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India Firm Against Terrorism, Will Not Compromise on Security: PM Modi

Cites 'Operation Sindoor' as Proof of New Delhi's Resolve

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reaffirmed that India's stance

against terrorism remains uncompromising, stating that the nation is committed to peace but will never allow its security to be undermined.

Speaking at a programme in Kurukshetra commemorating the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur, the Prime Minister said India contin-

ues to spread the message of brotherhood globally, yet stands fully prepared to defend itself against any threat. "India stands for peace, but we will not com-

promise on security. Operation Sindoor is a testament to this resolve. The world has seen that new India neither fears nor

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YOUTH MUST RISE AGAINST RADICALISATION TO PROTECT KASHMIR'S FUTURE: LG MANOJ SINHA

Urges Young Athletes to Champion Unity, Reject Discrimination and Lead Social Transformation Through Sports

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday delivered a strong message to the younger generation, urging them to stand firmly against organisations

and individuals involved in radicalisation in the Kashmir Valley. He was speaking at the closing ceremony of the 69th National School Games-2025, organised jointly by the Department of Youth Services & Sports and the School Games Federation

of India (SGFI), in Jammu.

Addressing a large gathering of athletes, coaches and officials, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to nurture a spirit of unity and help build a world

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India Has Potential To Become Global Hub For Shipbuilding: Rajnath Singh

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, NOV 25: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called upon global defence majors to seize the opportunities in India's vibrant shipbuilding industry to co-develop next-generation maritime capabilities.

In an address at an event, Singh said India has

the potential to become a global hub for shipbuilding, ship repair and maritime innovation as Indian shipyards have already produced aircraft carriers, research vessels and commercial ships. "What truly sets India apart is its integrated end-to-end shipbuilding ecosystem," he said.

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After 5-year break, 4 MPs to represent J&K in Rajya Sabha

Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan to administer oath to NC leaders on Dec 1

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: Three recently elected Rajya Sabha members from National Conference will take oath on December 1, the opening day of the Winter Session of the Parliament.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) three MPs, Shammi Oberoi, Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, and Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan will be administered the oath by Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan.

The oath ceremony would mark the return of Rajya Sabha representation for Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of nearly five years.

The leaders were elected last month in the maiden Rajya Sabha polls in the Union Territory since the reorganization of the erstwhile state and the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

The polls were held for four seats of which NC won three, while the BJP secured one seat, with its

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CM Omar Reviews Revenue Projects, Seeks Timely Completion



■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, NOV 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the progress of infrastructure projects taken up by the Revenue Department.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary (Financial Commissioner Revenue) Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Division-

al Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, all Deputy Commissioners, and other senior officials. Officers from various districts joined via video conferencing.

At the outset, Secretary Revenue delivered a detailed presentation on 18 major building projects—including tehsil and niabat offices, residential quarters, mini secretariats, and revenue complexes—currently being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

These projects are located in Ramban, Kathua, Poonch, Doda, Udhampur, Reasi, Bandipora, Anantnag, Pulwama, and Srinagar, form a critical part of the administration's efforts to strengthen building infrastructure and grassroots governance. The review highlighted certain bottlenecks, including delays in funds disbursement, pending administrative approvals, and legal issues at a few locations.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

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CM Omar Lays Foundation of ATS Nagrota

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today laid the foundation stone for setting up of an Automated Vehicle Testing Station (ATS) at Khanpur, Nagrota, Jammu, marking a significant stride towards strengthening road safety and modernising transport infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister said that the establishment of the state-of-the-art Automated Testing Station will usher in a more transparent, efficient and technology-driven vehicle fitness regime.

He noted that such facilities are essential for reducing road accidents, ensuring compliance with safety standards and curbing

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Lal Chowk now reflects peace, progress: Punjab Governor

Kataria calls Kashmir's transformation a story of unity, resilience

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: The Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria on Tuesday walked through the streets of Lal Chowk in Srinagar, describing the iconic square as a reflection of India's unity and Kashmir's journey from uncertainty to progress.

Recalling the 'Ekta Yatra' led by senior BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi, as a journey that culminated with the hoisting of the tricolour at the same

spot, Kataria said it was an emotional moment to see the flag flying freely at the Clock Tower.

"The tricolour here is not just a piece of cloth. It represents our collective struggle, unity and pride as a nation. I always wanted to stand here, where the symbol of India's integrity waves proudly," he told reporters, at clock tower Lal Chowk, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Kataria, who arrived in Kashmir on a multi-day visit, said Srinagar's trans-

formation into one of India's top tourist destinations was a matter of national pride. "There was a time when coming here wasn't easy. But today, tourists from all over India are walking freely in Lal Chowk and enjoying the beauty of Kashmir. That is the biggest sign of peace and progress," he said.

The Governor also praised the Valley's cold weather and natural charm, saying both have helped boost winter tourism. "Kashmir's chill carries warmth and it brings people together.

The more tourists visit, the stronger our emotional and cultural unity becomes," he added.

Referring directly to the recent Pahalgam incident, Kataria said occasional challenges should not overshadow Kashmir's enduring spirit. "Since 1947, border states have faced many tests. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir have shown unmatched resilience and faith in peace," he said.

As Governor of Punjab and

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SED announces phased wise winter break

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: School Education Department (SED) Tuesday announced winter break in a phased manner for Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) SED Secretary Ram Niwas Sharma in an order said that the vacations for Pre-primary (Balvatika) classes shall commence from November-26 to February-28-2026.

In case of middle classes upto 8th standard, Sharma said that the vacations shall be observed from December-01 to February-28.

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Drug Network Cracked: NCB Sgr

'3 arrested, 2.7 kg Charas seized'

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Srinagar Zone, has successfully dismantled a narcotics supply module active in the Baramulla-Pulwama belt with the seizure of 2.730 kilograms of charas and the arrest of three accused persons, including the main supplier.

"Acting on specific intelligence, on 20.11.2025, a team of NCB Srinagar intercepted Bashir Ahmad Malla, R/o Dhobiwan, PS Kunzer, District Baramulla, and recovered

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CS Stresses Accountability, Speed in Power Reforms

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today undertook an in-depth review of the reforms being implemented by the Power Development Department (PDD) across Jammu and Kashmir with a focus on enhancing operational efficiency, strengthening infrastructure and substantially reducing power losses under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The review meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, PDD; Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL; Chief Engineers of the Corporations; representatives of NTPC and PESL, besides other



senior officers.

Emphasising the need for strict adherence to timelines, the Chief Secretary directed that all ongoing reform works aimed at loss reduction must be com-

pleted within the sunset period prescribed under RDSS by the Government of India.

He stressed on fixing daily and weekly targets for all components of loss

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CS Launches J&K's Digital Land Bank on Gati Shakti

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today launched the Land Bank layer on the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) portal in presence of Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF); Secretary, Information Technology and other Heads of Departments of the Forest Department.

The Deputy Commissioners of all districts

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J&K Pavilion steals the show at IITF 2025; draws record crowds

HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 25: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, presented the region's vibrant cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 with the theme "EK BHARAT, SHRESHTHA BHARAT".

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, inaugurated the event.

The J&K Pavilion, located on the 1st Floor of Hall No. 3 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from November 14 to 27. The Pavilion

offers a dynamic platform for around 140 exhibitors, including women entrepreneurs, specially-abled business owners and cooperative societies, to showcase their diverse range of products. It highlights Jammu and Kashmir's world-renowned Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products such as Saffron, Pashmina Shawls, Kani Shawls, Sozni Embroidery, Basohli Paintings, Kashmiri Carpets and Paper Mâché crafts, each reflecting the region's authenticity and artistic excellence.

A special celebration, 'Jammu and Kashmir Day,' was held on November 22, 2025, at Amphitheatre One, featuring the cultural performances dedicated to celebrate the culture, craft and heritage of J&K. The event strengthened J&K's presence on the national stage



while celebrating its artistic richness and entrepreneurial excellence.

JKTPO continues to uphold transparency and inclusivity in promoting the local enterpris-

es. With participation of key organizations such as J&K Industries Limited and the State Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation, the Pavilion exemplifies the seamless

harmony of tradition and innovation that defines Jammu and Kashmir.

Over the past three years, JKTPO has significantly expanded the participation of artisans,

farmers and entrepreneurs in national exhibitions and trade fairs, including IITF. The number of exhibitors has grown remarkably from fewer than 30 participants a few years ago to over 140 in 2025.

During the previous edition, in 2024, approximately 110 exhibitors represented J&K at IITF. This consistent growth reflects rising enthusiasm among the J&K's business community to present their products on prestigious national platforms.

The participants have not only gained extensive exposure but secured valuable business leads and confirmed orders, fostering long-term and sustainable trade relationships. On-the-spot sales have risen significantly, offering direct financial gains and enhancing

exhibitors' confidence. This strong buyer interest, coupled with the overwhelming footfall at the Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion, further underscored its growing national appeal.

The Pavilion remained consistently crowded with the visitors eager to experience the region's rich craft heritage, authentic GI-tagged products and vibrant cultural presentations. The enthusiastic public response not only amplified sales and business opportunities but also reinforced the Pavilion's standing as one of the most sought-after attractions at IITF 2025. This continued success reaffirms the Government's commitment to empowering local talent and nurturing a sustainable ecosystem that champions heritage, innovation and enterprise.

Horticulture Dept Sends 60 Baramulla Farmers to Srinagar for One-Day Training Under MIDH

UMAR RASHID

BARAMULLA, NOV 25: The Department of Horticulture Baramulla on Tuesday organised a one-day farmer exposure visit under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), during which 60 farmers were sent to Srinagar for specialised training.

The farmers were flagged off by the Deputy



Commissioner Baramulla, in presence of the Chief Horticulture Officer and other officials of the department.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the Horticulture Department is regularly sending farmers to Srinagar and other training institutes, where they learn modern techniques, scientific orchard management, and advanced horticulture methods.

He added that although Baramulla is the largest apple-producing district, its productivity is lower compared to South Kashmir. "By adopting modern scientific techniques, farmers will be able to improve both the yield and quality of their produce," he said.

Officials stated that such training programmes will continue to be held to empower orchardists and promote innovative farming practices in the district.

Macadam Plant in Gantamulla Baramulla Operating Without NOC, Causing Heavy Pollution

Pollution Control Board Issues Closure Order, Locals Appeal DC Baramulla to take action

UMAR RASHID

BARAMULLA, NOV 25: The Rajindra Meccdem Company, engaged in the Baramulla-Uri road widening project, is reportedly operating a macadam plant in Poshwan Colony, Ganta Mulla, Baramulla, without obtaining the mandatory NOCs. Residents claim that repeated representations to the authorities have gone

unheeded.

Local residents expressed grave concerns over health hazards caused by toxic emissions from the plant, reporting severe chest infections and respiratory issues. They have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla for immediate action to shut down the illegal operation, warning that failure to act may force them to protest on the



streets.

Speaking with officials from the Pollution Control Board, Baramulla, it was revealed that a closure order has already been issued and sent to the DC Baramulla for further action. Residents now await decisive intervention from the district administration, hoping for relief from the persistent environmental and health threats.

Molvi Imran Reza Ansari Slams NEET-PG 2025 Matrix, Calls It 'Murder of Merit' in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: Peoples Conference General Secretary Molvi Imran Reza Ansari has strongly criticized the NEET-PG 2025 seat matrix in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a blatant assault on open merit and a threat to the future of healthcare in the Union Territory.

"Open Merit in J&K has been pushed to the wall, and the latest NEET-PG 2025 matrix is the clearest proof that this injustice must stop," Ansari said. He pointed out that the tentative seat allocation leaves barely one-third of MD/MS seats for open merit candidates, while the remaining seats are fragmented into multiple reserved categories, leaving thousands of hardworking general-

category students competing for scraps.

Ansari highlighted the distortions in the system, noting that in some reserved categories, the number of seats exceeds the actual number of applicants, effectively guaranteeing entry for a few while meritorious candidates are sidelined. "This is not social justice—it is the murder of merit and a blow to J&K's healthcare future," he asserted.

