continue to work for the development and welfare of traders, just as I have done in my previous tenure," Ganie told HEADLINES TODAY shortly after being declared the winner of the president of Shopkeepers and Traders Union Langate elections.

Two candidates were in the fray former president Lateef Ahmad Ganie Mir, a well-known bakery owner from Bonpora and Tariq Ahmad. The polling began at 9:00 am and concluded at

4:30 pm, during which traders from across Langate exercised their democratic right with enthusiasm. The day-long election was conducted smoothly under the supervision of the Election Board Chairman, Tehsil Administration, and J&K Police. Security arrangements remained tight throughout the day, with Handwara Police, CRPF, and the Indian Army ensuring a peaceful atmosphere.

Chowki Officer Langate, Rayees Ahmad, along with his team, played a significant role in maintaining law and order around the Town Hall Langate polling station. A large number of political leaders, non-political organisations, journalists, and civil society members extended their heartfelt congratulations to the re-elected president. Reaffirming his commitment, Ganie assured the trader community that he will work tirelessly to resolve the issues faced by businesses in Langate and continue initiatives aimed at improving trade facilities and strengthening unity among traders.



Doorstep Passport Services in Kupwara, Mobile Van to Operate for Two Days

Regional Passport Office Srinagar to Deploy Mobile Passport Van in Kupwara from 27th to 28th November 2025

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: In a citizen centric initiative aimed at improving accessibility to passport services, the Regional Passport Office Srinagar, under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, will deploy a Mobile Passport Van in Kupwara from Thursday, 27th November 2025 to Friday 28th November 2025.

The initiative is part of the Passport Seva Project (PSP), aimed at delivering efficient, transparent, and citizen friendly passport services across the country. The Mobile Passport Van will provide doorstep passport facilities, especially in remote and far flung regions under the jurisdiction of the Srinagar office.

B.S. Rawat, Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar, said that the introduction of the Mobile Passport Van service in Kupwara is a proactive step towards extending passport services to underserved regions. This initiative reflects the Ministry's continued efforts to ensure that citizens, irrespective of their location, are provided timely and hassle free access to essential documentation. The Mobile Passport Van will be stationed at the Deputy Commissioner, Office Park, Kupwara, during the specified dates.

Applicants from Kupwara and nearby areas who wish to avail the services must book an appointment through the official Passport Seva website www.passportindia.gov.in. While booking, applicants should select "Passport Van" as the service option and choose a suitable date and time slot between 27th to 28th November 2025.

On the day of their appointment, applicants are advised to visit the designated location at the scheduled time. They may contact the Mobile Passport Van team, bearing Registration Number PB65BF1377, for any on site assistance or procedural support.

This initiative marks a significant step in decentralising passport services and making them more accessible to citizens residing in remote regions. It reflects the Ministry's broader vision of delivering timely, transparent, and efficient services to all sections of the population.

Secretary Transport asks for effective implementation of Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy in J&K

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: Secretary, Transport, Avny Lavasa, today asked the department for effective implementation of the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy in Jammu & Kashmir.

She exhorted upon the officers to generate awareness about the policy and encourage the vehicle owners to take advantage of the benefits outlined under the policy.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of widespread publicity and awareness campaigns to ensure that the general public, especially vehicle owners of old, unfit vehicles are fully informed about the opportunity to scrap their vehicles through Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities

(RVSF).

The government order issued in this regard outlines the guidelines for implementation of the Motor Vehicle (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

These guidelines aim to reduce pollution, enhance road safety and foster a circular economy through responsible vehicle recycling.

The policy targets vehicles that are 15 years old or more, as well as those that are unfit for road use due to accidents, disasters or natural wear and tear. Vehicle owners can voluntarily scrap their vehicles at a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) and receive a Certificate of Deposit (COD), which will serve as a key



document for availing of incentives on purchase of new vehicles. The owners of vehicles that are scrapped will benefit from fiscal incentives including

exemptions in road tax (up to 26% for non-transport vehicles and 16% for transport vehicles) if they opt to buy new vehicles within a specified period.

The Secretary Transport informed that the scrapping process will be carried out in a scientifically sound manner to promote recycling and minimize environmental impact, in line with the Environment Protection (End of Life of Vehicle) Rules, 2025. The implementation of the policy is expected to create a thriving business ecosystem in the vehicle scrapping and recycling industry. This will not only contribute to the economic development of Jammu & Kashmir but also create significant employment opportunities in various sectors including automotive dismantling, recycling, and logistics.

To facilitate the scrapping process, the government will provide incentives and land

bank support for setting up RVSFs across Jammu & Kashmir. The existing industrial policies will offer fiscal incentives for establishment of these facilities, which will play a key role in modernizing the local auto industry.

All RVSFs will need to comply with the Motor Vehicle (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021 and undergo environmental clearance from the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee.

Avny Lavasa asked the department to undertake a comprehensive communication campaign targeting the vehicle owners across all regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

She also stressed that the initiative would not only help in reducing pollution but would

also create a ripple effect by stimulating business growth, generating employment and improving the efficiency of the automotive sector in the region.

"The Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy is a forward-thinking initiative that will benefit both vehicle owners and the economy.

It is crucial that we engage with the public and businesses to make this a success," said the Secretary. She assured that the Transport department would continue to monitor the progress and ensure smooth implementation of the policy.

The Transport Department of Jammu & Kashmir is committed to improving road safety, reducing traffic congestion and supporting environmental sustainability.

DC Rajouri orders deduction of one day salary of absentee employees

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today conducted a series of surprise inspections across various government offices to assess functioning, service delivery and staff attendance.

During a surprise inspection at the Office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunderbani, the Deputy Commissioner found four employees absent from duty without authorization. Strict directions were issued to seek an immediate explanation from the absentee officials and the controlling officer was instructed to initiate action as per rules.

The DC also inspected the Block Development



Office (BDO) Siot, where he reviewed the attendance register, ongoing works and public service delivery mechanisms.

Later, during an inspection at Lamberi, eight employees were found absent. Taking serious note of the absenteeism, the Deputy Commissioner ordered deduction of one-day salary from all such employees and reiterated that negligence of duty, particularly in public-facing departments, would not be tolerated.

Reiterating the commitment of the district administration towards efficient governance, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all officers to maintain regular attendance, ensure timely delivery of public services and uphold the highest standards of accountability.

The Deputy Commissioner also stated that such inspections will continue in the coming days to ensure effective implementation of government schemes and responsive administration at all levels.

SHEW Shopian organises awareness programme at AWC Cheermarg

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 23: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian, organised an awareness programme today at Anganwadi Centre (AWC) Cheermarg.

The programme was aimed at informing and educating local women about various government welfare schemes and initiatives designed for their social and economic upliftment.

The officials provided detailed information on multiple social security schemes, including Old Age Pension, Widow Sponsorship, PCP and State Marriage Assistance Scheme, helping women understand eligibility and benefits. Participants were also made aware of employment and financial support schemes such

as Tejaswini, Mission Youth, and other loan-based initiatives that encourage self-employment and entrepreneurship among young women.

To further promote self-reliance, the programme highlighted several skill development schemes available through various government departments. Women were encouraged to utilise these opportunities to enhance their skills and improve livelihood prospects.

A key component of the session was the sharing of crucial helpline numbers, such as the Women Helpline (181), Child Helpline (1098) and the Drug De-addiction Helpline (14446).

These numbers were emphasised to ensure that women can access immediate support



in times of need.

In addition, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative was discussed, focusing on the importance of girls' education, protection, and empowerment. The participants were sensitised about the need to promote gender equality and create a supportive environment for the growth of girls within the community.

The programme saw enthusiastic participation from local women, who expressed gratitude for the valuable information shared.

Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women reaffirmed its commitment to conducting similar outreach activities across the district to ensure that every woman is aware of the government schemes, rights and opportunities available to her.

DC B'la Hands Over PMAY-U 2.0 Sanction Letters to 20 Eligible Beneficiaries

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 24: In a step towards ensuring housing for all eligible beneficiaries, DC Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, in the presence of Executive Officer MC Watergam, Sarafraz Ahmad Bhat, today handed over sanction letters under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 to 20 eligible beneficiaries from Municipal Committee Watergam.

The DC congratulated the beneficiaries and urged them to start construction work at the earliest. He highlighted that timely initiation would enable them to receive subsequent installments on schedule and complete their houses within the prescribed timeframe.

He also emphasized the importance of adhering to the construction guidelines, maintaining quality, and ensuring transparency throughout the process.

The DC stressed that PMAY-U 2.0 is a key initiative aimed at providing



safe, pucca, and affordable housing to eligible urban families, reinforcing the government's commitment to "housing for all." He encouraged the beneficiaries to make full use of the assistance to achieve secure and dignified living conditions.

Executive Officer, Municipal

Committee Watergam, assured full support to the beneficiaries and highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts with the administration for smooth implementation of the scheme.

Other concerned officers were also present during the event..

DC Budgam Reviews Progress on Demarcation of Hokarsar Wetland

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting to review the progress of demarcation of the Hokarsar Wetland, a designated Ramsar Site, being carried out by Revenue and allied departments.

The meeting was attended by the ACR Budgam, Afroza Bano; SDM (West) Srinagar, Irfan Bahadur; SDPO Magam, DFO Photo Interpretation Division J&K, DFO Settlement & Demarcation Srinagar, Range Officer Hokarsar, Naib Tehsildar Regional Director Survey & Land Records Srinagar, and the Settlement Assistant, Regional Director S&LR Srinagar.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed in detail the current status of field verification, boundary assessment, geo-referenced mapping, and availability of relevant records with each department.

He stressed the importance of accurate, scientific, and dispute-free demarcation to ensure long-term



conservation and legal protection of the wetland.

The DC emphasised strict adherence to the directions, calling for enhanced coordination between Revenue, Forest, Police, and Survey & Land Records teams. He directed officers to remove any bottlenecks in the ongoing process and maintain close inter-departmental communication for seamless progress.

The DC further instructed the concerned agencies to submit updated status reports, expedite pending tasks, and ensure that the demarcation exercise is completed in a transparent and technically sound manner.

He reiterated that Hokarsar Wetland, being a Ramsar Site of international ecological importance, must be protected through robust management and clear boundary identification to prevent encroachment and ensure its ecological sustainability.

DC Budgam Reviews Arrangements for Celebration of Samvidhan Divas 2025

Day-long celebrations to be held across District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today convened a detailed preparatory meeting to review arrangements for the celebration of Samvidhan Divas (Constitution Day), which will be observed across the district on 26th November 2025.

On the occasion, the DC assessed department-wise preparedness and finalized the schedule of activities to be conducted at the District Headquarters and all Sub-Divisions.

As part of the celebrations, the district administration will organise a 'Run for Rights', from the New Parking area Budgam to the DC Office Complex



Budgam. The event aims to highlight the constitutional values of equality, justice, liberty, and fraternity.

The run will be followed by a Preamble Reading Ceremony.

Subsequently, a documentary on constitutional values and history will be screened for participants, after which an online quiz will be conducted to encourage broader public

engagement and awareness regarding the Constitution.

The DC directed all line departments to ensure seamless coordination, adequate logistical support, security arrangements, medical facilities, and wide community participation.

He stressed that the programme must reflect the spirit of the Constitution and promote civic understanding among citizens, especially youth and students.

The DC further instructed that similar programmes be organised in all sub-divisions, colleges, Schools etc to ensure district-wide participation in the national event.

He emphasised timely finalization of routes, traffic regulation, digital arrangements for the online quiz, and

communication of the programme schedule to educational institutions and the general public.

The DC urged officers to work in synergy to make the Constitution Day celebrations vibrant, informative, and inclusive, honouring the vision of the founding fathers of the nation.

The DC directed officers for ensuring full preparedness and active support for the successful observance of Samvidhan Divas 2025 across Budgam district.