He criticized rules like the amended reservation framework and Rule-17, which allow vacated open merit seats to revert to the reserved pool, putting top-ranked aspirants at a double disadvantage. Ansari echoed the concerns of other leaders like Sajad Lone, stating that open merit is facing "total injus-

ture," and that medical seats must be earned through genuine merit, not politically engineered allocations.

"Students demanding 'Save Open Merit' are not against reservation—they are asking for a level playing field," he said. He also accused the National Conference of playing a dual game: publicly expressing support for youth while quietly sustaining a framework that shrinks open merit to roughly 30%.

Ansari urged the administration to review the NEET-PG matrix, remove anti-merit provisions, and restore a fair share for open merit candidates. "Anything less is a betrayal of an entire generation of young doctors and the patients who will rely on them," he warned.

Call for Justice "NOPRUF" Champions Restoration of 'OPS' at Kashmir Convention

GULFAM BARJI

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: The National Old Pension Restoration United Front (NOPRUF) organized a landmark one-day convention at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, renewing the call to restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). The event saw spirited participation from employees across departments and a wide range of prominent trade union leaders, reinforcing a united resolve to secure government workers' financial future. Mr. B. P. Singh Rawat, National President of NOPRUF, presided as Chief Guest. The gathering was graced by distinguished guests including Mr. Jeelani Naik (President, JKADCS [Ministerial Federation])/Chief Spokesperson, NOPRUF J&K), Sh. Ramesh Sanga (Incharge South Zone NOPRUF), and Mr. Rajesh Sharma (President,

NOPRUF J&K). In his keynote, Mr. Rawat described the Old Pension Scheme as the "backbone of financial security post retirement," highlighting its role in providing fixed, stable benefits as compared to the market-based National Pension Scheme (NPS). He called the restoration of OPS a moral responsibility to all public service employees. Mr. Rajesh Sharma urged greater unity among the UT's trade unions, appealing particularly to employees under NPS to lead the movement, as OPS restoration was a mission for all. Mr. Jeelani Naik also called upon the Prime Minister to uphold "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" by reinstating OPS and thanked the Chief Minister for working towards OPS as per the party manifesto.

Numerous leaders addressed or attended the

event, including: Sakoon Manir Wani, UT General Secretary (NOPRUF), Zaheer Younus, Publicity Secretary JKUT (NOPRUF), Mr. Binny Tandon, Provincial President Kashmir (NOPRUF), S. Gurmeet Singh, Provincial President JKADCS (Ministerial Federation)/Provincial Spokesperson Jammu (NOPRUF), Sh. Sachin Tickoo, President Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association/Convener JK Power Employees and Engineering Coordination Committee, Mr. Khaleed Rafeeq Bhat, Chairman JKRETF, Sh. Sanjay Koul, President All Minority Employees Association Kashmir, Mr. Basharat Saleem, Chairman SENTEF JKUT, Mr. Abu Huda, President MTS Association, Mr. Gazi Abdul Aziz, Ex Chairman JKTJAC, Mohd. Yaseen Bhat, President JKDEA Kashmir, Mr. Farooq Mattoo, Senior Leader JKPDD,

Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone, Provincial President ATA, Mr. Muzaffer Masroor Shah, Senior Trade Union Leader, Mr. Kamal Chandpuri, District President Srinagar (NOPRUF), Mr. Jaseem Hussain Mir, District President (NOPRUF), Mr. Sajad Khan, District President Ganderbal, Mr. Latif Nazki, District President Kupwara, Mr. Sadarat Hussain, District President Baramulla, Mr. Nazir Ahamed, District Vice President Kupwara, Mr. G.R. Wani, District Organizer Kupwara, Mr. Nasir, Tehsil President Karna.

The convention concluded with a firm resolve to escalate the movement for OPS restoration, asserting it as fundamental to employees' rights and welfare. Mr. Rajesh Sharma declared, "The Old Pension Scheme is a cornerstone of dignified retirement, and we will continue our fight until it is restored."

9 year old boy died after being hit by Tractor at Chandoosa

AASHIQ HUSSAIN

BARAMULLA, NOV 25: 9 year old boy died in wahidina Chandoosa after being hit by Tractor According reports 9 Year old injured near Court complex Chandoosa after being hit by Tractor bearing registration number JK05D 2357. Police party of Police station Chandoosa headed by SHO Chandoosa Manzoor Ahmed rushed to spot and brought him to CHC Chandoosa for treatment in critical condition where doctors referred him to GMC Baramulla where he lost the battle of life Police identified deceased as Haseeb Ahmad Khan S/O Reyaz Ahmad Khan resident of wahidina Chandoosa village of Police sub division Kreeri

Meanwhile Chandoosa police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Enrollment Drive Gains Momentum in Zone Vilgam

Civil Society, Parents, and Students Participate with Great Enthusiasm

JAVAI BHAT

KUPWARA, NOV 25: Zone Vilgam, Kupwara is witnessing a remarkable surge in community participation as the ongoing Enrollment Drive continues to gather momentum. The initiative, envisioned as a mass movement, aims to strengthen school enrollment across the zone by mobilizing local stakeholders and fostering awareness about the value of education.

Yesterday, the drive was celebrated with great zeal at UPS Daril Bala, drawing an encouraging response from parents, students, and local residents. The atmosphere remained vibrant as teachers and community members joined hands to promote the message of inclusive and quality education.

Continuing the momentum, today's event at BMS Sharkoot marked yet another successful step in the campaign. Civil society members, parents, and



students participated vehemently, turning the rally into a spirited and impactful gathering. Their active involvement not only reflected the growing trust in the public education system but also highlighted the collective resolve to ensure that every child in the area is brought into the fold of schooling.

Officials from the education department expressed satisfaction over the rising enthusiasm and noted that new enrollments are on the rise, signalling a positive shift in community outlook. They added that such rallies play a vital role in bridging gaps between schools and society.

The Enrollment Drive will continue across various schools in Zone Vilgam, with hopes of achieving record admissions and reinforcing the importance of education for all.

Dy CM honours 38 Master Craftsmen with Prestigious UT-Level Artisan Awards – 2024 for preserving, innovating rich Handicraft legacy

Lauds Artisans as custodians of Heritage, pledges sector revival under CM Omar Abdullah's leadership

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOV 25: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today honoured 38 outstanding craftsmen and artisans with the UT-Level Artisan and Weaver Awards–2024 for their exemplary contribution to preserving and innovating Jammu and Kashmir's celebrated handicraft traditions.

The awards conferred by Handicrafts and Handloom Department were presented at a grand ceremony held at SKICC, Srinagar.

The event was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, Director Handicrafts and Handloom Department Kashmir,

Mussarat ul Islam, senior government officials, dignitaries, and members of the artisan and business community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is fully committed to transforming the Handicrafts and Handloom sector into a vibrant economic pillar.

He noted that these awards not only celebrate craftsmanship but also motivate artisans to push creative boundaries and continue their invaluable service to society.

"The Artisan Awards reinforce the profound cultural and economic significance of J&K's craft traditions, which sustain livelihoods and shape our identity on the global stage," he said.



Appreciating the department for its efforts, the Deputy Chief Minister added, "This event reflects our dedication to giving artisans the respect and recognition they truly deserve.

They are our pride, the custodians of our heritage and traditions. Under the able leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Jenab Omar Abdullah Sahib, we will leave no stone unturned in

addressing sectoral challenges and elevating this backbone of our economy to new heights."

Of the 38 awardees, 20 belong to Kashmir Division and 18 to Jammu Division, selected through

a rigorous evaluation across ten notified craft categories. Each category carried three awards, with winners receiving citations, certificates, and cash prizes of 50,000, 30,000, and 20,000, enabling them to further enhance their craft.

Delivering the inaugural address, Vikramjit Singh highlighted the department's ongoing initiatives to strengthen the sector.

"The Industries and Commerce Department is extending comprehensive support for the upliftment of our artisan community. We are intensifying efforts to revive the sector, showcase the brilliance of our artisans, and connect them with global markets."

A departmental spokesperson noted that the sector supports over 3.80 lakh artisans and weavers, contributing more than 1500 crore annually to J&K's economy. He added that artisans from the UT have earned prestigious national honours such as the Padma Shri and Shilp Guru Awards, and have captivated global audiences from Paris to New York.

Recent interventions, including skill enhancement workshops, Know Your Artisan initiative, digital marketplaces, and GI tagging, have significantly strengthened market outreach, contributing to a 500 crore boost in exports through participation in multiple global trade fairs this year.

KVIB organises awareness camp at Halla, Ramban

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 25: The J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB), Ramban organized an Awareness Camp at Halla to educate rural youth and local residents about the self-employment opportunities and government-sponsored schemes.

Branch Head, J&K Bank Halla, Kuljeet Singh was the Chief Guest. The program was also attended by District Officer KVIB Farooq Ahmed Baba, Field Officer KVIB, Sudhir Singh and faculty, SBI RSETI Rakesh Kumar. The event witnessed active participation from ex-PRIs and local people.



The Chief Guest interacted with the participants, addressed their queries and highlighted the banking sector and social security schemes for aspiring entrepreneurs. He motivated the youth to avail the benefit of available self-employment schemes for establishing income-generating units.

The District Officer gave a detailed presentation on the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) and Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Program (JKREGP), including the latest guidelines and eligibility criteria. He encouraged the unemployed youth to take advantage of these initiatives to start their ventures.

The Faculty SBI RSETI informed the participants about the free skill development and entrepreneurship training programs offered by RSETI to strengthen their capacity before starting units.

The participants expressed gratitude to KVIB Ramban for conducting a meaningful and informative awareness program.

Expedite work execution, ensure quality infrastructure development across J&K: Deputy Chief Minister Reviews progress on PWD projects under Capex Budget 2025–26

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today called for expeditious and quality infrastructure development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while chairing a high level review meeting at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, assessed progress on ongoing works being executed under Capex Budget 2025–26 of the PWD (R&B) Kashmir Division. He emphasised timely completion of all ongoing developmental projects in the region.

Senior officers including the Chief Engineer PMGSY Kashmir,

Chief Engineer PWD Central/South/ North Kashmir, Chief Engineer Mechanical Engineering & Hospitality Department Kashmir, Superintending Engineers of PMGSY, PWD, MEHD Kashmir and Executive Engineers of the concerned wings attended the meeting while officers based in Jammu participated virtually.

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a comprehensive review of roads, bridges, PMGSY and other connectivity-related works presently underway across Kashmir Division.

He issued strict directions for speeding up execution of all ongoing projects, ensuring timely clearance of bottlenecks to achieve the targets



within the stipulated timelines. He asserted that timely completion of projects must remain the top priority, underscoring that infrastructure development plays

a pivotal role in boosting connectivity, improving public convenience and enhancing overall socio-economic growth.

He directed all the engineering

wings to intensify monitoring, maintain strict adherence to technical standards and ensure that ongoing works are executed in a transparent, efficient and result-oriented manner.

The Deputy Chief Minister added that the government is keenly focused on accelerating development, with special emphasis on high-quality public infrastructure.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the need for early completion of rural connectivity works under PMGSY, timely maintenance of road infrastructure before winter intensifies and efficient functioning of mechanical engineering services.

District Admin, Mera Yuva Bharat organise district level Ekta Padyatra at Ramban

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAMBAN, NOVEMBER 25: The District Administration Ramban in collaboration with Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, today organized a District Level Padyatra to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the ongoing Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations.

The event was organized to spread the message of unity, national integrity and collective responsibility—a vision championed by the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan flagged off the Unity Rally "Ekta Padyatra" from Maitra Chowk to the DC Office. A large number of youth, students, volunteers, officers, officials and citizens enthusiastically participated in the rally, holding banners and raising slogans that echoed the spirit of oneness and solidarity. DDC Member Renuka Katoch; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Deputy



Director My Bharat Khushal Gupta; CEO MS Khan; Tehsildar Deep Kumar; Dy. SP HQ, Waqar Butt, BDO and other officers and prominent citizens joined the Yatra.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the active involvement of youth and highlighted the importance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas in strengthening the nation's social fabric. He emphasized that events like the Padyatra play a vital role in reminding citizens—especially the younger generation—of the values of unity, harmony and national pride. The DC also appreciated the efforts of MY Bharat and all participating departments for their contribution.

After the rally, a colourful cultural programme was organized at the District Administrative Complex (DAC), featuring patriotic songs, folk performances, cultural displays presented by Youth, students and local folk artists.

The presentation celebrated India's diversity and reinforced the message of unity. Later, the participants took 'Atam Nirbhar Bharat' and 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' pledges, reaffirming their commitment to work for nation building and promoting a drug free society.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner felicitated the participants and departments for their contribution in making the celebrations a grand success.

Director Agriculture reviews physical, financial progress under CAPEX, HADP & NABARD

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress under the CSS, CAPEX, HADP and NABARD schemes.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma; Deputy Director (Planning) Mudassir Yaqoob Zargar; Accounts Officer Vishnu Kant Sharma; Assistant Agrostologist N.P. Singh; Technical Officer HADP (DoA) Raj Kumar, besides other officers and staff of the department. The Chief Agriculture Officers of Jammu Division



attended the meeting through video conferencing.

The Director Agriculture asked the Districts to submit Monthly Progress Report (MPR) for all schemes to the Directorate by tomorrow without fail. He further instructed to ensure that pending DPRs are completed and submitted immediately.

Reviewing the progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Director Agriculture stressed on expediting activities under the Integrated Farming System (IFS) Project. He directed officers to clear all pending bills related to the project on priority.

The Director also conducted a detailed review of expenditure under NABARD and instructed the officers to complete the pending works and liabilities pertaining to the Baba Jitto Project in Doda district. He also directed to clear the pending expenditure and bills of Agronomist (VIS), SM Farm Chinore, SM Farm Chakroi and Kathua district at the earliest.

The Director emphasized timely execution of works and maintaining financial discipline to ensure efficient implementation of all departmental programmes.

DC Kathua reviews progress of AMRUT 2.0 Water Supply Schemes

Stresses prioritizing construction of OHTs, Pipe Network laying across six towns

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KATHUA, NOV 25: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the implementation of AMRUT 2.0 Water Supply Schemes across six towns of the district, with special focus on accelerating key infrastructure works.

The DC was informed that under AMRUT 2.0, Kathua district is implementing a comprehensive package of works across six towns, including construction of 14 Tubewells, 14 Over Head Tanks (OHTs), 7 Sump Tanks/RSFPs and extensive pipe networks, benefiting a total of 22,930 planned households.

Town-wise, the schemes ought to augment infrastructure in Kathua, Nagri, Lakhnupur, Hiranagar, Basohli and Billawar, with each town receiving a combination of new Twells, OHTs



and distribution systems to strengthen urban water supply.

The Deputy Commissioner

directed XEN PHE to prioritise construction of Over Head Tanks (OHTs), terming these crucial for stabilising the upcoming distribution network. He further instructed for immediate start of pipe network execution to ensure timely coverage of targeted households.

The DC called for seamless coordination among stakeholder departments for utility shifting and clearance of field-level issues to avoid delays in the execution. He also emphasised adhering to timelines and quality standards to ensure early commissioning of the schemes for the benefit of urban residents.

Among others the meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; CPO Ranjit Thakur; GM DIC Mushtaq Chaudhary; XEN PHE G L Gupta; XEN PDD Surinder Bhagat; CEO MCA Amit Sharma and other concerned officers.

Rana inaugurates, lays foundation stones for projects worth ₹80 cr in Mankote

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

MENDHAR, NOV 25: In a major fillip to the developmental trajectory of Mankote block in Mendhar subdivision of district Poonch, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for a wide spectrum of infrastructure projects valued at over 80 crore.

The projects, covering essential sectors such as road connectivity, drinking water supply, education, public utilities and sports are poised to significantly uplift civic amenities and accelerate socio-economic development in the district.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the projects, the Minister underscored Omar Abdullah led government's resolve to bring sustained and inclusive development to border and remote regions. He stated that the newly sanctioned and inaugurated works will substantially improve the inter-village connectivity, enhance potable water supply and upgrade public institutions across Mankote, thereby improving the quality of life for thousands of residents.

Rana reaffirmed that the Omar Abdullah Government remains committed towards ensuring that geographically difficult and underserved areas receive priority attention and infrastructure at par with other regions.

Among the prominent inaugurations was the upgradation, purchase and electrification of the Community Hall at GMS Mankote, which is set to serve as a vibrant multipurpose facility for social, cultural and educational events.

The Minister also laid the foundation for a Community Facility Centre (CFC) at Village Mankote, marking another step towards strengthening the local civic infrastructure.

Additionally, new academic rooms at Middle School Barja and Primary School Magyad Keni, along with smart classrooms, reading



rooms and library infrastructure at Middle School Nar Chhajla were launched to bolster the digital learning and improve academic environments.

Key education-related construction works including completion of High School Bareela, new Zonal Education Office at Mankote and a four-room block at High School Topa further highlight the Minister's emphasis on strengthening the educational infrastructure in tribal-dominated and remote pockets.

He also inaugurated and launched extensive road connectivity projects across multiple panchayats such as Mankote, Ghani, Sagra, Balnoi, Chhajla, Kasbalari and Dabraj.

Under RDD, several rural links, vital for daily mobility and emergency accessibility, were taken up. These inter alia included concrete pavement to HSS Mankote, 60-metre steel foot bridge at Mohalla Bacheri linking Balnoi and Sagra and numerous inter-hamlet roads such as KG Top-Kholi, Choudrian Mohalla, Bella Bakerwalla-Garh Dabraj, Dubhna Khandhroo-Nagalban, Mohalla Chowana (Sagra), Bobby Camp-Pillain Water Point, Balnoi-Sharif Mohalla, Dharan Morh-Nakka

Mohalla via Jamia Masjid and several other stretches expanding connectivity deep into interior habitations.

Simultaneously, major RDD, PWD and PMGSY road and culvert works were also inaugurated. These included Defence Road-Gorsian link, Ziarat Pothi-Maghyad Road, Dullain-Chouhan, Jabran-Parat, Naki Mera-Bela Chhajla, Balhar-Moori, Sardaran-Gurdwara, Upper Narooni-Charan Simkan and Mera-Dakan Wala link in Balnoi.

Besides, macadamization projects, considered crucial for all-weather durability, were initiated on several high-traffic and strategically relevant roads such as the Balnoi-Ghani, Dharana-Chhajla, Sagra-Balhar, Mankote Bridge-Bobi Camp and Uchhad-Kasbalari roads.

Similarly, additional construction and maintenance projects at Sagra-Ghani, Challas Gagito-Lehar Mohalla, KG-Kohlian Ghani, Nagar Gali-Bhagyote Gali and Uchhad Dewli-Ghani Bhatnagar further highlight the comprehensive nature of this connectivity push.

Major PMGSY works, including the Dharana-Chhajla road and critical Ghani-Sagra link upgrades, were also rolled out, promising long-term improvements in

regional accessibility.

Further expanding the road network, the Minister inaugurated key PWD projects. These inter alia included the roads from Gani to Mohalla Jattan, Bela Pathana to Therpur via Naki Kassi, approach road to the steel Jullah Bridge in Mankote, over Banloi via Kishti, Naka Salwah to Nar Tarkhana, Gurah Nima Chughan to Hudian Gali, the BRO Salani-Shaheed Aurangzaib link, Sagra-Balhar to Model School Dullian, Masoom Shah Ziarat to Ramkund Temple, Kani Narooni to Nagal Gali, Sona Gali Choi to Raja Shah Ziarat and the Tain-Thamlote road.

The education sector witnessed a corresponding boost through infrastructure upgrades at Girls Middle School Dhara Topa, High School Tain, High School Topa, Middle School Berja, Middle School Mankote (Boys), Middle School Nar Mankote, Middle School Thera and several primary schools including Basni, Chontra, Deriyaran and Lower Tain.

The improvements underscore the government's focus on modernizing the academic facilities, promoting digital and experiential learning besides ensuring safe and conducive school environments

for children in rural and tribal areas.

On the sports front, significant investments were made to nurture youth talent and encourage physical activity.

The Minister inaugurated the Mini Sports Stadium at Panchayat Magyad Keni, launched the upgrade of the Sports Stadium at Chhajla through chain-link fencing and initiated work on a modern Sports Complex at Panchayat Mankote Lower (Ward 4).

Equally noteworthy were the drinking water and Jal Shakti projects unveiled today. These included WSS Sagra Balhar Lower Devta, WSS Kasbalari, WSS Ramkund Chhajla, the drilling of a 250 mm tube-well at Mankote, and establishment of a Receiving Station at Ghani.

With these projects, potable water availability is expected to increase substantially, addressing chronic shortages and ensuring a reliable supply to households in water-stressed areas.

To strengthen the administrative outreach and community support systems, the Minister also inaugurated an Inspection Hut with a Chowkidar's Quarter and Driver's Rest Room at Mankote, as well as the newly constructed Zonal Education Office, marking a step forward in improving service delivery and governance at the grassroots.

Rana stated that the inaugurated projects constitute only the beginning of a much larger developmental roadmap that aims to transform every village in Mankote into a model of progress and opportunity.

He stated that inauguration and foundation stone laying of projects mark a momentous day for Mankote Block, promising far-reaching improvements in road connectivity, public services, water supply systems, educational facilities and sports infrastructure.

Together, he said, these initiatives lay a strong foundation for sustained, inclusive and forward-looking development in this crucial border region of Poonch.

DG Rural Sanitation reviews progress of SBM-G implementation across 4 Jammu Districts

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra today convened a meeting to assess work progress and devise action plan for fast-tracking the implementation and verification of assets under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen



(SBM-G) across different districts of Jammu Division.

The Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACPs) of the districts of Samba, Kathua, Jammu and Kishtwar presented the current status, gaps and progress made in creation of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs), decentralized, Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), GOBARDhan units, Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs), Compost Pits, Soak Pits and door-to-door (D2D) waste collection.

The DG stressed on removing bottlenecks related to land availability, especially for DEWATS, GOBARDhan and Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs). She instructed the ACPs and other district officials to coordinate with PRIs and local communities to resolve these issues on priority. The officials reported that D2D hotspot areas have been identified and are being targeted for 100% coverage within 15 days.

From Kathua, it was informed that D2D waste collection is active and is being expanded to uncovered areas. The DG directed concerned officials to complete ODF+ declaration for the blocks within the next three days. She further instructed to promptly fill gaps in IHHL coverage. Reviewing SBM-G works in Jammu, Kathua and Samba, Ms. Malhotra instructed officials to expedite verification of assets, ensure timely data updation and strengthen solid and liquid waste management systems. Reviewing progress in District Kishtwar, the DG emphasized the need to accelerate progress in remote and geographically challenging areas. Officials were asked to ensure functionality of existing SBM-G assets, address delays due to terrain and logistics and devise a block-wise action plan for achieving ODF+ targets at the earliest.

Nizam-ud-Din chairs Privileges committee meeting

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly held here on Tuesday at Assembly Complex Jammu to discuss the matter related to constitutional privileges and protocol of Legislators. The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and attended by the members of the Committee including Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Javid Iqbal and Narinder Singh. The committee underscored the importance of legislators and their constitutional rights and privileges. It was also stressed for maintaining protocol to safeguard the dignity, autonomy and effective functioning of the elected representatives. The Committee directed the senior officers of Hospitality and Protocol department to ask the GAD and Law departments to compile a detailed report on issues related to privileges and Protocol of legislators and submit the same to the Committee before it's next meeting. The Chairman emphasized the significance of their constitutional rights and privileges on all appropriate platforms. He also stressed the need for a well defined strategy to safeguard the dignity and effective functioning of elected representatives.

Among others Under Secretary, Assembly Secretariat besides officers and officials of Hospitality and Protocol Department and Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

Dy CM inspects progress on Seerbagh-Sempora Bridge in Chadoora

Asks for expeditious, timely completion

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today inspected ongoing construction work on Seerbagh-Sempora Bridge in Chadoora, a key project aimed at strengthening the connectivity for various villages of Chadoora Constituency of Budgam district.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar and senior officers from the concerned departments.

The bridge, comprising 2 spans of 25 metres and 1 span of 55 metres, has a total length of 106 metre. The project has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 200 lakh, out of which, Rs. 100 lakh have been spent on various components of the project. The stipulated timeline for its completion is December 2025.