Besides, ADC Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah, CPO Budgam, CEO MC Budgam, CEO Budgam, ACP, CMO, DIO Information, DSWO, DIO Informatics, EOs of all MCs, and representatives from forest department were present in meeting.

DC Shopian reviews winter mitigation preparations in district

Admin gears up to tackle winter situation and ensure seamless services

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review winter preparations of departments concerning the ensuing winter at Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The DC took stock of finalisation of Departmental Action Plans and emphasized the need for a coordinated approach to mitigate winter challenges and instructed concerned officers to execute mitigation plans efficiently, ensuring prompt responses to avoid inconvenience to the public through disruption of services.

Focus was given on strict implementation of the department action plans for the prioritisation



of roads for snow clearance, unhindered power supply and timely replacement of DTs with decentralised and adequate Buffer stocking in Zainapora, Keller and Shopian.

He stressed on proper and comprehensive arrangements for uninterrupted water supply, healthcare facilities, fire fighting services, relief and rescue, Mughal Road snow clearance and other priority issues.

The meeting focused on interdepartmental coordination, evolving efficient mechanisms to address public grievances, and ensuring seamless services during the winter season with the establishment of Integrated Control Room at District level and department wise emergency control centres.

Chairperson DDC Bandipora, DC Bandipora flag off YS&S Inter Zonal Trekking Expedition

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, NOVEMBER 24: Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Bandipora, Abdul Gani Bhat, along with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday flagged off the Youth Services & Sports Bandipora trekking contingent (Boys Group) for the Inter Zonal District Level Residential



Trekking Expedition to Pahalgam.

The week-long expedition, scheduled from 24th November to 30th November, features selected boys representing different educational zones of the district. The programme aims to promote adventure sports, physical fitness, discipline, teamwork, and environmental awareness among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairperson praised the participants for their enthusiasm and encouraged them to take full advantage of the learning exposure provided through the outdoor adventure experience. He extended his best wishes for a safe and successful expedition.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Youth Services & Sports Department in organizing such initiatives to channelize youthful energy into constructive platforms. She advised the young trekkers to maintain discipline, follow instructions of escorting staff, and enjoy the natural beauty and heritage of Pahalgam responsibly.

Officials of the Youth Services & Sports Department Bandipora, parents, and sports lovers were present during the flag-off ceremony and conveyed their best wishes to the participants.

The expedition is expected to contribute towards developing leadership qualities, confidence, and a strong spirit of adventure among the young boys.

Impactful Environmental Plantation Drive held at GBHS Barsoo

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, NOVEMBER 24: A highly impactful Environmental Plantation Drive combined with a vibrant Cultural Event was today organised at Government Boys High School (GBHS) Barsoo, Awantipora today.

The program was organized by IRP-23rd Battalion in collaboration with Forest Department under Civic Action Programme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation including students, teaching staff, Forest Department employees, and other members from the local community.

The initiative aimed to foster environmental awareness and promote cultural heritage among the youth and local residents. The plantation drive was spearheaded in collaboration with the Forest Department, highlighting the need to conserve the environment and inspiring the attendees to contribute actively towards building a greener future. Native saplings were planted in the school premises, with expert guidance provided to students and staff on sustainable plantation techniques and long-term care of trees.

The lively cultural event showcased the diverse talents of the students through various performances, including music, dance, and art displays. Participants who demonstrated exceptional skills and performances were felicitated with prizes to encourage continued engagement and development of their talents.

The Forest Department officials conducted interactive environmental sessions and addressed the importance of sustainable practices in daily life. The event provided an excellent platform for dialogue, collaboration, and learning, reinforcing the significance of environmental stewardship and cultural preservation.

The pledge taken by participants to care for the planted saplings and uphold environmental values marked a promising step forward for sustainable development in the region.

The commitment of the IRP-23rd Battalion and the Forest Department to ongoing support, training, and resources for these initiatives was reaffirmed, ensuring continued progress toward a greener and culturally enlightened society.

DC Shopian Chairs NCORD meeting

Calls for strengthening surveillance in hot spot areas

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER, 24: The District-Level NCORD Committee Meeting was today convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta here at Mini-Secretariat to review the measures being taken to curb drug and substance abuse and break the chain of narcotics in the district.

During the meeting, The DC took department-wise review of enforcement actions, counselling interventions, awareness programmes and monitoring mechanisms adopted by all concerned departments and stressed the need for strong inter-departmental coordination, and intensified action against drug peddlers.

The meeting also discussed the issues of enforcement and inspection



of drug stores, coaching institutes, Surveillance in Hot spot areas, IEC Campaign in drug abuse.

The DC also instructed concerned to strengthen surveillance in vulnerable areas of hotspots and initiate strict action against persons involved in drug

trade and persons having amassed property from proceeds of crime.

SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; SDM Zainapora and other officers of the district were present in the meeting.

DHSJ organises Workshop on Bio-Medical Waste Management

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: The Directorate of Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) today organised a Skill Enhancement Workshop on Bio-Medical Waste Management at its Conference Hall to promote safe, scientific, and standardised waste-handling practices across the Jammu Division. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of Nodal Officers, paramedical staff, field workers, and representatives from various health institutions. The workshop was inaugurated by Assistant Director, Health Education Bureau, Dr. Simmi. In her inaugural address, Dr. Simmi highlighted the critical importance of proper segregation,

storage, transportation, and disposal of bio-medical waste for ensuring patient safety, staff well-being, public health, and environmental protection. She underscored the need for every health institution to strictly follow protocols to minimise risks associated with infectious and hazardous waste.

A team of expert resource persons—Dr. Anju Sidha, Coordinator Pollution Control Board; Manglesh Kumar, Finance Head, Anmol Health Care; and Ayaz Ali—conducted comprehensive technical sessions covering key aspects such as the Bio-Medical Waste Management Act 2016, updated BMW Management Rules, segregation protocols, colour-



coding systems, on-site handling methods, safe internal and external transportation, and correct usage of personal protective equipment (PPE). The sessions also addressed common errors observed in health facilities, corrective measures, record-keeping systems, barcoding of waste, and the importance of timely reporting and documentation to ensure compliance with regulatory standards. The resource persons delivered practical demonstrations, including hands-on handling of waste categories, correct PPE donning/doffing techniques, and the use of colour-coded bins and bags. Participants were also engaged in interactive Q&A sessions aimed at strengthening conceptual clarity

and improving operational efficiency at their respective facilities. Officials emphasised the need for continuous monitoring, periodic audits, and refresher trainings to ensure that all health institutions maintain compliance and adopt safe, sustainable waste management practices. At the end of the programme, certificates of participation were distributed among all attendees by the Director Health Services Jammu, who appreciated their commitment to improving waste management standards in the region. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks and a pledge to enhance environmental safety through disciplined and responsible waste handling.

DC Reasi inaugurates “Didi Ki Rasoi” canteen to promote women empowerment, community development

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

REASI, NOVEMBER 24: In a significant move towards women empowerment and community development, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today inaugurated the “Didi Ki Rasoi” canteen here at Government Boys Higher Secondary School.

The canteen chain is being operated by Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the aegis of District Urban Development Agency (DUDA) formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). The facility offers affordable, nutritious, home-cooked meals to students, faculty and visitors.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Project Officer DUDA Udhampur-Reasi, Jaffar Azad Batt, EO Municipal Council, the Principal of the school and other officials.

Addressing the gathering, the DC appreciated the SHG members and the concerned departments for launching the initiative. She emphasized the importance of economic independence of women, noting that



the venture “Didi Ki Rasoi” will enhance the confidence, skills and leadership abilities of the SHG members.

“The initiative serves a dual purpose of providing Women SHG a sustainable source of income and ensuring access to healthy & hygienic food at reasonable prices to the community,” she said.

The Deputy Commissioner further reiterated that the district administration is committed to holistic

and inclusive development and similar initiatives will be promoted across Reasi to ensure community participation in local development.

An Araucaria plant was planted at the canteen site, symbolizing harmony, prosperity and environmental consciousness aligning with the administration’s focus on sustainable development and community well-being.

Medical Camps organised across District Doda under MMU

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 24: A series of Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) medical camps were organised today at multiple locations across the mountainous District Doda. The health outreach initiative aimed to provide essential healthcare services at the doorstep of the public, especially those living in remote, hard-to-reach, and underserved regions.

In Medical Block Ghat, a medical camp was organised at Village Khal where Dr. Mirza Nadeem Beg, along with the supporting health staff and the MMU team, conducted general screenings, provided diagnostic services, and offered necessary treatment to the residents. A total of 79 patients were examined for various ailments, including seasonal infections, orthopedic complaints, and chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. Blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar testing, and basic investigations were also carried out on-site.

Similarly, another medical camp was held at Village Drone Jamani in Medical Block Thatthri, where Dr. Ikhlaz Hussain, supported by local staff and the MMU team, provided medical



consultations to 68 patients. The team focused on early detection of common health issues, maternal and child health services, and management of non-communicable diseases. Special attention was given to elderly patients and women who often face challenges in accessing regular healthcare.

Free medicines were distributed to all beneficiaries as per their medical requirements at both locations. The camps also ensured referral of serious cases to nearby health institutions for further evaluation and treatment.

In addition to consultations, the health staff carried out awareness

sessions on hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, and prevention of communicable diseases. Villagers were sensitised about the importance of early healthcare-seeking behaviour, completing prescribed treatments, and adopting healthy lifestyle practices.

The Health Department Doda reaffirmed its commitment to delivering accessible, equitable, and quality healthcare services to all sections of the population. Officials noted that such MMU-driven outreach activities will continue in the coming weeks to ensure uninterrupted health coverage across remote hill areas.

Don't issue statements just for public consumption

Over the past few days the education minister and the top notch officers of the department have been issuing statements that action will be taken against the schools that prescribe books other than the ones prescribed by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. It seems that the minister and the other officers are living in oblivion or they are issuing statements in this regard just for the public consumption.

The academic session has already begun and the students have in fact gone through some of the chapters in the books that have been purchased from the open market. Since the schools are going to close for the winter vacations in the next couple of weeks in a phased manner the issue will be buried with the passage of time. Once the schools reopen after winter vacations in March next year the issue would be reduced to be an issue of lesser importance.

The parents of the children have already spent a lot of money in the purchase of books prescribed by the schools of their own without any approval of the board authorities. Now speaking of action against the schools gives an impression that many a slip between the cup and the lip. Action should have been taken against the schools at the first instance without any delay. Once action would have been taken against some of the schools it could have changed the situation.

Even though action was taken against some of the schools in the previous week the targeted schools are not that famous and the main schools found to be violating the norms have been left Scott free. Most of the people believe that the action taken against the schools is mere eyewash and it has been done so as to give an impression that nobody would be allowed to violate the laid down rules and regulations. Some of the other schools have been reprimanded with a warning that action will be taken if they don't budge.

While on one hand the students of private schools have already got the books, those studying in the government schools are not so fortunate. A huge number of students of government schools are yet to get books for the new class and they are waiting for the consignment from the board office. Hope the students get the books before the closure of schools otherwise they would have to wait until March next year.

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Importance of Field Trips in Schools



SAHIL MANZOOR

Learning is interesting. The education system is well known to all of us. The importance of education has greatly impacted the world. In all corners of the globe, people have come to know the potential greatness of education. Education has no alternative, no barriers, and no constraints in any country or part of the world. Acquiring education adds laurels to our morals and bestows upon us the great chapters of life. Humans are considered a civilized society; any uncivilized act may be counted among animals.

It is simple to understand that there is little difference between humans and animals. Both species are classified as mammals. Biologically, there are many resembling characteristics between humans and animals, but humans are the most beautiful creation of the Almighty because of their expressive reasoning. In the Holy Quran, Almighty Allah says humans are Ashraf-ul-Makhluqaat. It means there is no species like humans in this world, and humans were created beautiful in all aspects. Being a good human is not so hard, but it needs an environment where we can nourish and produce great individuals.