During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the ongoing work components including fabrication, sub-structure development and overall project progress. He directed the executing agencies

to expedite the pace of work, maintain quality standards and ensure that the project is completed well within the set timeline.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that

the bridge is an important connectivity project that will significantly facilitate the movement between Chadoora areas of Budgam including Summerbugh, Shilana, Tengan, Seerbagh and various localities

of Pulwama and Srinagar districts.

He added that once completed, the bridge will greatly ease transportation, improve accessibility to essential services, and boost socio-economic activities in the region.

Ensuring government's focus on speedy infrastructure development, the Deputy Chief Minister said that, "the government is fully committed towards ensuring swift and efficient execution of all ongoing development projects. Every effort is being made to complete public infrastructure works in the shortest possible time so that people can benefit at the earliest."

The Deputy Chief Minister also interacted with the engineers and field staff, urging them to redouble efforts and ensure adherence to quality and safety norms throughout the execution process.

MC Rajouri holds capacity building programme to strengthen solid waste management across district

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

RAJOURI, NOVEMBER 25: The Municipal Council Rajouri, in partnership with Swaaha Resource Management Pvt. Ltd. today organised an Interactive Capacity Building Programme aimed at enhancing Solid Waste Management (SWM) practices in the district.

The programme focused on critical components of effective waste management such as source segregation, door-to-door collection, strict implementation of the Single-Use Plastic (SUP) ban, and promotion of RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

principles.

The session was presided over by Mr. Yousuf ul Umar, CEO Municipal Council Rajouri, and attended by Ms. Priksha Sharma, Accounts Officer, former councillors, social activists and representatives of the Traders Federation Rajouri.

A detailed technical session was conducted by Mr. Tabraiz Madani, Capacity Building Expert from Swaaha Resource Management Pvt. Ltd., who provided valuable insights into modern waste management systems and highlighted the indispensable role of community



involvement in achieving lasting cleanliness and sanitation

outcomes. Sanitary

Inspectors,

Supervisors, Taxation Staff, Data Entry Operators and Door-to-

Door Waste Collection Drivers from all three Urban Local Bodies-

Municipal Council Rajouri, Municipal Committee Thanamandi and Municipal Committee Kalakote also participated.

An interactive discussion followed, during which field functionaries and participants shared practical suggestions for strengthening waste management systems within their respective areas.

The programme concluded on a constructive note, with all stakeholders reiterating their commitment to supporting the Municipal Council Rajouri's vision of a clean, green and healthy Rajouri Town.

Time to increase meat production at local level

Meat is no less than an essential commodity in Kashmir and people of the Kashmir valley use meat almost on a daily basis. The meat market is a thriving market in Kashmir and over the years scores of meat shops have come across the Kashmir valley. Even though meat is consumed by every person in Kashmir the demand for the same is met by imports.

It is highly surprising and disturbing that there is very less production of meat in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Over the years very little progress has been made in this regard and the concerned department seems to be least bothered about the same. Kashmir gets its meat from neighbouring states like Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and the union territory of Delhi. There is hardly any production of meat in Kashmir with the demand being met through imports.

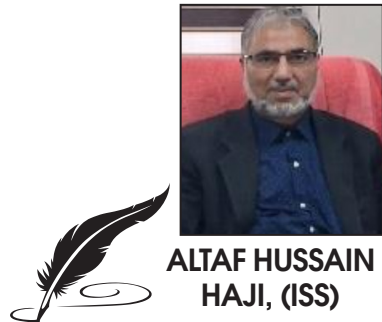
It is due to this reason that the people feel the heat when there is some disturbance in the supply of meat from outside places. Once the Srinagar-Jammu national highway gets closed on account of inclement weather there is shortage of meat in Kashmir and the people run from pillar to post in order to get a single kilogram of mutton from the market. Once there is scarcity of the meat the Sheep Husbandry department gets into action mode and stresses upon the importance of the local production of meat.

Once the crisis are over and the supply of meat is regulated the issue of local production gets relegated to the backburner and the situation is back to square one. Even though the Sheep Husbandry department has introduced some schemes to attract the youth to set up sheep breeding units the desired results have not been achieved. Not many youngsters have been enthused to set up their own sheep breeding units and the department has not come out with any report about the reasons responsible for the same.

It is important to find out the reasons responsible for less interest among youth in setting up their own sheep breeding units. Once the reasons are known then steps can be taken to plug the loopholes so that a change is made on the ground. This issue is an important one and demands proper evaluation of the ground situation. Once the local production is increased then the situation would change and meat procurement would not depend on imports.

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Role of Parents, Guardians, and Teachers in Shaping Children's Aims and Dreams



"Children aim with hearts so wide, Eyes aglow with stars inside.

They dream of castles in the sky, Of soaring wings and learning to fly.

They aim to touch the moon and sun, To heal the world, to laugh and run.

Their dreams are seeds of future days, Planted deep in hopeful ways.

Let them aim, let them believe, In every dream they dare conceive.

For in their dreams, the world is new—Bright with promise, pure and true." The poem "Children Aim and Dream" is a celebration of the boundless imagination, hope, and ambition that children naturally possess.

Parents, guardians, and teachers play a pivotal role in shaping children's aims and dreams by offering emotional support, guidance, and opportunities for growth. Their combined influence helps children build confidence, values, and a clear sense of purpose.

Every Child, Every Dream: Shaping the Future

Every child carries within them a spark of potential—dreams that can one day shape the world. When we nurture their aims and aspirations, we are not merely guiding individual lives; we are transforming society itself. A child who dreams of becoming a doctor, a teacher, an engineer, or an artist may one day contribute to the health, knowledge, innovation, and culture of the nation.

When children are encouraged to pursue their goals with education,

love, and support, their dreams take root and blossom. Each fulfilled dream becomes a step toward a brighter, more compassionate, and progressive world. By valuing and empowering a child's ambitions, we honor not only their individual potential but also the future of humanity. Indeed, when every child's ambition is supported and every dream is respected, the world itself is transformed.

Role of Parents in Shaping Aims and Dreams

The support of parents is essential for achieving life's aims and dreams—especially in today's age of information and technology, where guidance and encouragement are more important than ever. My father, a simple policeman, demonstrated profound dedication to our education. He supported both me and my sister, ensuring we had access to opportunities that would help us pursue our dreams. His unwavering belief in the power of education laid the foundation for our success.

Equally important was my mother, a housewife with no formal education. Her care, emotional support, and constant presence gave us the strength to stay focused and grounded. Though she did not hold formal degrees, her wisdom, love, and guidance were invaluable in shaping our character and aspirations.

Supporting our parents has been instrumental in my journey to a higher position in the civil services. This experience reaffirmed a timeless truth: just as children owe gratitude and care to their parents, it is equally the duty of every parent to nurture their children wholeheartedly. Providing unwavering support—especially in their education—empowers children to pursue their goals, fulfill their dreams, and unlock their true potential.

Role of Guardians and Teachers in Shaping Student Aim and Dreams

Guidance and mentorship are the backbone of a student's journey toward achieving their aims and dreams. The guardians and teachers are not just an instructor of subjects—they are a guide, a motivator, and often the first person to recognize a

student's potential. When students are supported with the right direction, encouragement, and resources, they can rise to great heights—even on national and international platforms.

However, in the context of Jammu and Kashmir, many students with strong aims and bright dreams have faced a different reality. Despite their talent and determination, they often lack the institutional support, mentorship, and exposure needed to compete at the national level. Unfortunately, in many cases, teachers and academic guides have not played a proactive or positive role in nurturing these aspirations.

This lack of support has led to a gap between potential and performance. Students with the ability to excel in UPSC, NEET, IIT-JEE, and other national-level exams often fall behind—not because they lack intelligence or ambition, but because they lack direction, encouragement, and access to quality guidance.

What Needs to Change for students with their Aim and Dream

Guardians and Teachers must evolve into mentors who inspire students to dream big and guide them step-by-step.

Career counselling and competitive exam awareness should be integrated into school systems.

Workshops, mock tests, and exposure visits can help students understand national-level expectations.

Parents and communities must also be involved in encouraging education beyond local boundaries.

It is time for the education system in Jammu and Kashmir to reimagine the role of parents, teachers, and guardians. With the right support, students can not only appear for national-level exams—they can excel. The dreams of youth are not limited by geography, only by the support they receive. No dream should be lost due to lack of guidance.

Aim, Dream, and Purpose Children's Day: A Celebration of Potential

A person's dream inspires the heart, while their aim strengthens the will to turn that dream into real-

ity. Together, they shape one's journey toward success, fulfillment and service to humanity. When guided by intention, hard work, and faith, a child's aims and dreams can lead not only to personal growth but also to the betterment of society.

Both aim and dream can be understood through the lens of intention (niyyah), purpose, and divine guidance. In Islam, niyyah holds great importance—it is the foundation of every action. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"Actions are judged by intentions, and every person will be rewarded according to what he intended." (Sahih al-Bukhari & Sahih Muslim).

Children's Day: A Celebration of Potential

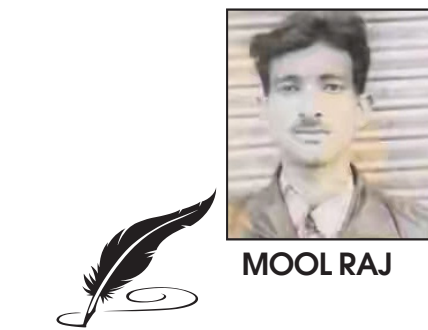
In India, Children's Day is celebrated on November 14 to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, lovingly called "Chacha Nehru" for his affection toward children. The day highlights the importance of recognizing children's rights, education, and welfare. Schools and communities organize programs, cultural events, and discussions to emphasize the significance of nurturing young minds.

The theme for Children's Day India 2025 is "For Every Child, Every Right", stressing access to education, health, and protection in a safe, nurturing environment. Meanwhile, World Children's Day 2025 is observed on November 20 with the theme "Investing in our children is investing in our future", emphasizing that children's inclusion and well-being are the foundation for a transformed world.

The journey of a child toward their dreams is shaped by the hands that guide them. Parents, guardians, and teachers must work in harmony to create an environment where dreams are not just imagined but pursued with courage and clarity. Their collective influence can turn a child's potential into purpose.

The author is a C.O Deputy Director General (DDG), National Statistics Office (Field Operations Division) Regional office, Raipur Chhattisgarh Ahhiss25@gmail.com

Glimpse Of Kashmir - A Paradise On Earth



Kashmir, one of the attractive tourist destinations of Pakistan. Picturesque and enchanting, Kashmir is cradled high in the lofty green Himalayas and hailed all over the world for its incredible natural beauty. Surrounded by greenish snow capped peaks, lush green valleys, glistening lakes, temples and spectacular Mughal-era gardens, it has inspired poets through centuries, as Amir Khusro said, Agar Firdaus bar roo-e zameen ast, Hameen ast-ohammen ast-o hameen ast. If there is a paradise on earth, It is this, it is this, it is this.

The valley is crisscrossed by chinar tree-lined roads and quaint wooden bridges; and home to the bustling bazaars, sufi shrines and forts. Add to this, the charms of flavorful Kashmiri cuisine, the sweet-smelling Kashmiri Chayee, mere thought of which brings the tourist in the sweetest of dreams. The fruit laden trees of apples and walnuts from the lush orchards, the flowery gardens of every kind with colorful birds coloring the sky, the gorgeousness of scene is beyond words.

In winter, Kashmir takes on a sparkly white glow, covered in soft snow, that glitters with a slightest touch of the sun. However, in summer, as the snow melts, and the flowers in the meadows bloom, it resembles an artist canvas.

Meanwhile, Kashmir lies on the banks of the convergence of river Jhelum and Neelam or Kishanganga, having area of approximately 650

square miles, local language is Kashmiri that was derived from Dardic, however later mixed with the elements of Sanskrit, Punjabi and Persian, although Urdu is the official language.

Kashmir is said to as "heaven on earth", you have Mughal emperor Jahangir to thank for this observation. Tourists come to Kashmir valley, so they too can witness the charms of this heaven.

However, best time to visit Kashmir is during the months of March to August. During this period two seasons are covered in Kashmir. Spring from March to May and Summer that is from early May to late August. The blossoms of spring and the cool weather of summer creates the perfect of time. Moreover, during this period the beauty is enough to transport you to another realm. Add to this, winter of Kashmir offers other perks, snow laden trees, chilled weather, mountains covering in the whitish blanket and the rare show of wild life. The magic of valley is indeed quite bewitching, and you will want to start making plans for the next trip right away.

However, my visit happens to be in the winters, November of this year. The chilly weather and curved roads with sharpened end, a mere sight of them can give you goosebumps. I travelled from Islamabad to Kashmir via Murree, although the roads are in good condition and with perfect scenery but still I felt them a little much busy, because people sometimes forget to observe the traffic rules, here I request the government to re-operate the Airport, hence it would help in enhancing further opportunities of tourism.

At last my ride of the roller coaster ride completed at Muzaffarabad Pearl Continental, a really spacious, nice and comfortable hotel that offers quite delicious food, the epic sight of dancing peacocks, the fruits and colorful flower laden gardens here and there, the view of distant snowy Himalaya, and the rushing of river Neelam and Jhelum.

After taking some rest and having tasty food from Marco Polo, I went to see the famous Pir Chinasi, resting place of a holy Saint, Pir Sayed

Hussain, that is 30 km east to Muzaffarabad, on the hill top. Where one can enjoy a panoramic view of the city.

On return my eyes catches glimpse of 17th Century Red Fort, located on picturesque bank of River Neelam, though the fort is destructed from ignorance but thankfully now some restorations work is in progress. To say, as much as I seen of Kashmir I couldn't find much of the heritage, and the once traditional homes, perhaps because of the destruction of 2005 earthquake, however still I discovered the ignorance among the authorities, since the valley is on the earthquake fault line, and concrete construction has been done again, without keeping the regard of cultural and heritage aspect, which includes the wood construction in order to minimize the disaster.

Morning came with the glittery sun shining in the clear blue sky, that presented me with the opportunity to dine in the lawn for breakfast. An experience of Mughal garden, lofty green trees, scented flowers, clear water fountain, peacocks dancing with a table filled of bounties of my Lord.

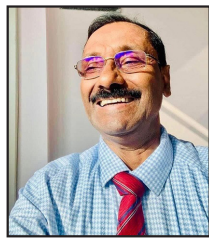
Dhani waterfall, 30-minutes' drive from the hotel, an utterly beautiful, majestic work of nature, with the elevation of 3583 ft. It's just by the road, and you can easily locate it while driving. The water of this masterpiece is clean and crystal clear, a divine place to sit and ponder over nature.

Later I found a couple of stunning and equally adventurous looking bally bridges along the road, the lofty green woods on the hills surrounded by. However, there is a need to put complete focus on the cleanliness and depollution, otherwise we would lose the charms of this heaven, authorities are requested to educate the tourist and locals in this regard and if required fine should laid in practice.

In the end, from the roadside motel, sharing Kashmiri Chayee with the smiling locals

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Kashmiri Film Batt Koch: Beyond the Eternal Search For Home



DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The Kashmiri film Batt Koch emerges as one of the most evocative cinematic works to come out of the Valley in recent years, not because it foregrounds violence or sensationalises the political turbulence that has so often dominated narratives on Kashmir, but because it chooses a quieter, more intimate route: the story of food, home, memory, and what it means to return. In its very name lies a metaphor that is unmistakably Kashmiri. 'Batt Koch'—the rice pot—is the nucleus of a household, the centre of a kitchen around which generations have grown, laughed, quarrelled, and grieved. The film uses this symbol to retell, in cinematic language, the story of a homeland that has lost many of its people to displacement and a people who have carried their homeland in their hearts across decades of exile.

The history of Kashmiri cinema began with Manziraat in 1964, followed by other local productions like Mehjoor (1972). However, the region's film industry was largely dormant after the unrest of the late 1980s, which led to the closure of cinema halls in the valley. A revival effort began in the 2000s with films like Partav (2013), which was the first digital feature film made in Kashmir after a long gap. Obstacles to reviving the Kashmiri film industry are the lack of financial and government support. However, some people are making independent films few examples are Harud, Kashmir Daily, and Half Widow and these three films are the only ones so far which have released. In 2014 Kashmiri filmmaker Ali Emran decided to shoot a film in Kashmir based on The Fountainhead. Emran's Kashmiri-language feature film Qouluf, which translates into "the ensorcelled", became the first Kashmiri film in decades to have a commercial release in the valley Identity Card- Ek Lifeline (2014) by Kashmiri filmmaker Rahat Kazmi received three awards at the American International Film Festival In November 2014, the film was released worldwide. Kashmiri film industry would provide jobs for Kashmiri youth In May 2015, Salman Khan said during the filming of Bajrangi Bhaijaan which had some actors from Kashmir like Mir Sarwar, Bashir Bhawani and others that Kashmiri cinemas should be re-opened Imtiaz Ali praised the state government for encouraging filmmakers in the valley.

At the heart of Batt Koch lies the journey

of a woman named Raaziya Pandit, a Kashmiri Pandit who was forced to leave her ancestral home in Srinagar during the turbulent winter of 1990. The film sparked conversations about identity, exile, and the responsibilities of memory. Critics praised its nuanced portrayal of the region's socio-political history without resorting to binaries or propaganda. What makes Batt Koch an important cultural artefact is its insistence on storytelling as a form of healing. The film begins with her mundane life in a cramped apartment in Jammu, where she has spent more than thirty years in exile. She is now a middle-aged schoolteacher with a grown son, and the kitchen of her modest home in the plains is filled with the aromas of Kashmiri food she continues to prepare with stubborn devotion—haak, nadru yakhni, tschochi vor, and the inevitable rice that sits at the centre of every meal in the Kashmiri household. Her batt koch, a heavy brass pot she carried with her during her flight from Srinagar, becomes the opening shot of the film and the symbolic thread that runs through the narrative. The theme of homecoming in the film takes a philosophical turn. Homecoming does not always mean returning to a physical space; it also means returning to oneself, reconciling with one's past, and accepting the impossibility of going back to a life that no longer exists. Raaziya's homecoming is thus bittersweet—she recovers her memories, reconnects with her land, but also recognises that her home has changed and so has she. This realisation gives the film its mature emotional tone, avoiding sentimentalism while embracing tenderness.

In the broader landscape of Indian cinema, Batt Koch stands as a testament to the evolving narrative surrounding Kashmir. Instead of sensationalising pain, it humanises it. Instead of dramatising conflict, it explores the quieter wounds that shape everyday life. Instead of offering easy answers, it raises questions—about belonging, about community, about the passage of time, and about the cost of memory. The film becomes a bridge between generations, between displaced communities and those who remained, and between the fractured histories that still define Kashmir's cultural landscape. Batt Koch was directed by Siddharth Koul who actually wrote the script and Ankit Wali They are credited as the directors and creators of the film. Vinayak Razdan is the Producer. The first show at Srinagar witness a packed auditorium. The film shows honesty, emotional depth, and authentic portrayal of a Kashmiri Pandit family's longing to return to their ancestral home. MK Raina, Kusum Dhar, Anil Koul Chingari, Kusum Tickoo, Sakshi Bhat, Ravin Bhat are in the Primary cast and Delip Pandita, Ashraf Fayaz, Gulzar Dar, Mehwish Lone, Uzair Itoo, Vashisht Mattoo, Sudanshu Koul are in the secondary cast. The director draws on the memory and avoids melo-

drama, preferring instead to allow the silences to speak. The camera lingers on objects that seem ordinary yet hold enormous emotional weight for displaced communities—old photographs, rusted keys, worn-out utensils, and a brick from the ancestral home wrapped carefully in a cloth. The film's attention to detail is meticulous, with each object becoming a character in its own right. The batt koch becomes an archive of the past, representing not only daily life lived but also continuity, belonging, and the rituals that anchor a people to their land.

Displacement is shown not as a single traumatic moment but as a lifelong wound that shapes every decision, every festival, every memory Raaziya passes on to her son. Side by side another leading character in the film Batt Koch is an unnamed Kashmiri Pandit man who returns to his home in the Kashmir Valley for the first time since migrating. The character is portrayed by the veteran theatre and Bollywood actor MK Raina. The film subtly captures the generational gap that displacement creates: while there is a longing for the chinar-lined lanes of childhood and recitation of Kashmiri poetry with tears silently rolling down the cheeks of the family members. Growing up in a different environment, among people who understand the grief but not shared focuses on the conflict between nostalgia and detachment, between the longing for a homeland and the pragmatism of a new life. These form a deep emotional layer within Batt Koch. The metaphor of food is at the core of this narrative. Food, in Kashmiri tradition, is never just sustenance; it is a ritual, a memory, a continuation of lineage. By placing the batt koch at the heart of the story, the film pays homage to the resilience of a community that rebuilt its identity through its cuisine, even in exile. The scenes of Raaziya cooking, teaching her son the significance of each dish, and finally reclaiming her mother's recipes become metaphors for reclaiming her own fragmented identity. In this sense, Batt Koch is not only a film about displacement but also about the power of culinary memory to bind a fractured history.

Batt Koch (which translates to "Pandit Lane" or "Kashmiri Pandit neighborhood") is a Kashmiri-language feature film that explores themes of longing, memory, and the enduring connection to a homeland that remains in the heart. The story revolves around the emotional journey of MK Raina's character as he visits the Valley and his ancestral home after decades of displacement. The narrative uses letters and memories to delve into the experiences of the Kashmiri Pandit community, capturing their sense of a lost home and the wish for belonging. The film blends nostalgia, humor, and heartfelt moments, offering a sensitive portrayal of loss and the search for connection. The film was written by Siddharth Koul and produced by Vinayak Razdan and also features actors Kusum

Dhar, Anil Koul Chingari, Kusum Tickoo, Sakshi Bhat, and Ravin Bhat. The filmmakers have indicated the story aims to be a nuanced depiction of the community's experience without pushing a specific political narrative.

The character Raaziya appears in the Kashmiri story and film titled Batt Koch. The story is a dramatic narrative related to the experiences of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community, particularly focusing on their yearning for return and the trauma of exile. "Batt Koch" (which roughly translates to "return to the fold" or "return home") is a story about the forced displacement and subsequent longing for homecoming experienced by Kashmiri Pandits. Raaziya's specific role is integral to this narrative, though precise plot details were not available in the search results. Her character helps to explore themes of loss, resilience, and the enduring connection to their homeland in the face of decades of exile. The recent screening of the film adaptation was described as a historic and emotional moment for the community, highlighting the story's significant cultural impact. The film's brilliance lies in the way it handles reconciliation. The new owners are not portrayed as intruders but as custodians of a home that outlived its original inhabitants. They offer Raaziya tea, and in a poignant scene, the woman of the house asks her to prepare a Kashmiri dish in the kitchen. The two women cook together, bridging decades of mistrust and pain with the simple act of stirring a pot. The camera captures their hands moving in rhythm, the hiss of simmering rice, and the shared silence that speaks louder than any dialogue could. Here, the 'batt koch' becomes a symbol of continuity, a vessel that holds not only rice but also the possibility of healing.

In the final act, Raaziya returns to Jammu with her son, carrying the box of memories and a renewed sense of belonging. She realises that home is not merely the place where one is born but also the memories one carries, the people one connects with, and the rituals one preserves. Her son, witnessing his mother's journey, gains a deeper understanding of the heritage he had once dismissed. The film ends with Raaziya placing her old batt koch next to the newly recovered spice box, lighting a small lamp, and preparing rice once again—this time with a quiet sense of closure. The last shot pans out to show the steam rising from the pot, merging with the morning light of Jammu, symbolising the merging of past and present.

What sets Batt Koch apart from earlier films on Kashmir is its refusal to focus solely on conflict. Instead, it tells a story of ordinary lives caught in extraordinary circumstances. It gives voice to the unspoken pain of Kashmiri Pandits, yet it does not villainise the local Muslim communities. The film's strength is its humanism—its belief that beneath layers of political

discourse lie shared experiences, shared losses, and shared longings. It does not attempt to offer a political solution but an emotional truth: that homecoming is possible only when one is ready to confront both memory and change. The music of the film, composed by Zainab Reshi, is minimalistic yet haunting. Traditional Kashmiri instruments like the santoor, rabab, and tumbaknari weave through the scenes, blending with modern orchestral elements.