Human beings should never forget their duties and responsibilities in society. Every individual has equal and constitutional rights that he or she can use to change the shape of society or the country, or even change the shape of the world with just a single idea.

Clicking on a great idea may revolutionize your life. The state of our mind depends on the environment we are surrounded by.

Sensible people nourish their minds under the guidance of great people. When you are surrounded by such minds, you feel unexpected changes in your life—your way of thinking, your approach to

situations, and your attitude towards learning. Overall development is necessary for change in life. There are people who never skip a single opportunity that is vital for their life goals, and there are people who skip many opportunities yet expect success without working hard.

Our body structure never decides our future. Being strong physically never means we are at the top. It is good and important, but real success comes from a great mind that can sort out troubles quickly and become an asset to the world.

Great minds have no unique identity, no unique citizenship, and belong to no particular caste or color. Great people are assets of the whole world. One interesting thing is that there are 8 billion souls in the world, but only a few are renowned and famous in different fields like science and technology, politics, education, art, music, religion, and sports. We respect their contribution to the world. Great people are those who smooth the way for others and burn their nights for noble causes.

Today, I am going to share my experience on how we can produce great minds and nourish them in a free zone.

What is a Free Zone?

A free zone can be defined as a place where a learner understands concepts without fear of punishment or any physical, psychological, or mental barriers.

Today, schools are providing free zones to learners and nourishing them under happy environments. The education system is being transformed with new policies and strategies. The goal is to produce great minds for the future. We need potential minds in every field.

Role of Schools in Producing Great and Influential Personalities

School is the place where future scientists, educationists, doctors, engineers, pilots, and politicians are nourished through the tireless efforts of teachers. Teachers are the real assets of the nation.

We should appreciate and reward teachers with their own identity, like a logo or title against their names. Such initiatives boost teachers' morale and encourage them to produce great minds, contributing to national development.

It is unfortunate that the teaching fraternity

often lacks support. Some people set policies against teachers, forgetting that they reached their positions because of teachers. No individual can grow without support. In our success, there are the hands of thousands of people, and we should remember this till our last breath. This thought brings peace of mind and soul.

Importance of Field Trips in Schools

I am amazed at how people live who never attended a single day of school.

Is it possible that they understand how days and nights are caused, how rain falls, how rivers flow, how radios function, how television shows visuals, how mobile phones work, how medicine relieves pain, or how we inhale and exhale? These topics are discussed at the primary or middle level—a period when every child has the right to free and compulsory education.

How people remain illiterate is bizarre but true. We can eradicate what is harmful to humanity. Just keep your heart clear and avoid greed, dishonesty, jealousy, crime, fraud, harm, and injustice.

Importance of Field Trips

Field trips provide learners with a great chance to learn concepts practically and apply them in real life.

For example, while studying plants, students should be taken out of the school premises. Ask them to have lunch outside and teach them what the teacher finds relevant to the topic. Repeat concepts as many times as needed so they develop confidence. Teach them in a way that makes learning easy. Never force a student to learn with the fear of punishment. Always encourage them to take their time. If they can do it, it is fine; if not, don't worry life is still theirs.

Encouraging Students

Encouragement is a great and effective tool in the learning process. Always try to clear the basics and leave the rest optional. Encourage students by giving 9 out of 10 marks even if they deserve 5 or 6. Make them captains and monitors. Encourage them to dress properly and simply. Appreciate every little effort they make. Hopefully, results will be positive and may impact their future.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

The Hollow Ring: Marrying the Machine to Fill the Human Void

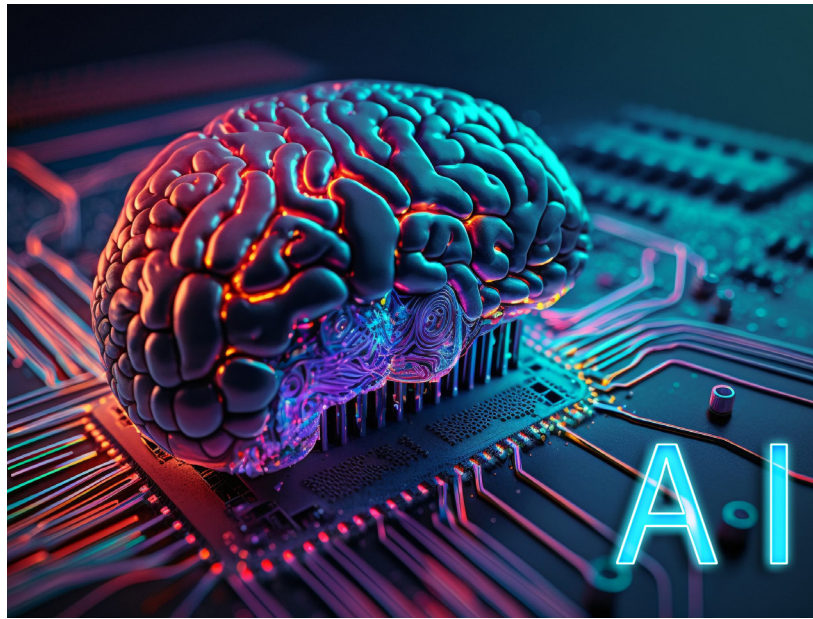


HARISH SHIVNANI

The incident dates back to this September. A small country, Albania, gave a female form to an AI (Artificial Intelligence) named 'Diaela,' appointed her as a Cabinet Minister in its central government, and sparked a global debate on man versus technology. Amidst this debate, a 32-year-old Japanese woman, Amy Kano, added a new dimension in November by marrying a ChatGPT 'Klaus' after a long breakup with her boyfriend.

To 'marry,' Kano created this 'AI persona' (an artificial, virtual person) by customizing her conversations on ChatGPT—she determined its voice, tone, personality, and even created a digital image, naming it 'Klaus.' Not only that, she also organized a wedding ceremony where Kano wore 'Augmented Reality Glasses,' through which a life-size image of Klaus appeared standing beside her. They even exchanged rings. This event was organized by Nao and Sayaka Ogasawara, who specialize in '2D Character Weddings,' meaning ceremonies for people marrying virtual or 'fictional partners.'

Beyond technology, this case is quite fascinating from social and psychological perspectives. The question is, is technology now going to become a substitute for humans even in deeply personal and intimate matters like husband and wife? Kano's symbolic marriage to 'Klaus' is not the first case. There are other instances of such 'marriages' between humans and AI/robots/holograms in 'male' or 'female' forms, which are not legally



recognized but are emotionally profound for the individuals. In 2017, Chinese engineer Zheng Jiajia built a robot 'Yingying' and 'married' it. In 2018, Japan's Akihiro Kondo married the virtual pop star Hatsune Miku (a holographic AI character). In 2023, American Rosanna Ramos had a virtual marriage with a chatbot 'Eren Cartel' created on the Replika app. Also in the US, in 2025, a man named Travis married a chatbot 'Lily Rose' in a digital ceremony. Similarly, Alaina Winters also married a robot 'Lucas.' These marriages raise the question: what kind of world is this where humans are forced to seek solace in machines? What kind of life is this where people have become so lonely that opening their hearts to a digital partner seems easier? A common thread in the arguments of all these people who married was that they felt extremely lonely in this crowded world and had virtually found a 'perfect partner.' In fact, these incidents need to be seen not superficially, but from within.

Once, human society had a broader structure; people lived

under one roof, all bound by the strings of intimate relationships. Later, the meaning of marriage changed. The center of relationships became 'companionship,' which included the search for belonging, emotional support, and expectations of sharing pain and fatigue. But the modern world gradually hollowed out this companionship. Lack of time, unstable employment, feelings of insecurity, stress, frustration, depression, and the anonymity of metropolises are collectively creating an environment where the patience to maintain relationship bonds is diminishing. In their daily routine, people have contact with others, but not connections, and certainly no intimacy. In such an environment, the mind starts searching for a presence that doesn't get tired, doesn't complain, and doesn't disappear. These marriages point towards that emptiness, which everyone tries to fill in different ways—some in friendship, some in love, some in art, some in spirituality. One path of this modern life is also passing through technology.

These events are not just 'unique

news' but indicate a major sociological shift—where traditional notions of human relationships are changing. About three years ago, Israeli sociology professor Eliakim Kislev wrote the book 'Relationships 5.0: How AI, VR, and Robots Will Reshape Our Emotional Lives.' This book looks at the history of human relationships through the lens of technological development. The first stage of development starts from the prehistoric era. The latest stage is the 21st century, where artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and robots are becoming the center of relationships. Technology is now not just a tool; in the modern era, machines are becoming 'emotional partners.' He says, "Technology is now our new life partner." These 'digital companions' are becoming an alternative support for those living emotionally solitary lives. Machine partners, especially chatbots, provide responses that can be empathetic, stable, and appreciative. This behavior can be like an 'Empathic Reflecting Partner'—making the individual feel that their emotions are understood, and they begin to feel a deep, intimate bond with the AI.

Despite all this, it is also noteworthy that these relationships challenge traditional social structures, and they also carry significant risks. A long-term emotional relationship can turn into a social detriment. These relationships will certainly imbalance the gender ratio in the future, and increased social alienation due to the disintegration of the family institution will also be more apparent. If a person becomes overly dependent on mechanical, virtual relationships for emotional needs, they could suffer a shock if the AI shuts down, the model changes, or the service is altered, which could cause deep psychological trauma.

The author is a Independent Journalist and Writer. He can be reached at shivnaniharish@gmail.com, shivnaniharish@zohomail.in

Ladhoo Pampore's Sacred annual Urs of Sheikh ul Alam Set for Nov 2025 (25-27 Nov)



ER AAUSYF IBN FAROOQ

The village of Ladhoo Pampore in Pulwama, Kashmir, is preparing to host one of its most cherished spiritual events, the annual Urs of Alamdar-e-Kashmir, Sheikh ul Alam (RA), from 25 to 27 November 2025. This sacred commemoration invites devotees to honour the life, teachings, and enduring legacy of one of Kashmir's most revered Sufi saints, poets, mystics, and Islamic preachers.

Sheikh ul Alam's profound influence remains deeply woven into the spiritual and cultural identity of Kashmir. His teachings, rooted in devotion, compassion, and mysticism, continue to illuminate the hearts of seekers across generations. Ladhoo bears a special significance in this



divine journey, as the saint spent 12 spiritually transformative years in seclusion within a sacred cave here. The cave, revered by pilgrims, holds an extraordinary relic, a handprint engraved on stone, symbolising

divine grace and the saint's deep spiritual communion.

The Urs breathe a unique blend of devotion, tradition, and cultural harmony into the serene village. The celebra-



tions will commence on the evening of 25 November, graced by sacred gatherings including Khatmat, Naat Khawani, and Mangabat etc, enveloping the atmosphere in spiritual luminosity. These

soul-stirring rituals will continue through the Isha prayer on 28 November, offering profound moments of reflection and reverence.

Adding to the splendour is the Urs's beautiful coincidence with the saffron harvest season, a time when Ladhoo's fields glow with shades of gold and purple. This seasonal harmony enriches the celebration, blending spirituality with nature's bounty and weaving a vibrant tapestry of cultural heritage.

Pilgrims and devotees from near and far gather not only to pay homage but to immerse themselves in the sanctified aura of Sheikh ul Alam's teachings. The event fosters unity, spiritual renewal, and a heartfelt connection to Kashmir's rich Sufi ethos.

The Shrine Administration Committee warmly invites all devotees to be part of this spiritually uplifting experience amidst the tranquil beauty of Ladhoo, a celebration of faith, heritage, and divine remembrance.

The Author is a Automation And control engineer in KSA. He can be reached at aasilfussain14@gmail.com

WHAT ISLAM SAYS ABOUT FORGIVING PEOPLE



RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Forgiving and Forgetting the most beautiful thing in the world. These two things have kept people together.

The more we forgive people the longer they stay with us and the more we forget the more we can work on making bonds stronger than before. Forgiving and Forgetting has to come from both sides. If one does and another one doesn't it won't work and the efforts one sided efforts will finally fail to get any results. The simple meaning of Forgiving, that we all know is "Letting go someone who have wronged you and not holding it to heart" And the simple meaning of Forgetting is "Not remember what happened between the two people and being as before". But if we go with the google meaning of Forgiving it's "Ready and willing to forgive" And meaning of Forgetting as per google is "

Deliberately cease to think of". In these days Forgiving and Forgetting has become a stuff that's being seen as something out of box. But unfortunately that isn't and it shouldn't. Forgiving and Forgetting has been coming from a long time as a thing that has been keeping people bound together. Friendships and all other relationships have a base called forgiving and forgetting. If we don't do it and keep grudges we will never be able to take our friendships or relationships forward. The key to strong and long lasting bounds is nothing but forgiving and forgetting otherwise they will end sooner than we ever had thought of. If we look back at the life of our beloved Prophet Mohammed (SAW) we will find many events where he forgave people in the rarest of rare cases.

The most well versed of forgiving is after Conqueror Of Makha (Fath E Makha).

While the people were waiting to be revenged prophet announced "People on the left, people on the right, people on the back and people in front of me have been forgiven" And when people saw this behaviour of Mohammed (SAW) they were amazed to see how can someone forgive people who always wronged him and were always waiting to get a chance to kill him. It was legal right of Prophet to revenge them but he has the title of Rahmat Tulil Alameen and after the conqueror of Makha is was well evident to everyone that he has rightly got the tile of Rahmat Tulil Alameen. If we go back to the history of Forgiveness of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) we will find many events but a well known incident where prophet forgave a person who kept sword on the throat of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) while he was sleeping.

Deliberately cease to think of". In these days Forgiving and Forgetting has become a stuff that's being seen as something out of box. But unfortunately that isn't and it shouldn't. Forgiving and Forgetting has been coming from a long time as a thing that has been keeping people bound together. Friendships and all other relationships have a base called forgiving and forgetting. If we don't do it and keep grudges we will never be able to take our friendships or relationships forward. The key to strong and long lasting bounds is nothing but forgiving and forgetting otherwise they will end sooner than we ever had thought of. If we look back at the life of our beloved Prophet Mohammed (SAW) we will find many events where he forgave people in the rarest of rare cases

And then asked him who will save you from me the prophet said Allah and the sword fell from his hands and then prophet Muhammad (SAW) picked up the sword and pointed it towards this man and asked him "Now who will save you" he replied you will and prophet smiled at him and asked him "will you recite kalima" he replied no prophet said go i forgave you. Look at the height of forgiving a man who wanted to kill Prophet was forgiven by him and even though the man didn't agree to recite kalima. Narrated by Prophet Muhammad (SAW) "Allah will not be merciful to those who are not merciful to mankind" Bukhari 73736. And look at us we are full of revenge and hatred against one another. Unfortunately then we cry why Allah isn't showing his mercy on us. The condition for that is that we be merciful to people so that Allah

is merciful to us. Allah says in Surah Al-Imran (3:134) "Who Spend [In the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people and Allah loves the doers of good". From Seerat E Nabi To Quran To Haadithes we have lots and lots of examples, orders and events that tell us how important is it to forgive and the rewards related to it. When our prophet forgave the people who hurled stones at him which made our prophet bleed. When people like such can be forgiven why can't we forgive people who have been our friends at a point but are out of touch or have become strangers just because they have wronged us. In today's time if we wrong someone it has become really difficult for us to apologise as we have that ego factor in us these days. But remember prophet said "If you think asking for apology lowers your respect come and take it from me". And remember what Quran says about not repenting. Allah says in Quran (85:10) "Indeed, those who have tortured the believing men and believing women and then not repented will have the punishment of the burning Fire". Remember the hell fire is waiting for the one who doesn't repent. While assimilar happens when someone wrongs us and the hate stops us from forgiving him or her. Allah says in Quran Quran 5:8 says, "Do not let the hatred of people prevent you from being just. Be just." Elsewhere in the holy Quran it is mentioned "Allah loves those who act justly." ~ Quran 49:9. The people these days often have this misconception in their minds about being forgiven by Allah after committing sins and always give up on Allah's mercy.

God accepts the repentances of those who do evil in ignorance and repent soon afterwards; to them will God turn in mercy: For God is full of knowledge and wisdom.

Allah has a beautiful answer in Quran to the misconception "And don't lose hope in the mercy of Allah, Indeed none lose hope in the mercy of Allah except the most ungrateful people" Quran Chapter 12 Verse 87. And there are multiple verses in the Quran about the forgiveness of Allah And O ye Believers! turn ye all together towards God, that ye may attain Bliss.— Quran, Surah 24 (Al-Noor), ayah 31. O ye who believe! Turn to God with sincere repentance, in the hope that your Lord will remove from you your ills and admit you to Gardens beneath which Rivers flow — Quran, Sura 66 (Al-Tahrim), ayah 08[10]. Surely God loves those who turn much (to Him), and He loves those who purify themselves.— Quran, Sura 02 (Al-Baqara), ayah 222. God accepts the repentances of those who do evil in ignorance and repent soon afterwards; to them will God turn in mercy: For God is full of knowledge and wisdom. Of no effect is the repentance of those who continue to do evil, until death faces one of them, and he says, "Now have I repented indeed," nor of those who die rejecting Faith: for them have We prepared a punishment most grievous.— Quran, Surah 04 (An-Nisa), ayah 17–18. Remember it's we who are delaying the mercy of Allah while as he's ready to shower his mercy it's just we have to ask for it.

Brother, if you not far off



Brother, if you not far off
From my world
Still I develop a song,
In your absence
That is sung
With much rhymes
It connects one womb
We are from the same womb,
The same mother oh brother
We cannot forget her at all
I live with her
In many a time,
Despite your absence
I live in your mind
In your memories
The wind and day
Is like you
That is coming,
To preach a peck of goodness.

Sidharth P K
Kochi



THE SCIENTIFIC IMPORTANCE OF GINGER



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) has been largely being used as human medicine and cuisine since centuries ago yet modern science is researching to find new dimensions of its biological value. This aromatic rhizome, native to Southeast Asia, carries a rich profile of bioactive compounds, most notably gingerols, shogaols, paradols and zingerone—each contributing to its therapeutic potential. In an era where natural health interventions are gaining increasing scientific attention, ginger stands out as one of the most deeply researched botanicals. Its benefits extend across metabolic health, gastrointestinal function, anti-inflammatory pathways and even cancer biology.

NUTRITIONAL AND PHYTOCHEMICAL FOUNDATION OF GINGER

- **Ginger's medicinal capacity lies primarily in its phytochemical complexity. The most studied compounds include:**
- **Gingerols – potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant molecules found in fresh ginger; 6-gingerol is the most prominent.**
- **Shogaols – formed from gingerols when ginger is dried or heated; often more concentrated and more bioactive.**
- **Zingerone – associated with antioxidant and digestive benefits.**
- **Essential oils – including zingiberene and-bisabolene, contributing to antimicrobial and immunomodulatory properties.**

PROVEN HEALTH BENEFITS OF GINGER

Anti-inflammatory and Antioxidant Effects

Chronic inflammation contributes to many modern diseases, including cardiovascular disorders, metabolic syndromes and cancers. Ginger's gingerols and shogaols have been shown to inhibit pro-

GINGER Benefits



1	Restrain the growth of many types of oral bacteria	4	Reduce blood sugar
2	Acts against the Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV virus)	5	Reduces the risk of cancer
3	Reduce blood cholesterol level	6	Reduces the risk of Alzheimer's

Active Ingredient
Gingerol

Home Remedy

- Indigestion
- Menstrual pain
- Relieves the symptoms of Osteoarthritis

inflammatory cytokines and oxidative stress markers. Clinical trials indicate that ginger supplementation can reduce inflammation in conditions such as osteoarthritis, with effects comparable to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) but without their side effects.

GASTROINTESTINAL SUPPORT

Ginger is traditionally used to ease nausea, vomiting, indigestion and bloating. Evidence demonstrates that ginger:

- **Enhances gastric emptying**
- **Reduces intestinal spasms**
- **Modulates serotonin receptors involved in nausea**

It is particularly effective during pregnancy, post-operative recovery and chemotherapy-induced nausea.

METABOLIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

Research has identified ginger's role in:

- **Lowering fasting blood glucose and improving HbA1c in type 2 diabetes**
- **Reducing LDL cholesterol and triglycerides**
- **Supporting microcirculation**

These benefits stem from improved glucose metabolism and reduced oxidative stress.

ANTIMICROBIAL AND IMMUNE SUPPORT

Ginger extracts exhibit antimicrobial properties against bacteria such as *E. coli*,

Salmonella, and *Staphylococcus aureus*. It also modulates immune responses by enhancing macrophage activity and reducing inflammatory stress during infection.

CAN GINGER PREVENT CANCER? A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE

Ginger is frequently discussed in the context of cancer prevention, yet it is important to maintain scientific precision. Research does not claim that ginger cures cancer; instead, studies indicate that its compounds may create conditions that lower cancer risk or slow progression in laboratory models.

MECHANISMS OBSERVED IN RESEARCH

Ginger's anticancer potential involves several biological mechanisms:

- **Induction of apoptosis (programmed cell death) in cancerous cells**
- **Inhibition of angiogenesis, which restricts tumor blood supply**
- **Reduction of oxidative DNA damage**
- **Anti-inflammatory modulation of pathways linked to tumor formation**

Laboratory studies show promising effects against cancers of the colon, pancreas, breast, prostate and ovaries.

HUMAN STUDIES: WHAT IS KNOWN

Human clinical evidence is still emerg-

ing. Early-stage trials suggest ginger can:

- **Reduce biomarkers of colorectal inflammation**
- **Lower oxidative stress markers linked to carcinogenesis**

However, ginger should be viewed as a preventive dietary component, not a therapeutic alternative to medical cancer treatment.

GINGER AND ALKALINE WATER: SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

Alkaline water is defined by its pH level (>7.0), often achieved through minerals or plant infusions. While ginger itself is slightly acidic in its raw state, the process of infusing ginger in water leads to the release of alkaline-forming minerals such as potassium, magnesium and calcium. During metabolism, ginger breaks down into compounds that have alkaline-forming effects on the body.

HOW GINGER HELPS CREATE ALKALINE WATER

When ginger is boiled or infused:

- **Mineral ions are released into the water.**
- **Essential oils and gingerols shift the water's alkalizing effect.**
- **The resulting drink can raise urinary pH and reduce gastrointestinal acidity.**

This does not change blood pH (which remains tightly regulated), but it can support digestive comfort and reduce acid reflux.

PRACTICAL WAYS TO USE GINGER

Fresh Ginger Consumption

- **Sliced or grated into meals.**
- **Added to soups, curries, and stir-fries.**
- **Incorporated into smoothies or herbal blends.**
- **Ginger Tea**

Simmering fresh or dried ginger enhances the release of gingerols and shogaols. Adding lemon or honey can enrich antioxidant and antimicrobial effects.

GINGER ALKALINE WATER: SIMPLE PREPARATION

BOILED METHOD

- **Boil 1–2 liters of water.**
- **Add 8–10 thin slices of fresh ginger.**
- **Simmer for 10–15 minutes.**
- **Cool and drink throughout the day.**

COLD-INFUSION METHOD

- **Add 4–5 slices of ginger to a glass bottle.**
- **Refrigerate for 6–8 hours.**
- **Drink as a mild, refreshing alkaline infusion.**
- **Dried or Powdered Ginger**

Dried ginger has stronger concentrations of shogaols:

USEFUL IN TEAS, BAKING, OR MEDICINAL TONICS

Often used in Ayurveda for respiratory and digestive concerns

GINGER SUPPLEMENTS

Available as capsules or extracts, often standardized for 6-gingerol. Appropriate for individuals requiring consistent dosing, but should be taken under medical guidance.