The main theme, "Rovmut Tche Koshur", becomes the emotional spine of the film. It plays in the background as Raaziya walks through her ancestral home, evoking the timeless beauty of Kashmiri folk melodies. The music neither overwhelms the narrative nor manipulates the viewer's emotions; instead, it flows organically, much like a whispered memory. The reception of Batt Koch has been remarkable, both within Kashmir and among diasporic communities. Many former residents who had left the Valley decades ago found in the film a mirror to their own unspoken grief. Younger audiences, too, discovered a part of their cultural heritage that is often overshadowed by mainstream political narratives. The film does not pretend that displacement can be undone or that the trauma of uprooting can ever be fully resolved. Yet it shows that acknowledging the past, sharing stories, and returning—physically or emotionally—to one's roots are essential steps in reclaiming identity. The cinematic journey of Raaziya Pandit becomes a collective journey of all those who lost their homes but preserved their culture, language, and memories through the rituals of daily life.

Ultimately, Batt Koch is a tale of displacement, but it is equally a tale of homecoming. It speaks of a people who carry their homeland within them; of kitchens that become sanctuaries; of mothers who preserve languages, songs, and recipes; of sons and daughters who inherit not just stories but silences; and of a land that continues to beckon its children home, even after decades of separation. The film's final affirmation is simple yet profound: that home is where memory breathes, where stories are kept alive, and where even a humble pot of rice can hold the universe of one's identity. In telling this deeply personal yet universally resonant story, 'Batt Koch' contributes not only to Kashmiri cinema but also to the larger human narrative of belonging, loss, and the eternal search for home.

About the Author
International Tagore Awardee
Professor Ratan Bhattacharjee, the author of Six Feet Distance (USA 2023 winner of the Book of the Year Award 2025) is known as 'Oleander Poet' for his poetic best seller 'Oleander Blooms. Email profatanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

Indian Army can do this because they are always on the move!

■ BY M S NAZKI

I looked at him like a stranger, someone I'd never seen before, and he looked at me like I'd been lost to him for a thousand years and finally found.....Indian Army can do this because they are always on the move!

We will all, at some point in our lives, fall. Every single one of us. We shouldn't spend our time trying to avoid falling. We should spend it finding someone who will help us up!.....GOC Ace of Spades Division!

Lost count of all the countless things I've lost throughout the years, Lost friends and time and interest in the things I should hold dear, lost sleep just pondering the things that have been lost to me, especially the loss of love I desperately need! I find it doesn't help at all, to sit around and brood, I find nobody gives a damn, about your petty moods, at least that's what I thought, Until the day you came along! Now, I found my restless soul has finally found a home.....The home which I belonged to and it was all due to the Indian Army!....MD!

The Indian Army has been involved in several compassionate acts of reuniting missing individuals with their families, often in humanitarian capacities beyond their operational duties. Two notable examples involve an elderly man in Jammu and Kashmir and a civilian in Mendhar.

The first short story: Kenchappa Govindappa Vaddara (Missing for Two Decades)

Kenchappa Govindappa Vaddara, a resident of Dharwad district in Karnataka, went missing for two decades after boarding the wrong train while on his way to work.

Disappearance and Ordeal: He was forced off a train in Haridwar for not having a ticket and eventually made his way to Jammu and Kashmir. There, he found work

at a hotel but was exploited and held in poor conditions by the owner for years.

Army Intervention: Indian Army personnel on a visit to the hotel heard his story. The soldiers intervened, managed to secure his release from the exploitative hotel owner, and helped him travel back to his home state.

His family expressed immense gratitude to the Army for their help.

Second story:

During a routine area-domination patrol near a border post in Mendhar, Indian Army troops took note of a civilian male in a mentally unstable and highly distressed state. Disoriented, unable to communicate clearly, and visibly vulnerable, he was immediately approached with sensitivity and care. The troops ensured his safety and extended essential support, providing food, water, and comfort. (More about this later)

The phrase "Lost but found by Indian Army" refers to various instances where missing soldiers or civilians were located by the Indian Army, often after extensive and challenging search and rescue operations.

Recent Recoveries in Kashmir (October 2025): Two elite Para Special Forces soldiers (Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh and Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh) who went missing during an anti-terror operation in the Gadole forests of Kokernag, South Kashmir, were found dead after a severe snowstorm. Their bodies were recovered during an intensive five-day search operation, bringing closure to their families.

Historical Recoveries after Decades: The Indian Army has conducted numerous long-running operations to recover the remains of personnel lost in past tragedies.

1968 IAF Plane Crash: In October 2024, a joint Army

team recovered the remains of four more soldiers (including Sepoy Narayan Singh and Craftsman Thomas Charan) from the wreckage of an IAF AN-12 transport aircraft that crashed near Rohtang Pass 56 years earlier.

Siachen Glacier (2022): The body of Lance Naik Chandrashekhar Harbola, who went missing in an avalanche on the Siachen Glacier in 1984, was found after 38 years. Changing climate conditions are believed to have led to the discovery of his remains.

Himalayan Expedition (2021): The body of Lance Naik Amrith Tyagi, who went missing during an expedition in the Uttarakhand Himalayas in 2005, was recovered 16 years later, providing closure to his family.

Miraculous Survival and Subsequent Demise (2016): Lance Naik Hanumanthappa Koppad was found alive after being buried under 25 feet of snow for six days following an avalanche on the Siachen Glacier. Despite a valiant fight for life, he later succumbed to multiple organ failure.

These incidents highlight the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to its personnel, ensuring that they are found and brought home, even after many years and in the most challenging conditions. Families often express profound gratitude for the Army's relentless efforts in providing them with closure.

It always seems impossible until it's done!

While there are many inspiring real-life stories of women in the Indian Army and women rescued by the Army during natural disasters or medical emergencies, a specific, widely known fictional short story about a woman found by the Indian Army in a remote setting like a forest does not appear in the search results.

One notable real-life rescue involved the Army saving a woman who was trapped under debris for

two days after her home collapsed. In another instance, Army jawans carried a pregnant woman on their shoulders for 5 km through heavy snow to get medical aid in Kupwara, saving both her and the baby.

Major Priya Jhingan, the first woman commissioned as a cadet into the Indian Army in 1993.

Sapper Shanti Tigga, the first female jawan (private rank) in the Indian Army, known for her extraordinary physical fitness.

Colonel Mitali Madhumita, the first woman officer to receive a gallantry award (Sena Medal) for her bravery during an attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul.

Books like The Force Behind the Forces and Soldier's Girl by Swapnil Pandey offer fictional narratives and real-life reflections on the lives of military wives and women in the armed forces.

The Indian Army unites missing persons, both military and civilian, primarily through extensive search and rescue (SAR) operations in challenging environments and through diplomatic channels in cases of missing soldiers in action.

Search and Rescue Operations (HADR)

During natural calamities (like floods or avalanches) or other incidents, the Army launches large-scale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations to locate and extract missing individuals.

Specialized Teams: Operations involve infantry, engineering units, and elite commando units, often working alongside the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and local police.

Advanced Equipment: The Army deploys specialized equipment such as Reeco Radar, search and rescue dogs, drones, and helicopters (like Chinook, MI-17, and ALH) for search and evacuation missions.

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Lemon is one of the tastiest and most beneficial citrus fruits. It contains great health benefits such as reducing belly fat and playing an important role in the proper functioning of our kidneys. Lemon is packed with Vitamin C, which boosts our immunity and offers tremendous health advantages. During scorching heat, lemon juice is consumed in large quantities as it hydrates the body, gives a natural glow to the skin, and improves digestive health.

Lemon juice is an effective way to lose weight as it raises the metabolic rate. Obese individuals use lemon juice on an empty stomach, which often results in weight loss. Adding lemon to a glass of lukewarm water has many health benefits. Lemon contains Vitamin B-complex, nutrients, vitamins, calcium, magnesium, potassium, and fibre.

Benefits of Lemon:

- Lemon detoxifies your mouth and gives you fresh breath. It also helps relieve toothache.
- Lemon helps in weight loss due to the presence of pectin fibre, which combats hunger cravings.
- Lemon reduces inflammation. When consumed regularly, it may decrease various diseases and detoxify the body in many ways.
- Lemon juice provides energy and keeps the body hydrated for hours.
- Lemon juice is known to help relieve anxiety and depression.
- Lemon juice has anti-viral properties and helps keep the body disease-free.

How to Use Lemon Water:

Squeeze half a lemon using a lemon squeezer and add it to a glass of water for those who want to lose weight. If you are overweight, squeeze a whole lemon into a glass of water and drink it in the morning. Add half a lemon to lukewarm water and drink it after a 30-minute walk. Repeat this for 30 days—you may experience surprising and excellent results.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 25: The National Child Development Council (NCDC) held a key committee meeting this week. Members discussed an important issue—the need for adequate sleep among children, teenagers, and adults.

The session included educators, child development experts, and committee members sharing their observations and concerns based on their experiences in daily life, schools, and the changing lifestyles of today's youth.

The meeting began with a crucial reminder: sleep deprivation is becoming more common among young people. This is largely due to excessive phone use and late-night screen time. Members noted that many children stay awake until midnight or later. This often leads to chronic fatigue, missed morning routines, and problems with school performance.

One member said, "Nowadays youngsters are sleeping at very odd hours, sometimes at 2 or 3 AM, and waking up late morning. This routine harms not just physical health but mental well-being too."

Speakers highlighted the essential role of parents in managing children's sleep routines. As phones and online classes are now part of their lives, unsupervised use has caused many children to develop irregular sleep habits.

A committee member emphasized, "Parents must ensure that children follow a set schedule for studying, sleeping, and using devices. Even if parents are busy, monitoring sleep habits must be a priority."

Concerns were also raised about more children sleeping in separate rooms, making it easier for them to misuse gadgets.

Experts at the meeting pointed out the broad effects of not getting enough sleep: Hormonal imbalances, Reduced immunity, Emotional instability, Lack of focus and increased irritability, Higher stress levels and Long-term health issues.

One speaker explained that sleep is vital for children's growth, brain development, and memory. They noted that many important developmental processes take place during sleep.

The committee also talked about promoting healthy sleep awareness in classrooms. Short nap times in preschools received praise, with suggestions to extend similar rest periods, if possible, for older children during long school days.

Teachers were encouraged to remind students about the benefits of going to bed early and waking up early. "Early to bed and early to rise makes a person healthy, wealthy, and wise," one member reiterated, showing that this saying is still relevant today.

In addition to sleep routines, members stressed the importance of diet and healthy habits: Avoiding caffeine, alcohol, and smoking. Keeping regular meal times. Doing physical exercise. Reducing stress, and Maintaining a consistent sleep-wake schedule. Sleep, they noted, helps regulate the body's internal clock, supports hormone balance, and promotes overall well-being.

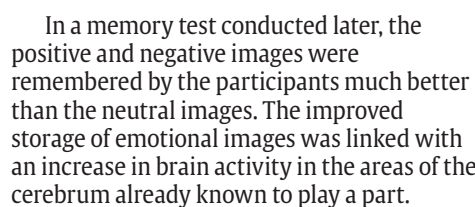
The NCDC concluded that encouraging healthy sleep habits is not just up to parents or schools but a shared duty involving families, teachers, and the community. The committee committed to developing awareness programs and educational materials to help children and parents create better sleep routines.

Scientists discover surprising new role for the cerebellum

Researchers at the University of Basel have now discovered that the cerebellum, which is known primarily for regulation of movement, also plays an important role in remembering emotional experiences.

Both positive and negative emotional experiences are stored particularly well in memory. This phenomenon is important to our survival, since we need to remember dangerous situations in order to avoid them in the future. Previous studies have shown that a brain structure called the amygdala, which is important in the processing of emotions, plays a central role in this phenomenon. Emotions activate the amygdala, which in turn facilitates the storage of information in various areas of the cerebrum.