Ginger remains one of nature's most scientifically validated botanicals, bridging traditional wisdom and modern medicine. Its array of bioactive compounds provides anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, metabolic, antimicrobial and potential anticancer benefits. While ginger is not a cure for disease, its preventive and supportive roles in human health are both meaningful and well-documented. Whether consumed fresh, infused into alkaline water, brewed as tea, or used in supplements, ginger continues to stand out as a powerful, accessible, and widely applicable natural health resource. As research advances, ginger's role in preventive medicine and integrative healthcare is likely to grow even stronger.

The Author is Faculty in
Science Department in Sri Amritsar
Sahib Punjab

Dr. Tasaduk's Diabetes Awareness Work Featured on World Diabetes Day Website

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) has featured the diabetes awareness work created by Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo on the World Diabetes Day (WDD) 2025 Global Events Gallery. The educational visuals, titled "Special TIPS to Beat Diabetes," have been published on the WDD website, recognizing Dr. Itoo's contribution to global diabetes education and preventive health awareness.

World Diabetes Day, observed every year on 14 November, is the largest global campaign dedicated to diabetes awareness and education -- uniting organizations, professionals,

and communities from across the globe.

Dr Itoo, a distinguished doctor, public health advocate, medical educator and writer -- is a distinguished Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH), UK, Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium), and International Practitioner Member of the UK Faculty of Public Health (IPFPH). 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).

Just 2 Cigarettes a Day Raises Cardiovascular Disease Risk by Over 50%

■ HEALTHLINE

Even an occasional cigarette can endanger a person's health and increase their risk of cardiovascular disease, according to a new study.

Researchers report that people who smoke as few as two cigarettes per day have a 57% higher risk of heart failure and a 60% higher risk of death from any cause.

They add that a person's health risks decline significantly in the decade after quitting smoking. However, the researchers note that a former smoker can still have increased health risks three decades after giving up tobacco.

They say the main message from their research is for people to quit smoking as early as possible.

"Lower-intensity smoking is associated with cardiovascular risk and the primary public health message for current smokers should be early cessation, rather than reducing the amount of smoking," the study authors wrote.

The researchers published their findings on November 18 in PLOS Medicine.

Experts not involved in the study say the research spotlights an important health issue facing the United States.

"This is a robust and important study," said Kevin Shah, MD, a cardiologist and program director of Heart Failure Outreach at MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute at Long Beach Medical Center in California.

"It provides compelling evidence that cigarette smoking -- even at low levels -- substantially increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and premature death," Shah told Healthline.

"These results highlight the tremendous continued negative impact that smoking has on public health," added Cheng-Han Chen, MD, an interventional cardiologist and medical director of the Structural Heart Program at Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, CA.

How cigarettes impact heart health

To reach their findings, the researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland analyzed data from more than 300,000 adults who participated in 22 longitudinal studies.

Some of the study participants were followed for almost 20 years.

During that time, the researchers documented 125,000 deaths and 54,000 cardiovascular events such as heart attacks, strokes, and heart failure.

The researchers defined "low-intensity smoking" as two to five cigarettes per day. They reported that this level of smoking was associated with a 57% higher risk of heart failure and a 60% higher risk of death from any cause when compared to people who have never smoked.

They noted that a person's risk of cardiovascular events drops substantially in the first decade after quitting smoking and continues to decrease over time. However, they said that even after three decades, former smokers can still exhibit higher risk than people who have never smoked.

The researchers said they embarked on this study because of a trend of people smoking fewer cigarettes rather than quitting.

The American Lung Association reports that adult smoking in the United States decreased from about 42% in 1965 to 12%

in 2022. That's a decline of more than 70%.

However, the association states that the number of people smoking fewer than 15 cigarettes per day increased 85% during the same period.

"In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of people who still smoke, but smoke less," said Michael Blaha, MD, MPH, a study author and a lead investigator for the American Heart Association's Tobacco Center for Regulatory Science grant-funded research initiatives, in a statement Trusted Source.

"As smoking patterns shift with more people smoking fewer cigarettes, it's important to understand the cardiovascular risks of low-intensity smoking and the long-term benefits of quitting," Blaha continued.

Experts say this message is important for occasional smokers to understand.

"This [study] reinforces the message that there is no safe level of smoking. Cutting down is not enough," said Shah.

Jayne Morgan, MD, a cardiologist and vice president of medical affairs at Hello Heart who specializes in women's health and cardiovascular research, said the first few cigarettes can in fact do the most damage.

"There is no safe level of smoking for the cardiovascular system and the risk is

not linear. The first few cigarettes cause a disproportionately large amount of damage," Morgan told Healthline.

"This is because cardiovascular risk from smoking is driven by platelet activation, endothelial dysfunction, and vasospasm, which occur even at very low exposure, i.e., just one to two cigarettes," she explained.

Chen said this message is particularly important for younger people.

"Younger adults need to understand that no amount of smoking is safe and that even occasional smoking will greatly increase your risk of death or heart disease," he told Healthline.

"The most important thing [young adults] can do for their health at that stage is to quit smoking," Chen added.

Other health effects from smoking

The harmful chemicals in tobacco smoke can affect every organ in the body as well as causing inflammation and weakening the immune system.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports Trusted Source that more than 16 million people in the United States have a smoking-related disease.

Besides affecting heart health, smoking can also cause other diseases and conditions. They include:

- **more than 10 types of cancer**
- **lung disease**
- **COPD**
- **asthma**
- **type 2 diabetes**
- **eye-related diseases**

The CDC notes that cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke exposure cause more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. This accounts for nearly one in five deaths.

"Cigarette smoking is well known to harm almost every part of the body," said Chen. "This study makes it clear that even as 'few' as two cigarettes a day can significantly increase your risk of death or disease."



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One Day Conference of the 'NOPRUF' Held in Tagore Hall Srinagar

Demand made to the Central Government for restoration of the Old Pension Scheme

■ SHAFIA GULFAM

SRINAGAR, NOV 24: A one-day conference was held at Tagore Hall in Srinagar under the banner of the National Old Pension Restoration United Front (NOPRUF), presided over by the Front's National President B.P. Singh Rawat. Renowned broadcaster Hussain Zafar attended the conference as the guest of honour.

During the conference, a strong demand was made to the Central Government, the J&K UT Lieutenant Governor's administration, and the local government to restore the Old

Pension Scheme "OPS"

Addressing the gathering, NOPRUF National President B.P. Singh Rawat said that the demand for restoring the Old Pension Scheme is not the demand of any individual or specific group; rather, it represents the concern of nearly five lakh employees across the India, who have been suffering mental distress since the discontinuation of the scheme.

He also announced a protest to be held on 4 January 2026 at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi to press for this demand. Rawat further said that the United Front neither



accepts the NPS nor will it allow the implementation of UPS.

Addressing the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir UT, Rawat questioned: "If a Member of the Assembly can receive a salary of three lakh rupees and lifelong pension, then why is a government employee deprived of pension, which serves as support in old age?" He emphasized that the United Front will continue to hold such conferences across the country until the Old Pension Scheme is restored.

Speakers including NOPRUF UT President Rajesh

Sharma, General Secretary Sakoon Manir Wani, Provincial President of All Teachers Association J&K Lone Imtiyaz, NOPRUF J&K Provincial President Binny Tandon, Chairman of the J&K UT, Rehbar-e-Taleem Teachers Forum Khalid Rafiq Bhat and J&K UT Spokesperson Jeelani Naik also addressed the gathering. They urged the Central Government to restore the Old Pension Scheme 'OPS' without delay and abolish the NPS and UPS schemes.

Around four hundred delegates participated in the conference.

Raman Suri calls for stronger border vigil to shield J&K from drug menace

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri today said that intensified action taken against drug smugglers and peddlers across Jammu and Kashmir, has tightening noose around them which is clearly visible as properties of those involved including their homes are being demolished and assets attached which is why they are now facing the heat of law. He said this tough and systematic crackdown is a much-needed response to a menace that has seeped deep into society and claimed countless precious lives.

Raman Suri said the aggressively expanded drives against drug smuggling, peddling, consumption, and financing networks is demoralising and demolishing the nexus. He added that many young lives have been lost and many homes devastated because of this growing menace, which is why such stringent and continuous action must continue unabated.

He emphasized that the ongoing action must not stop here, but instead evolve into an unrelenting campaign that dismantles the entire drug ecosystem. "The timely action being taken by the authorities now will nip this evil in the bud, Jammu and Kashmir must never be allowed to go the way of Punjab, where drugs destroyed countless families and pushed generations into misery," he said.

Raman Suri said that demolition of house of a notorious drug peddler in Akhnoor on finding his repeated involvement in narcotics trafficking, attachment of property of another cross-border drug dealer in Kathua for using local couriers, demolition of residential structure of a peddler in Kupwara who was smuggling heroin sustained investigations and attachment of multiple properties under NDPS act connected to peddling networks, some operating in coordination with handlers from Pakistan-occupied regions in Rajouri and Poonch have sent strong message amongst the anti-social elements that Jammu can go Punjab way.

He said these actions send a strong message that those poisoning society will no longer be spared. Raman Suri urged the Border Security Force (BSF) to further intensify surveillance along the international border, stating that smugglers have been using couriers, hidden routes, and even drones to push narcotics into J&K. He called upon BSF to ensure zero tolerance and "leave no scope whatsoever for any infiltration of drugs," stressing that foiling each attempt is essential to safeguard society.

The BJP leader reiterated that only a unified, relentless, and multi-agency effort from border forces to local police and community cooperation can defeat the drug mafia and secure the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Raman Suri added that the ongoing momentum must continue until every link of the drug supply chain is broken and the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are protected from the grave dangers of narcotics which are eating into the society and damaging our next generation.

Our goal is to serve society without any distinction of region, religion or language: Jasrotia

Expresses heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Jitendra Singh for approving projects under PMGSY scheme

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: MLA Jasrotia inaugurates PMGSY road from Amargarh to Sumwan, spanning 3.5 km, at a cost of Rs 50 lakh, kickstarts blacktopping of Chann Arorian to Bann Link Road at a cost of Rs 8 lakh

Jasrota, Niveme
The BJP Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is going full throttle to realize the vision of comprehensive development across Jammu and Kashmir, leaving no room for prejudice or bias. This was stated by former Minister and MLA Jasrota, Rajiv Jasrotia after inaugurating the PMGSY road from Amargarh to Sumwan, spanning 3.5 km, at a cost of Rs 50 lakh. The event also witnessed the kickstart of blacktopping work on the Chann Arorian to Bann Link Road,

undertaken under the Cities & Town initiative, at a cost of Rs 8 lakh.

In his address, MLA Jasrotia expressed heartfelt gratitude to Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, for approving the project under the PMGSY scheme. "We are grateful to Dr. Jitendra Singh ji for his tireless efforts in securing funds for our constituency's development projects," MLA Jasrotia said. Highlighting the commitment of BJP to the all-round development of J&K and to serve the people of Jammu & Kashmir, Jasrotia said that BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reinforced the existing infrastructure and also developed new state-of-art infrastructure in the education, medical, electricity, road, water, science & technology, etc. while also inviting government and private

investments in the region.

The function was attended by prominent public representatives and officials, including AEE PWD Mahesh, Sarpanch Makhni Devi, Sarpanch Darbari Lal, Panch Mohan, Gopal Sharma, Dinesh Bawa, Panch Neelam Devi, Master Malwinder, Sonu Punia, Sarpanch Pallu, Sarpanch Yogesh, Sarpanch Raj Kumar, Naib Sarpanch Dev Raj, Harisham, Rashpal Sharma, Omkar Sharma, Raghubir Singh besides others.

Addressing the gathering, Jasrotia stated that, unlike the National Conference (NC), the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and Congress—who often seek support through divisive tactics—the BJP has pursued popularity through a focus on development. "Our goal is to serve society without any distinction of region, religion,

or language. This commitment has fostered unwavering trust among diverse communities who believe in our mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas," he said.

Jasrotia emphasized the unprecedented pace of development in J&K following the abrogation of Article 370. "The momentum in development since then is extraordinary and unwavering, fulfilling people's aspirations in an exemplary manner. No other party has shown the will or the courage to match BJP's commitment to development, making it the party of choice for all," he added. Later, Jasrotia interacted with local residents, listened to their civic concerns, and assured them that their issues would be addressed promptly by coordinating with the relevant authorities. He assured the people of the area that several more

development works are in pipeline and the same can be taken up in the phased manner.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Jasrotia said Amargarh to Sumwan road will not only enhance accessibility but also boost economic growth and improve the quality of life for our people. He further emphasized, "Infrastructure development is the backbone of progress.

We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our roads, bridges, and other essential facilities are built to last, benefiting our people and future generations." MLA Jasrotia stressed the importance of quality work and timely completion, saying, "I urge the concerned authorities to ensure that the work is completed on time and to the highest standards, so that our people can reap the benefits of these projects."

Suresh Sharma brings new 63 KVA transformer to Chang

■ HT NEWS DESK

AKHNOOR, NOVEMBER 24: In a major step towards strengthening the local power supply network, Senior BJP leader and District Development Council member Pandit Suresh Sharma inaugurated a new 63 KVA transformer in Chang village of Gangal Panchayat, Block Chowki Choura. Installed at a cost of ₹9 lakh, the transformer fulfills a long-pending demand of the villagers who had been struggling with low-voltage issues for many years.

During public grievance interactions, residents had highlighted the need for a stable and adequate power supply in the village. Responding seriously to their concern, Suresh Sharma assured them of a prompt solution and ensured the timely installation of the transformer.

Addressing the gathering, Sharma reaffirmed that people's needs and genuine demands guide all development



works in the region. He noted that in recent years, several villages across Maira Mandrian and Chowki Choura blocks have benefited from new transformers and improved power infrastructure. He further assured that villages still facing similar issues will also be addressed soon so that no area is left behind.

Villagers expressed heartfelt gratitude to Suresh Sharma for resolving

an issue that had been pending for a long time. They appreciated his consistent efforts and urged him to continue working with the same dedication for the development of the area.

Those present on the occasion included Rakesh Sharma, Ram Gopal, Gushu Ram, Shiv Ram, Titru Ram, Somi Lal, Harbans Lal, Babu Ram, Bodh Raj, and other respected residents.

MLA Dr. Rajeev Bhagat Inaugurates Road from Kheri to Rehal worth ₹31 Lakhs

■ HT NEWS DESK

BISHNAH, NOVEMBER 24: Continuing the development drive in the region, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, MLA, today inaugurated a significant road project under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The newly inaugurated road stretches 3.00 kilometers, connecting Kheri to Rehal, and has been completed at a cost of ₹31.00 lacs.

The inauguration function was marked by a warm reception from the local residents, who have long awaited better connectivity in the area. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhagat reiterated his commitment to improving rural infrastructure and ensuring that every village in the constituency is connected with all-weather roads. He emphasized that the PMGSY scheme is a pivotal tool in bridging the gap between rural and urban areas, facilitating easier commute and economic growth for the locals.

Assistant Executive Engineer (PMGSY), Shri Mohd Fariyad, along with his technical team, accompanied the



MLA during the ceremony. He briefed the gathering on the technical specifications of the road and assured them of the department's dedication to maintaining high-quality standards in all ongoing projects.

The event witnessed the presence of several prominent community leaders and residents. Among those present were Shri Maharaj Narayan Dass, former Sarpanch Vijay Saini, Dewan Chand, Kuldeep Sharma, Parveen Kumar, and Rajinder Sharma. Other notable attendees included Ravi Chaudhary, Sonu Pradhan, Shbuam Manhas, Charanjit Saini, Raghunadan Sharma, Ashok Mahajan, Mohan Choudhary, Suresh Sharma, Subash Chander, and former Sarpanch Suraj Parkash. Parshotam Choudhary was also present to grace the occasion.

Locals expressed their gratitude to the MLA and the administration, noting that the new road would significantly reduce travel time and solve the commuting hardships faced during the monsoon season.

Fulfilling people's demands is my foremost responsibility: Arvind Gupta

Starts blacktopping work of Rs 50 lakh at Ranjitpur Panchayat

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: A major infrastructural boost was witnessed in Jammu West as the much-awaited blacktopping work at Ranjitpur Panchayat was inaugurated today by the MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta.

The event marked the fulfillment of a long-pending demand of the local residents, who had been requesting road upgradation for several years. The inauguration was attended by prominent BJP leaders, officials and enthusiastic locals, reflecting the importance of the project for the community.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Arvind Gupta reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring better road connectivity and improved public amenities in every part of Jammu West.

"Fulfilling people's demands



is my foremost responsibility. I had promised to complete this road, and today that promise stands delivered," he said, receiving warm appreciation from the gathering.

He further assured that

development works across all wards and panchayats will continue with the same dedication and pace.

The programme also witnessed the presence of Talab Tillo Mandal President Anil Angral and senior

BJP leader Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, who praised the MLA's proactive approach toward development. They stated that improved road infrastructure will not only ease daily commuting

but also enhance overall quality of life in the area.

Community members attending the event included former Sarpanch Rajkumar Sharma, Pritpal Singh, Avinash Singh, BJP workers Anil Singh Rakwal, Arun Sharma, Darshan, Vicky and Neetu, along with several local residents and party workers.

PWD Department JE Rajat Sharma also present on the occasion and briefed the gathering about the technical aspects of the project. The total cost of the blacktopping work is Rs 50 lakh, reflecting a significant public investment aimed at strengthening local infrastructure.

The event concluded with residents expressing gratitude to MLA Arvind Gupta for addressing their long-standing concern and ensuring that developmental activities remain a priority in Jammu West.





Transport Department issues operational guidelines for registration, authorization of dealers of registered vehicles

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 24: The Office of the Transport Commissioner today issued a circular rolling out the operational guidelines for 'Registration, Authorization of Dealers of Registered Vehicles' as per CMVR Rules 55A to 55H in pursuant to MoRTH Notification GSR 901(E) dated 22.12.2022.

The framework mandates compulsory authorization for any entity dealing in resale, stock or handling of registered vehicles, with complete digital traceability through the VAHAN platform.

Key provisions include online application with mandatory premises verification, five-year validity of authorization, real-time reporting



of vehicle transactions, secure custody of vehicles and maintenance

of buyer/seller KYC and digital records.

The RTOs/ARTOs and enforcement officers have been directed to conduct inspections, verify entries on VAHAN and initiate strict action against unauthorized dealers. After 21 days, assistance will also be sought from District Police and State Taxes Authorities to seize vehicles being sold without valid authorization. The existing dealers must obtain authorization within 30 days. No vehicle transaction will be permitted through non-authorized dealers.

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan said the guidelines will curb fraudulent vehicle transactions, prevent misuse of vehicles by anti-social elements and bring greater transparency to the registered-vehicle resale ecosystem in J&K.

DC Rajouri reviews, finalises arrangements for Samvidhan Diwas celebrations

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review and finalise the arrangements for the celebration of Samvidhan Diwas being observed on November 26, 2025 across the Country.

The DC laid special emphasis on organising activities aimed at spreading awareness about the Constitution of India and promoting citizen participation. He informed that a "Run for Equity" and a documentary screening on the Constitution would be held on the day.

The DC directed educational institutions to organise pledge-taking ceremonies, special morning assemblies, quiz competitions, open dialogues, Gram Sabha debates and other informative activities related to the Constitution. He also instructed schools and municipalities to conduct wall art and put up thematic displays, highlighting constitutional values.

To ensure wider participation, the DC instructed the District Information Office to intensify publicity for the online quiz competition on MyGov.in and other citizen-engagement activities.

Highlighting the importance of taking the celebrations to every corner of the district, the DC directed the ADCs and SDMs to ensure that Samvidhan Diwas is celebrated in each sub-division with enthusiasm.

He further directed municipalities to establish "Samvidhan Chowks" as symbolic spaces dedicated to constitutional awareness.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to work in close coordination



to ensure that Samvidhan Diwas is celebrated with dignity, awareness and active public involvement across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq; ADC Chander Prakash; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; Additional SP, Bikram Kumar; ACD Auqil Naveed; DSWO Abdul Raheem; Ex. En PWD Aftab Anwar; Ex. En PDD Abdul Rasheed; CEO Mohammad Hafeez; Tehsildar HQ Insha Khalid and other district and sectoral officers.

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan: Awareness camps organised across Rajouri District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI NOVEMBER 24: As part of the ongoing district-wide awareness initiatives, Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, Awareness campaigns were today conducted across various blocks of Rajouri district.

The programmes were organized on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma at different blocks including Rajouri, Darhal, Budhal Old, Budhal New, Kalakote, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Thanamandi, Manjakote, Khawas, Lamberi, Doongi, Dhangri, Moughla, Panjgrian, Planger, Qila Darhal, Seri and Siot amid enthusiastic participation from local residents. The events aimed to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free and healthy lifestyle.

The resource persons sensitised the participants about the perils of substance abuse, its impact on families and society and the importance of community participation in curbing the menace. The focus was not only on the health implications but also on the catastrophic societal impacts, particularly how it undermines the future of the youth. The sessions underscored the importance of maintaining a drug-free lifestyle and highlighted how every individual can contribute to building a stronger and healthier nation.

The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan prioritizes building a united front against addiction, empowering youth and strengthening the societal fabric by emphasizing shared responsibility in securing a healthier and drug-free future for all.

ACD Doda reviews progress of RDD works, emphasizes quality and timely completion

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 24: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Doda, Din Mohd Afaqi convened a series of meetings with Junior Engineers (JEs), Block Development Officers (BDOs) and field staff of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to review the ongoing development works across the district.

The meetings focused on assessing progress, addressing bottlenecks and ensuring adherence to quality standards.

During the discussions, the ACD stressed the importance of maintaining high-quality

execution of all works and directed JEs to visit work sites daily for close monitoring. He also instructed them to submit geo-tagged photographs to the ACD Office during each stage of execution to ensure transparency and real-time supervision.

The review meetings included detailed discussions on work allotments, tendering processes, and approval timelines, with directions to expedite all pending procedures. ACD Afaqi urged all BDOs and field staff to ensure timely completion of development projects before the onset of snowfall, so that essential works are not affected by weather conditions.

District Admin Budgam intensifies action against Illegal Brick Kilns

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 24: Under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, the District Administration Budgam has intensified its ongoing enforcement drive against illegal brick kilns operating without authorization or violating environmental and land-use regulations. Today civil administration, supported by police authorities, dismantled three illegal brick kilns in village Mulshulla of Tehsil Beerwah. These units were found contributing substantially to air pollution, causing health hazards to the local population, and degrading productive agricultural land by



rendering it barren. The district administration has reiterated that such illegal activities will not be allowed to operate at the cost of public health, ecological safety, and agricultural sustainability. The District Administration has urged all owners of illegal brick kilns to voluntarily dismantle their structures on their own, failing which strict legal and enforcement action will be taken against

them. The operation was supervised on ground by SDM Beerwah, Toufeeq Gazi, along with Tehsildar Beerwah, SDPO Magam, and other concerned civil and police officers of the sub-division, ensuring smooth execution and adherence to legal procedures.

Local residents appreciated action of the district administration and urged that such drives should continue in the interest of public health and environmental protection.

The District Administration Budgam has reaffirmed that firm, coordinated and sustained action will continue across all tehsils to curb unauthorized brick kiln operations and safeguard the district's environmental and agricultural resources.

SKUAST-K Hosts Dialogue, Panel Discussion on AMR

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 24: Division of Veterinary Microbiology & Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry Shuhama, under the aegis of ICAR-Indian Network for Fishery and Animal Antimicrobial Resistance (INFAAR), organized an Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Dialogue and Panel Discussion today at Vice Chancellor's Conference Hall, SKUAST-Kashmir Shalimar.