The current research, led by Professor Dominique de Quervain and Professor Andreas Papassotiropoulos at the University of Basel, investigates the role of the cerebellum in storing emotional experiences. In a large-scale study, the researchers showed 1,418 participants emotional and neutral images and recorded the subjects' brain activity using magnetic resonance imaging.



However, the team also identified increased activity in the cerebellum.

The cerebellum in communication with the cerebrum

The researchers were also able to demonstrate that the cerebellum shows stronger communication with various areas of the cerebrum during the process of enhanced storage of the emotional images. It receives information from the cingulate gyrus – a region of the brain that is important in the perception and evaluation of feelings. Furthermore, the cerebellum sends out signals to various regions of the brain, including the amygdala and hippocampus. The latter plays a central role in memory storage.

"These results indicate that the cerebellum is an integral component of a network that is responsible for the improved storage of emotional information," says de Quervain. Although an improved memory for emotional events is a crucial mechanism for survival, it does have its downsides: in the case of very negative experiences, it can lead to recurring anxiety. This means that the findings, which have now been released, may also be relevant in understanding psychiatric conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Courtesy Healthline

Are you a middle-aged person with a slow walking pace? If yes, you might be at a higher risk of developing heart disease compared to those who walk steady or at a brisk pace, researchers have found.

The study revealed that middle-aged people, both men and women, who reported that they are slow walkers were around twice as likely to have a heart-related death compared to brisk walkers.

"This suggests that habitual walking pace is an independent predictor of heart-related death," said Professor Tom Yates, Reader at the University of Leicester in Britain.

Further, walking pace was strongly linked to an individual's objectively measured exercise tolerance, and a good measure of overall physical fitness.

"Thus, walking pace could be used to identify individuals who have low physical fitness and high mortality risk that would benefit from targeted physical exercise interventions," Yates added.

Moreover, the study also found that handgrip strength is a weak predictor of heart-related deaths in men and could not be generalised across the population as a whole.

For the study, published in the European Heart Journal, the team analysed 420,727 middle-aged people across Britain. In the following 6.3 years, after the data was collected there were 8,598 deaths: 1,654 died from cardiovascular disease, while cancer took 4,850 lives

Scientists have found that removing wrinkles inside our cells could be the key to curing or preventing unwanted effects of ageing such as diabetes, fatty liver disease and other metabolic diseases – and possibly even turning back the clock on ageing itself. The age-related complications may be the result of our cells' nuclei – the compartment containing our DNA – getting wrinkly which prevents our genes from functioning properly, the researchers found. The findings, published in the journal *Aging Cell*, suggest that it may be possible to use viruses to smooth the surfaces of nuclear membranes which encase the nucleus – and restore the cells to functioning as they did in the glow of youth.

The membrane wrinkling stems from a lack of a substance called lamin, a cellular protein that comes in various forms. By putting the appropriate lamin back, it might be possible to smooth out the membrane. "We could use viruses to deliver the shipment. Scientists are already modifying viruses for beneficial medical purposes, and it would be particularly easy to get a modified virus to the liver because of the organ's role in detoxifying the body," said Irina Bochkis of the University of Virginia School of Medicine in the US. And if it works "you're going to have normal cells – normal, healthy cells – and they will appropriately express the genes that should be expressed and ... you're going to eradicate the stuff that shouldn't be there," she said. Bochkis suspects the wrinkling of the nuclear membrane is responsible for unwanted effects of ageing in other parts of the body as well.

In the study, the researchers showed that the location of our DNA inside the cell's nucleus is critically important. Genes that are turned off are shoved up against the nuclear membrane. But with age, our nuclear membranes become lumpy and irregular, and that prevents genes from turning off appropriately. Looking at a model of fatty liver disease, Bochakis found that our livers become studded with fat as we age because of the wrinkly nuclear membranes.

"When your nuclear membrane is no longer functioning properly, it can release the DNA that's supposed to be turned off," she said.

Courtesy Healthline

The Jammu and Kashmir
Board of School Education

New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar

Public Notice

I have passed / appeared in SSE / HSE-I / HSE-II (Class 10th) under Roll No: 101009014 Session: Annual 2025 Year: 2025 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the Parent against my Mother's Name as Safiya Akhter instead of Safiya Banoo.

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

This is published for the information of general public.

The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: Faisal Mubarak
Father's Name: Mubarak Ahmad Mir
Mother's Name: Safiya Banoo
Date of Birth: 05-03/2010
Residence: Qaimoh
Mobile No: 7889734837

Public Notice

My daughters mother's name in her Date of Birth certificate wrongly mentioned as Neelofar Bano instead Baby Maqbool. Now i am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

MUSHTAQ AHMAD WANI F/O MADIHA MAQBOOL
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

Public Notice

I, Owais Mohammad Hagam, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Hagam, R/o New Colony Gassi Pora, LG Pora, hereby declare that my passport has been lost/misplaced and is untraceable despite best efforts.

Anyone having any information about it may please contact the undersigned.

This notice is issued to apply for a duplicate passport.

Name: Owais Mohammad Hagam

Public Notice

I, Vakas ul Haq, hereby inform the public that I have misplaced the original documents of my vehicle Mahindra XUV500 W8 (2013 Model), bearing Registration Number: DL7CM 1512.

The documents were lost while travelling from Kreeri to Srinagar and back on Tuesday, 11th November 2025.

The missing documents include:

Registration Certificate (RC)
Pollution Certificate (PUC)
Other related papers
Non Objection Certificate

Any person who finds the documents or has any information regarding them is requested to kindly contact at:

9541003500
Your cooperation in this matter will be sincerely appreciated.
Syed Vakas Ul Haq Bukhari

Public Notice

I want to change the Name of my electricity Connection Bearing consumer Id No: 0202040006918 Account Id: 1999006918 from Abdul Gani sofı S/o MOHAMMAD RAMZAN SOFI R/O DILSOZ COLONY NATIPORA to Andleeb Manhas C/o Muzaffar Hussain Parray.

If any body have any objection He/She Can Contact in the office of AEE Sub Division CHANAPORA Within a period of 7 days,After that no objection will be entertained.

Name: Andleeb Manhas
C/o: Muzaffar Hussain Parray

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I, Shafat Ahmad Khan, resident of Dawood Colony, Soura Srinagar, have changed the name of my son from Hifzul Amaan to Muhammad Amaan Khan.

Anyone having any objection to this change may please notify the undersigned within seven days of this notice.

Shafat Ahmad Khan
Father of Muhammad Amaan Khan(formerly
Hifzul Amaan)
9419030224

Public Notice

I, Syed Mohammad Waqar Andrabi, S/o Syed Mohammad Amin Andrabi, resident of Alamdar Colony, Lane B, Rawalpora, Srinagar, Kashmir, do hereby state that there is a correction required in my Driving Licence.

Incorrect Details (as printed):

Name: Syed Waqar Andrabi
Father's Name: Syed Mohammad Amin
Driving Licence No: JK-0120130077156
Correct Details:

Name: Syed Mohammad Waqar Andrabi
Father's Name: Syed Mohammad Amin Andrabi
Anybody having any objection may contact the concerned RTO Office within 7 days of this notice, failing which corrections will be processed.

Public Notice

My Caste wrongly in my daughter's Date of Birth certificate as Khaday instead of Khanday Now i am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

JAVEED AHMAD KHANDAY S/O REYAZ AHMAD
KHANDAY R/O SALOOSA KREERI

Public Notice

My daughters mother's name in her Date of Birth certificate wrongly mentioned as Neelofar Banoo instead Baby Maqbool. Now i am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

MUSHTAQ AHMAD WANI F/O MEHREEN MUSHTAQ
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of SHAMEEMA BANO S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN LONE R/O KREERI for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHAMMAD RAMZAN LONE S/O ALI MOHAMMAD LONE has passed away on 16/03/2025 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... SHAMEEMA BANO 37 years daughter H/W married
2....NASEEMA BEGUM 53 years //
3.HASEENA BEGUM 50 years do //
4....MUDASIRA BANO 35 years Do unmarried

The applicant has applied for Issuance of legal Heir certificate in favour of Self.

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of ABDUL KHALIQ PARRAY S/O GH RASOOL PARRAY R/O KOHLINA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GH RASOOL PARRAY S/O MOHAMMAD SUBHAN PARRAY has passed away on 17/04/2025 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... ABDUL KHALIQ 47 years Son Labour married
2....NAZIR AHMAD 45 years Son //
3..MOHAMMAD SULTAN 40 years Son //

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

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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

Subject: Application of IQBAL HUSSAN KATARI S/O MOHD SHARIEF KATARI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal)in favour of self.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 729888 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

1....IQBAL HUSSAIN KATARI SELF 35 years Govt Employee
2.... KHALIDA BEGUM wife 36 years house wife
3....KAFIYAT IQBAL KATARI son 05 years Student

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

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Public Notice

I am applying for Renew of my fertilizers licence under licence number CAOBF/FL/2014-15/1157 if anybody have a y objection in this regard He/She may contact Chief Agriculture officer Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

MOHD ASHRAF LONE
S/O WALI MOHAMMAD LONE
R/O TILGAM PATTAN

Public Notice

I MOHD SHAFI MIR F/O IFFAT SHAFI R/O MANAGAM my daughters date of Birth has been wrongly written as 18/11/2012 in her school regard while her correct Date of Birth is 18/06/2012 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office GOVT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL MANAGAM Wagoora within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MOHD SHAFI MIR , F/O ...IFFAT SHAFI
R/O ...MANAGAM , ZONEWAGOORA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Muthi, Akhnoor Road, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar

[www.jkssb.nic.in](#)

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Result/Score-sheet of Written Examination for the post of Junior Engineer (Electrical), Power Development Department, held on 25.10.2025 - regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the post of Junior Engineer (Electrical), Power Development Department, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2025, under Item No. 02, 03, 04 and 05 on 25.10.2025; and

Whereas, the objections were examined and the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of written examination held for the said post have been notified vide No.: JKSSBCOE0EXAM(UT)/29/2025-03(7722899) dated:24.11.2025 and

Now therefore, in view of the above, the Result/Score-sheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Written Test for the post Junior Engineer (Electrical) conducted on 25.10.2025, is hereby notified as Annexure "A".

It is further notified that:

- Mere figuring In the result/score sheet shall not entitle a candidate to be called for document verification or figure in the select list and that he/she has to fulfil other eligibility conditions, as laid down and decision of the Board in this regard shall be final.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will call candidates falling in the consideration zone, based on the merit obtained by them for Document Verification. The schedule for Document Verification shall be notified separately.

No: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/29/2025-03 (7722899) | Dated: 24.11.2025

Sd/- (Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS
Controller of Examinations J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK: 8421/25 | Dated: 25-11-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam
(Email ID: mehrajudrat.8531@jk.gov.in
e-NIT No. 19 of 11/2025

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors Registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt.

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work amount in lacs	Perform ance security @ 3%	Time of completion	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Head of account
6	Restoration of breach on Nadi khul branch of Khanchi canal at RD 200m by way of crates and jacketing/lining wall(Fresh of e-NIT No. 16 of 11 2025)	2.03	6090	15 Days	DEE	200/-	UT Capex (DMRRR)

No of works Advertised: **01 (one)**

Position of Funds (**Budgetary provision**).

Position of Technical Sanction **Accorded.**

Position of Administrative Approval **Accorded.**

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from departmental website [www.iktenders.gov.in](#)

1.	Publishing date	24-11-2025 (6 PM)
2.	Download date start	24-11-2025 (6 PM)
3.	Bid submission date starts	24-11-2025 (6 PM)
4.	Bid submission date ends	01-12-2025upto (2 PM)
5.	Bid Opening date	01-12-2025at(2:30 PM)

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website.