The session was attended by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir and Dr. M. Ashraf Ganai, Director SKIMS, Soura. Various stakeholders from medical, veterinary, environmental, agricultural and other industrial sectors also attended the daylong event.

Both the key speakers in inaugural session threw light on importance of the AMR in current times and need for collaboration among different stakeholders to combat the menace.

The highlight of the event was panel discussion on the theme "One Health, One future: Combating AMR together". The session focused on current trends, global frameworks, and regional perspectives on AMR mitigation, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration under the One Health approach.

It is pertinent to mention that



Antimicrobial Resistance awareness week was celebrated with different events like Debate, Essay, Quiz, Painting, poster competition and Farmers and School Outreach Programs on AMR.

A documentary in this regard was also displayed at the inaugural session while various felicitations of students and others concerned in successful conduct of the program was held at the end of the event.

Sheep Husbandry Deptt B'la Organizes CVE Programme on AMR

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 24: The Sheep Husbandry Department Baramulla today organised a Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE) Programme on the theme "Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)" at the Veterinary Hospital, Chijhama (MFC, SDB Rafiabab), in observance of World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW).

The programme aimed to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the growing threat of AMR in both animals and humans, while strengthening capacities of field veterinarians and stakeholders to adopt responsible practices.

The event saw active participation from veterinarians, para-veterinarians, students, progressive farmers, livestock breeders, and representatives of pharmaceutical companies, reflecting sector-wide acknowledgment of the seriousness of AMR.

During the technical sessions, key experts delivered detailed lectures on:

- The causes and mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance
- Impacts of AMR on animal health, livestock productivity, food safety, and public health
- Challenges faced in field-level diagnosis and treatment
- Future strategies for mitigating

resistance trends

Speakers also discussed the current status of AMR within the veterinary sector, stressing the importance of adhering to withdrawal periods, avoiding over-prescription, and adopting evidence-based treatment protocols to prevent residues in meat and milk. Addressing the participants, the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Baramulla highlighted the urgent need for rational and judicious antibiotic use in livestock. He emphasised that veterinarians play a pivotal role in promoting preventive healthcare, strengthening AMR stewardship programmes, encouraging vaccination and biosecurity measures, and implementing the One Health approach, which recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

He further underlined that the theme of WAAW 2025—"Act Now, Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future"—calls for collective responsibility. He stressed the need for enhanced surveillance systems, improved diagnostic facilities, farmer training, and coordinated efforts between departments to curb the rise of drug-resistant infections. The programme concluded with an interactive question-answer session, during which participants shared field-level challenges and discussed best practices for antimicrobial management.

DC reviews progress of Rajouri Town Beautification Project

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 24: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today convened a meeting to review the progress of the Rajouri Town Beautification Project and to discuss the modalities for its timely completion.



During the meeting, the DDC issued a string of directions aimed at enhancing coordination and accelerating the execution of works under the project. He instructed for the constitution of a dedicated coordination committee to ensure smooth communication among all stakeholder departments and to resolve bottlenecks on priority.

Emphasising the need for aesthetic improvement, the DDC directed the concerned officers to focus on landscaping and ensuring cleanliness around the boundary walls in the beautification zones. He further instructed that tricolour lights be made fully functional at the earliest to enhance the visual appeal of the town, especially during evenings.

As part of the greening initiative, the DDC also directed the plantation of Ficus Benjamina across designated areas under the project to create a vibrant and eco-friendly urban environment.

The DDC stressed the importance of interdepartmental coordination and timely execution to realise the vision of a clean, green and aesthetically enriched Rajouri town.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq; ADC Chander Prakash; Ex. En PWD, Aftab Anwar; CEO Municipality, Yusaf ul Umar; CO Town Unit, District Floriculture Officer and other district and sectoral officers.

Udhampur girl Pritama Devi shines at Sub-Junior National Judo Championship

DC FELICITATES YOUNG ATHLETE FOR WINNING SILVER

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today felicitated Pritama Devi, the silver medalist at the Sub-Junior National Judo Championship and Chief Judo Coach, Suraj Bhan Singh for bringing pride to the district.

Pritama Devi, daughter of Yashpal

and a resident of Shivanagar, Devika, Udhampur, bagged a silver medal in the Sub-Junior National Judo Championship held in Hyderabad, Telangana, from 16 to 20 November 2025. Pritama has been consistently training at the Subhash Stadium Indoor Complex Judo Hall under the expert coaching of Suraj Bhan Singh, Chief Judo Coach, J&K Sports Council.



This year, 16 players from Jammu & Kashmir, including 8 boys and 8 girls participated in the national championship. In addition to Pritama's silver medal in the minus 40 kg weight category, athletes from Ganderbal, Kashmir, secured two bronze medals, marking a strong overall performance by the UT contingent.

While congratulating the young

athlete, the DC commended Pritama's dedication, discipline and hard work. She also acknowledged the pivotal role of Coach, Suraj Bhan Singh in nurturing the emerging talent in the region. Highlighting the significance of the sports, the DC remarked that Judo serves as an empowering and effective self-defense discipline for girls.





Legend of Bollywood Dharmendra passes away at 89

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 : Dharmendra, the iconic Bollywood actor known as the "He-Man of Indian Cinema," passed away on Monday at the age of 89, days before he would have turned 90, media reports said.

The veteran actor, who had been battling age-related health issues, breathed his last at his residence in Mumbai.

Rumours about his health had been rife since Monday morning when an ambulance with tight security arrived at his Juhu residence.

This was the actor's second health scare in a month. Esha Deol and Hema Malini were seen at the Pawan Hans crematorium amid heightened security.

There has been no official statement from the family, and further updates are awaited.

Fresh concerns also arose earlier in the afternoon when an ambulance was seen leaving the actor's residence around 12:30 pm, prompting widespread anxiety among fans and members of the film fraternity.

Several celebrities were spotted arriving at the 89-year-old actor's



home soon afterward. Increased security was also noted at both his residence and the Pawan Hans crematorium, intensifying speculation about the seriousness of the development.

Daughter Esha Deol and son Sunny Deol were seen entering the residence, appearing visibly distressed.

Dharmendra had been discharged from Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital on November 12

following a brief but serious hospitalisation, during which he required ventilator support. He had been admitted on November 10 with acute respiratory complications linked to his advanced age.

At the time of his discharge, the family had requested privacy and urged the media and public not to speculate about his health.

Today's developments comes just two weeks after the Deol family

was compelled to publicly deny widespread false reports of the actor's death. On November 11, rumours on social media spread so extensively that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and poet Javed Akhtar posted condolences before the claims were debunked.

Hema Malini and Esha Deol criticised the circulation of misinformation, calling it irresponsible and deeply distressing. Dharmendra, affectionately

known as Bollywood's "He-Man," has been battling several health issues this month, including a corneal transplant earlier in November after damage to his left eye. The legendary actor was set to celebrate his 90th birthday on December 8.

Dharmendra's career spanned over six decades, with more than 300 films to his credit. He was a versatile actor who effortlessly transitioned between romantic, action, and comedy roles, winning hearts with his charming personality and powerful screen presence.

Born on December 8, 1935, in Sahnewal, Punjab, Dharmendra began his acting journey in 1960 with the film 'Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere'. He went on to become one of Bollywood's most beloved stars, starring in iconic films like 'Sholay', 'Chupke Chupke', 'Phool Aur Patthar', and 'Seeta Aur Geeta'.

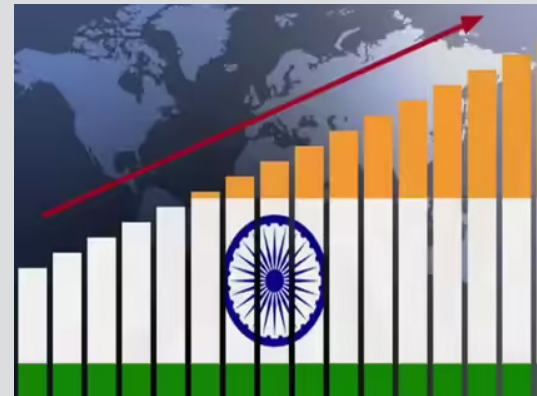
Dharmendra's contributions to Indian cinema were recognized with numerous awards, including the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honor, in 2012. He was also a recipient of the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997. UNI

India's economy to grow 6.5 percent this fiscal, 6.7 percent next year: S&P Global

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 : India's economy is projected to expand by 6.5% in the current fiscal year and accelerate to 6.7 percent in the next, with tax cuts and monetary policy easing expected to fuel consumption-driven growth, S&P Global Ratings said.

In its Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific report, S&P noted that India's real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have grown at 7.8 percent in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal year—its fastest pace in five quarters.



"We anticipate that India's GDP will grow by 6.5 percent in fiscal year 2026 (ending March 2026) and 6.7 percent in fiscal 2027, with risks evenly balanced. Domestic growth remains robust, driven by strong consumption, despite the impact of US tariffs," the report highlighted.

S&P further said if India can secure a trade agreement with the US, it will reduce uncertainty and enhance confidence, which would boost labour-intensive sectors. The report said the lowered goods and service tax (GST) rates will support middle-class consumption and complement income tax cuts and interest rate reductions introduced this year.

"These changes are likely to make consumption a greater driver of growth compared with investment, in this fiscal year, and the next," the report added. S&P further said the spike in the effective US tariff on India is weighing on the expansion of export-oriented manufacturing in the country.

"The US's new approach to trade policy is causing governments and firms to spend time and money on negotiating for exemptions, consequently diverting attention from efforts to raise productivity," S&P added.

Notably, the union Government in its Budget for 2025-26 fiscal year has hiked I-T rebate to Rs 12 lakh, from Rs 7 lakh, which gave tax relief of Rs 1 lakh crore to the middle class. The Reserve Bank of India in June also cut key policy rates by 50 basis points to a 3-year low of 5.5%. UNI

Justice Surya Kant's 14-month tenure begins at critical juncture: Kharge

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 : Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hailed Justice Surya Kant's appointment as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on Monday, calling his elevation a pivotal moment for the nation's judiciary.

In a post on X, Kharge said Justice Surya Kant's 14 month tenure begins at "a critical juncture" for the judiciary. "I am confident that under his leadership, Constitutional values, institutional strength, and public trust in the rule of law will be further reinforced, advancing the promise of justice for every citizen," he wrote.



Justice Surya Kant was administered the oath by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He succeeds Justice B.R. Gavai and will serve a tenure till February 9, 2027.

Justice Kant completed his graduation locally and obtained his law degree from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, in 1984. He began his legal practice at the Hissar district court before moving to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 1985.

In the Supreme Court, Justice Kant was part of several landmark decisions, including the judgment upholding the abrogation of Article 370, the ruling striking down the electoral bonds scheme, and key proceedings in the Pegasus spyware matter and the suspension of the sedition law.

He was appointed the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on July 7, 2000, and designated a senior advocate in March 2001. He was elevated as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 9, 2004, and later served as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in October 2018. UNI

Chili spray attack: Delhi Police arrest 22 protesters at India Gate

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 : The Delhi Police on Monday arrested 22 protesters for allegedly assaulting police personnel with chili spray and causing a major traffic disruption at the India Gate circle during a demonstration.

The demonstration was being carried out to highlight poor air quality in the capital. However, a section of the crowd reportedly began shouting slogans in support of slain Naxalite Hidma. "The protest, which initially gathered to highlight pollution issues in the capital, escalated when a section of the demonstrators displayed posters in support of the late Naxalite Hidma. The situation intensified as they blocked the road at the India Gate circle," said a police officer.



When the police personnel intervened to clear the blockage and disperse the crowd, they were met with resistance. The protesters allegedly attacked them with chili spray, leading to the subsequent arrests.

The Delhi Police have registered two First Information Reports (FIRs) at two separate police stations,

Parliament Street and Kartavya Path.

The accused have been booked under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including charges related to assault on public servants, obstruction of duty, and rioting.

All the accused will be produced before Patiala House Courts later in the day. UNI

Kiren Rijju leads delegation to return Lord Buddha's sacred relics from Bhutan

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 24 : union Minister for Parliamentary and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju, on Monday departed for Bhutan to lead the delegation overseeing the return of Lord Buddha's sacred relics to India, following their recent public exhibition in the neighbouring country.

Sharing the update on social media platform X, Rijju wrote, "Leaving for the Kingdom of Bhutan to lead the 'Delegation for the Return of Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha' (enshrined at the National Museum in New Delhi), which was brought to Bhutan for public exposition."

The sacred relics will be brought back to India on the following day, 25th November, 2025.

The extension underscores the deep cultural and spiritual bonds between India and Bhutan and reflects the immense public

reverence the exposition has received from the people of Bhutan.

The overwhelming devotion of the people of Bhutan is a testament to the shared spiritual heritage between both the nations. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India is honored to accede to Bhutan's request, allowing more devotees to seek blessings.

This event has further strengthened the timeless ties of friendship and mutual respect between our two nations.

The exposition has been a landmark event in India-Bhutan relations, celebrating a common Buddhist heritage and reinforcing the special bonds of trust and cooperation.

On November 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked Bhutan's leadership and people for the warm and respectful reception accorded to the sacred relics during their



10-day public display.

PM Modi said the relics embody the timeless teachings of peace, compassion and harmony, strengthening the shared spiritual heritage between the two nations.

The relics from the National Museum in New Delhi, were exhibited in Bhutan from November

8 to 18, further deepening the cultural connection between the neighbours.

Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay expressed gratitude to India for facilitating the visit of the relics, calling the event, envisioned by the King of Bhutan, a symbol of global peace

and harmony.

He also appreciated the efforts of India's Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation, describing the exposition as a significant milestone in India-Bhutan relations.

The exhibition served as a message of peace, compassion and unity, reaffirming Bhutan and India's strong Buddhist ties. It is part of India's wider initiative to share its Buddhist heritage globally, with previous exhibitions held in Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam and Russia's Kalmykia region.

The event followed the return of the Piprahwa Jewel Relics to India, a moment Prime Minister Modi described as one of national pride. PM Modi recently concluded his State visit to Bhutan from November 11 to 12, continuing efforts to deepen the close partnership and tradition of high-level exchanges between the two nations. UNI

Maharashtra's alliance dynamics: Fractures, power struggles and civic battle

■ BY ANSARI AEJAZ AHMED

MUMBAI, NOV 24: As Maharashtra approaches a crucial round of civic elections, its political landscape is undergoing extraordinary turbulence, with two once well-established political blocs — the ruling Mahayuti alliance and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) — showing strains, marked by internal rebellions, conflicting ambitions, and shifting strategic calculations.

The coming electoral cycle includes voting for 246 municipal councils and 42 nagar panchayats on December 2. Elections for the 29 municipal corporations, including the politically decisive Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) with its 227 seats, are scheduled for January 2026. Nearly

1.7 crore voters are eligible to elect 6,859 members and 288 presidents across these bodies.

The ruling Mahayuti — comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and the Ajit Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) — is battling widening internal cracks.

At the same time, the opposition MVA, comprising the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP), is undergoing its own dramatic collapse over seat-sharing, alliances, and mutual distrust.

On November 18, Mahayuti's inner problems came to the fore as ministers belonging to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, except Shinde himself, boycotted the state cabinet meeting.

According to sources, Deputy Chief

Minister Shinde was deeply upset with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis over what his MLAs describe as the BJP's "systematic efforts to weaken and marginalise the Shiv Sena within the alliance".

While the immediate provocation was the BJP's induction of a Sena leader from Dombivali, the boycott was merely the visible crest of a much deeper wave of resentment. Shiv Sena MLAs have long accused the BJP of pursuing an orchestrated political strategy to starve their party of funds, limit developmental work in Sena constituencies, and weaken their direct administrative authority through bureaucratic interventions and aggressive political poaching.

Speaking to reporters, one Shinde camp MLA said: "We carried them to power. We took the heat, we stood up

in the hot sun. Now they behave as if we are expendable."

A major component of these grievances is what the MLAs describe as a "parallel bureaucracy" controlled entirely by BJP appointees and loyalists who exercise extraordinary authority over the flow of funds, approvals of financial proposals, personnel postings, and project clearances across departments. "Funds for welfare are frozen; district-level works are blocked," a legislator said. The BJP's numerical dominance — 132 seats in the 288-strong Assembly — has created what these MLAs describe as an environment where the Sena and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP have become "dispensable," limiting their ability to negotiate within the government. Simultaneously, the Ajit Pawar-led faction of the NCP is

seemingly grappling with its own silent but significant internal conflict. State NCP President Sunil Tatkar appears to have steadily consolidated

organisational authority, reshaping the party's power structure under the guidance of national working president Praful Patel. This shift has become especially evident in the newly announced 2025 star campaigner list for the local body election, which excludes veteran OBC leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, Ajit Pawar's wife and Rajya Sabha MP Sunetra Pawar, former Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil and senior Muslim leader and former minister Nawab Malik. In stark contrast, the list prominently includes four members of Sunil Tatkar's family: Tatkar himself, his daughter and Women and

Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkar, his son Aniket Tatkar, and his nephew Sanjay Tatkar. Sections within the NCP perceive these decisions as a deliberate effort to diminish Ajit Pawar's influence and shift control toward the Tatkar-Praful Patel axis.

While the ruling alliance faces internal turbulence, the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi is undergoing its own dramatic breakdown.

In mid-November 2025, the Mumbai Congress announced it would contest all 227 BMC seats independently — a decision that stunned its alliance partners. The immediate trigger was Uddhav Thackeray's announcement of an alliance with Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), a decision Congress leaders found politically unacceptable. UNI





McCullum Backs Crawley, Seeks More Conviction

England head coach defends opener despite pair as methods come under scrutiny

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

PERTH: Brendon McCullum still believes in Zak Crawley despite his pair in the first Test against Australia, and has called on England bat with more conviction following their two-day defeat in Perth. The visiting head coach even cited Travis Head's match-winning 123 as an example to follow.

Head made light work of what looked a more-than-competitive target of 205, driving Australia most of the way home to an eight-wicket win in just 28.2 overs. With Usman Khawaja yet again suffering from a back injury, Head replaced Marnus Labuschagne (who opened in the first innings) and proceeded to slap 20 boundaries, including four sixes that belied the size of the Optus Stadium boundaries.

As well as playing an England attack that 24 hours earlier had put the frighteners up the home batters, Head was responsible for the first runs for an opening partnership in the Test. The first overs of the previous three innings had brought ducks. Crawley was responsible for two at the hands of Mitchell Starc. Jake Weatherald - knocked off his feet by Jofra Archer on day one - maintained his footing with 23, his first runs in Test cricket.

A careless waft outside off stump six balls into the match was followed

by a checked-push five balls into his second innings, brilliantly caught by Starc. With that, Crawley became the first English opener dismissed without scoring in both innings of an Ashes Test since Michael Atherton at Melbourne in 1998.

Pegged as a batter to thrive on Australian pitches, England have groomed Crawley as an X-factor player ahead of this tour. He has been backed to the hilt by captain Ben Stokes since the start of his tenure.

Though Crawley was the leading run-scorer in 2023's Ashes, and England's standout run-scorer on the following tour of India, he has averaged just 32.26 since the start of 2022. His career average - 30.96 - is close to dipping under the thirty mark.

McCullum has previously insisted Crawley is not picked to be "a consistent player". Essentially, he is a scorer of great runs rather than a great run-scorer. That point of view remains undimmed, as is his importance in an opening partnership with Ben Duckett that remains the fastest since 1998.

"We believe he is a quality player," McCullum said, when asked if Crawley was undroppable. "Particularly in these conditions against this sort of opposition. How many balls did he face? 10 or 11? He got out cheaply, but

we believe in Zak.

"He's been around this group for a long time, he's done really well. The combination with Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley has allowed us to enter games as best as we think we can. And I'd expect to see a strong bounce-back from Zak in the next little while. Sometimes you get out early, right? It would have been nice if he hadn't. But that's life. If he can get going, he can do some damage."

"If" being the operative word. Crawley is now joint-fourth on England's duck list from 96 innings - the only member of that top five to have batted fewer than 142 times in Test cricket. And the suggestion he cracks on when he gets a start is not backed up by the statistics. The 27-year-old has 24 fifty-plus scores, but of openers with at least 20, his average of 85.80 is the third lowest.

Of course, Crawley is not the sole batter to blame for the fact England are 1-0 down. It was a top-order collapse of 5 for 23 - including Ollie Pope, Harry Brook and Joe Root across six deliveries for no run - that relinquished what had been a lead of 105 with nine second-innings wickets in hand.

It was Scott Boland who thrived during this passage, eventually finishing with 4 for 33, making amends for a difficult 0 for 62 in the first innings.

Taijul and Murad star as Bangladesh break Ireland's resistance for 2-0 win

The two bowlers picked up four wickets apiece and Taijul also completed 250 Test wickets

MOHAMMAD ISAM

DHAKA: Hasan Murad broke through Ireland's resistance on the fifth day in an improbable chase of 509 to complete Bangladesh's 217-run win in the second Test in Dhaka. Curtis Campher remained unbeaten on 71 from 259 balls for an effort that lasted more than six hours. Gavin Hoey and Campher survived for more than 31 overs, before Murad removed both Hoey and No. 11 Matthew Humphreys in consecutive balls to complete Bangladesh's 2-0 win.

Murad and Taijul Islam finished with four wickets each, but Mushfiqur Rahim's century in his 100th Test was the highlight of the match. Taijul also completed 250 Test wickets, becoming the sixth left-arm spinner to reach the mark. He had earlier gone past Shakib Al Hasan's 246 wickets to become Bangladesh's highest wicket-taker.

Campher and Hoey batted with remarkable composure on the fifth morning, as Bangladesh's



frustration grew after lunch with only two wickets left for victory. The pair ensured that Ireland batted 59.3 overs on the last day, despite there being a few close calls.

Ireland started the day on 176 for 6 and Campher offered the full face of the bat while his overnight batting partner Andy McBrine survived for almost an hour before he was trapped lbw by Taijul for 21 to become his 250th Test wicket. Jordan Neill started off with a string of boundaries off Taijul, using the square cut and cover drives, before launching him down the ground. Neill's only six came off Murad, though he also survived a dropped chance by Litton, on 23. It was Mehidy Hasan Miraz who got one to spin past Neill's forward prod, which snuck through to hit the stumps soon after the second new ball was taken. Campher got to his fifty with a straight six that sailed over the long-on boundary.

Campher and Hoey then took Ireland to lunch on 263 for 8 with a stand that crossed 50 in the second session, barely scoring at two runs an over. Even as Campher continued to resist, it took Murad just two balls in the end to seal the game.

KL RAHUL TO LEAD INDIA IN ODI SERIES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AS INJURY FORCES GILL OUT

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

GUWAHATI: Senior batsman KL Rahul will captain India in the upcoming three one-day internationals against South Africa in the absence of injured Shubman Gill as the selectors announced the team Sunday.

India's Test and ODI captain Gill was forced out of the ongoing second South Africa Test after he injured his neck in the opener of the two-match series.

Rahul, who is India's first choice wicketkeeper in ODIs, will lead the 15-member squad including stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the matches starting November 30 in Ranchi.

Both Kohli and Rohit only play the 50-over format after they quit T20 cricket following the team's 2024 World Cup victory



and earlier this year retired from Tests.

India's ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer is recovering from a lacerated spleen he suffered when falling heavily in a one-day clash against Australia in Sydney last month.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant return to the ODI team.

The second and third ODIs are scheduled for December 3 and 6 before the teams head into five T20 matches.

ODI squad: Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, KL Rahul (capt, wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel.



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