General terms and conditions:

- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website jktenders.gov.in from 24-11-2025 to **01-12-2025 upto 2 PM**. The Bids will be opened on **01-12-2025 at 2:30 PM** . Online documents can be seen and downloaded from the website.
 - The complete bidding process will be online.
 - Technical bids of bidder shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.
- Bid document contains qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, conditions and other details.
- Any item /items not included in the rate list but found necessary during the execution of work shall be paid as per the rates of J&K SSR 2022.
- Any omission /Typographic error shall be read as per the J&K SSR 2022, and as per the corrigendum / errata issued to J&K SSR 2022 in vogue.
- The rates should be strictly quoted as per the unit advertised in the rate list.
- The contractors shall inspect & examine the site, and shall satisfy himself about the location of the site, its approaches and nature of the ground and sub soil before uploading the bids/submission of tender.
- If the contractor fails to complete the work within the stipulated time period, the penalty of RS.0.01% of the allotted cost of work shall be imposed upon the Contractor recurring on daily basis. In addition to penalty prescribed in agreement form 25/26 double.
- During the execution of work, department reserves the right to vary the quantity provided in the contract.
- Tender drawings furnished with the tender document shall not be deemed as working drawings. These may vary from the actual working drawing.
- The contractors shall carry out the various mandatory tests as per specification (e.g the crushing strength of concrete i.e. cube tests, gradation test for aggregate, slump test etc) as directed by Engineer In-charge. all testing charges/expenses etc shall be borne by the contractor.
- The concrete mix shall be designed as per revised BIS (IS: 10262 of 2009) and concreting shall be strictly done as per the mix design by the contractor.

Bid Security/Performance and cost of Tender Document/Declaration form

- Bid must be accompanied with Bid performance in shape of CDR/FDR and to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora and must be uploaded online and released after completion of DLP.**
- The selected bidder must submit Additional Security Performance in case of abnormal Low Bid Price as per the instructions issued by the Finance Department through Circular vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 before issuance of formal contract as per the details given below:-**
 - Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of project cost put to bid, the Additional Performance Guarantee/Security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the Additional Bid Performance Guarantee being 0.1% and this Additional Performance Guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
 - Where the bid price is 20% of more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

No: 4427-41 | Date: 24-11-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam

DIPK: 8400/25 | Dated: 25-11-2025

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

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

ADDENDUM

Subject: SITC of 26 No: (G+5) 05 Passenger MRL Customized Lifts at Transit Accommodation Zewan.

Reference: e-NIT No: R&B/MDCK/NIT/20 of 2025-26, Dated 18.11.2025.

1. Undertaking – Track Record & Background Declaration

(To be executed on Rs. 100/- e-Stamp Paper and duly attested by a First-Class Magistrate)

Note:

- The tender fee submitted by the bidders against e-NIT No. R&B/MDCK/NIT/11 dated 20.09.2025 shall be treated as valid and accepted against this e-NIT No. R&B/MDCK/NIT/20 dated 18.11.2025.
- Based on the contents of the submitted affidavit/undertaking, the tender opening authority / evaluating authority / allotting authority reserves the absolute right to disqualify, reject or cancel the bid at any stage without any further notice, justification or explanation to the bidder.
- All other terms and conditions of the above-referred eNIT (including annexures) shall remain unchanged.

No: XENMC/Sgr/2142-44 | Dated: 24.11.2025

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

DIPK: 8407/25 | Dated: 25-11-2025

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



Sakeena Itoo conducts comprehensive assessment of Winter Preparedness across South Kashmir districts

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 25: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted a comprehensive assessment of winter preparedness of various departments across South Kashmir districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian, in a virtual meeting held at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena directed the officers of concerned districts to ensure that essential services and supplies are in place well before the peak winter season sets in. She emphasized on the importance of advance stocking of medicines, ration and other critical supplies, especially in remote and heavy snow prone areas to avoid any disruption during harsh weather



conditions. She called for coordinated efforts between civil administration, health authorities, and public works departments to secure uninterrupted mobility and healthcare access for residents.

The Minister also underscored that people living in far-flung pockets

must not face any hardship due to delayed supplies or administrative gaps. "Winter preparedness is not merely a routine exercise, it is commitment to public safety and well-being", she asserted.

Sakeena Itoo instructed the officers to maintain buffer stocks,

activate control rooms, and keep rapid-response teams on standby. She also stressed on the need for regular monitoring to ensure the availability of essential drugs, ambulance services, and functional health centres throughout the winter period.

She urged departments to identify vulnerable habitations and prioritize them for supply mobilization, particularly in higher reaches that often remain cut off for extended periods due to heavy snowfall.

During the meeting, the officers of concerned districts briefed the Minister about the winter preparedness plan of their respective districts. They assured the Minister that the winter arrangements have been fully stabilized and any exigency due to weather eventuality will be addressed promptly.

17 Eligible Beneficiaries Get Sanction Letters under PMAY-U 2.0 in Baramulla

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 25: In a continued push towards strengthening urban housing infrastructure and ensuring dignified living conditions for all, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today handed over 17 sanction letters to eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0.

The distribution ceremony was held in Baramulla and witnessed participation of officials from the Municipal Council Baramulla. The beneficiaries drawn from economically weaker and deserving sections, will receive financial assistance for construction of pucca houses equipped with basic amenities.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasised that PMAY-U 2.0 is a transformative initiative aimed at uplifting urban households who lack adequate housing. He stressed the district administration's commitment to ensuring transparent implementation, timely release of



installments, and close monitoring of construction progress.

Minga Sherpa directed the concerned Executive Officer and field staff to provide full support to beneficiaries, including technical guidance, documentation assistance, and regular follow-ups to avoid any delays. He reiterated that housing for all remains one of the top developmental priorities of the administration.

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the district administration for extending timely support and enabling them to fulfil the dream of owning a safe, secure home.

DC Baramulla Flags Off Exposure Visit of Progressive Farmers to Zawoora Under MIDH-TSP

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, NOVEMBER 25: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today flagged off two buses carrying 60 progressive farmers for an exposure-cum-training visit to Zawoora, Srinagar under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture - Tribal Sub Plan (MIDH-TSP).

Before departure, the DC interacted with the farmers at Dak Bungalow Baramulla, highlighting the importance of adopting modern horticultural practices to enhance productivity and income. He urged participants to observe new techniques during the visit and implement them in their fields for better



results.

The programme, organised by the Department of Horticulture Baramulla, aims to expose farmers to advanced technologies, high-density plantation models, and successful farm management practices being implemented in Zawoora.

Chief Horticulture Officer, Farooq Ahmad Tantry, along with other concerned officers and officials from the Horticulture Department, were present during the event and briefed the farmers about the objectives and schedule of the day-long training.

The DC assured continued support from the District Administration to strengthen the horticulture sector through capacity-building and awareness initiatives.

Aadhaar Saturation, Enrolment Progress reviewed at Kulgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, NOVEMBER 25: The District Level Aadhaar Monitoring Committee meeting was today held under the Chairmanship of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, to review the progress of Aadhaar enrolment, Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU), Aadhaar saturation among children, and functioning of enrolment centres across the district.

The ADC directed the ICDS and School Education Department to intensify efforts for Aadhaar saturation by conducting special enrolment camps at Anganwadi Centres, schools and designated government offices. Hospitals were instructed to ensure Birth Registration-Based Aadhaar



Enrolment of newborns, along with timely issuance of QR-based Date of Birth certificates.

The Committee also reviewed the status of Mandatory Biometric Updates and emphasized awareness campaigns and school-level drives are required to clear pending cases. School authorities were asked to mobilize class teachers and field teams to ensure Aadhaar updates of all enrolled students.

A status review of functional and non-functional Aadhaar centres across departments was also conducted.

ADC instructed all departments to ensure that all allotted enrolment stations remain fully functional and to submit action taken reports without delay.

Further, the meeting reviewed Aadhaar enrolment applications

for 18+ residents through the State Aadhaar Portal, and directions were issued for timely field verification and disposal of pending cases. Progress on Aadhaar verification of 100+ ANH individuals was also assessed, with instructions to complete remaining field verifications at the earliest.

The ADC emphasized the importance of achieving 100% Aadhaar saturation in the district and directed all departments to work in close coordination with the District Aadhaar Cell for timely submission of progress reports.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildars, officials from ICDS, Education, Health, Project Manager UIDAI, CSC, Banks, and other concerned departments.

DLSA Budgam Organizes Awareness Programme on Prohibition of Manual Scavenging, Unsafe Sewer Cleaning

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 25: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, organized an Awareness Programme on the complete prohibition of manual scavenging and unsafe sewer cleaning at Sheikh ul Alam School Chadoora today.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shazia Tabassum and supervised by, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam, O.P. Bhagat.

The primary objective of the programme was to ensure the complete prohibition of manual scavenging and all forms of unsafe sewer cleaning, in strict compliance with the statutory mandates.

DLSA, Budgam, deputed Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) and assistant LADC as resource persons for the event. They delivered insightful presentations on the scheme and



sensitized the participants about its objectives, legal framework, and implementation mechanisms.

In his address, Deputy LADC, emphasized the prohibition of manual scavenging and unsafe sewer cleaning and explained the significance of implementing the Supreme Court's

directions.

Assistant LADC Budgam, also addressed the gathering and elaborated on various aspects of the subject, enhancing public understanding of the legal and humanitarian concerns associated with manual scavenging.

DC Budgam Chairs Review Meeting on Supreme Court's Directions Regarding Stray Dog Menace in Educational, health Institutions

Directs Strict Safety Measures in All Educational & Health Institutions

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOV 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today convened a detailed review meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC), to assess the implementation of the directions issued by the Supreme Court of India regarding stray dog menace in educational and health institutions here in the New Conference Hall of DC Office Budgam. As per the directives of the Supreme Court, the Court has expressed grave concern over the threat posed by stray dogs to school children and has issued explicit directions to ensure the safety of students and staff within all educational premises.

During the meeting, the DC underscored that compliance with the Court's directions must be ensured in letter and spirit and

emphasized that the safety and welfare of children is an absolute administrative priority. He remarked that matters under direct judicial monitoring require strict accountability and that no delay, negligence, or procedural lapse would be tolerated.

The DC reviewed the preparedness of all departments and directed that immediate administrative measures be taken across government and recognized private educational institutions.

Chief Education Officer was directed to nominate a Nodal Officer responsible for the sanitation, upkeep, and cleanliness of the institution. The DC directed the CEO to ensure that no stray dogs enter or remain within school campuses and must coordinate with local authorities wherever interventions are required.

During the meeting, the DC

also issued a series of specific instructions to further strengthen the district-wide response to stray dog management. He directed the Municipal Committees of Budgam for construction of separate shelter sheds and quarantine centres for dogs and instructed immediate identification of suitable land parcels within one week, ensuring that the locations remain away from populated areas.

He discussed in detail the modus operandi to be followed strictly as per the Animal Welfare Rules, 2023. The DC also directed the immediate operationalisation of Animal Birth Control (ABC) setups in all Municipalities of Budgam.

He further directed implementation of Standard Operating Procedures for shelter sheds and ABC measures in rural areas through cluster formation. He said that five clusters will be

operationalised, and the ACD was instructed to frame a pragmatic blueprint within the next two weeks. The DC also directed formulation of an inventory of public places, including schools, colleges, and hospitals, to ensure perimeter strengthening so that no stray dogs are present within these campuses, as such presence can pose a threat to children. He further directed the CMO to ensure availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) and immunoglobulins in all 24x7 health setups. The DC directed Chief Education Officer and Heads of Colleges to chalk out detailed awareness programmes related to dog menace, including Dos and Don'ts concerning dog bites and protocol management.

The DC stressed that schools must organise awareness activities for students, teachers, and non-

teaching staff on safe behaviour, preventive actions, and ways to avoid stray dog encounters. He also highlighted the need for strengthened preventive mechanisms, including proper waste management, boundary inspections, and routine monitoring of vulnerable areas within school premises. He further stated that the district administration is committed towards eliminating all risk factors around educational institutions and that the collective efforts of all departments would ensure visible and measurable results on the ground.

The DC directed all stakeholders to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, conduct regular inspections, promptly plug any existing gaps, and ensure time-bound implementation of Supreme Court directions.

DDC Chairperson Shopian inaugurates Mega Kisan Mela at Arhama

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 25: District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson, Shopian, Bilqees Jan today inaugurated a Mega Kisan Mela organised by the Agriculture Department at Arhama, Shopian making a significant outreach and exhibition initiative aimed at empowering people with modern agricultural practices and technologies and providing a link for one to one contact with successful and progressive farmers.

During the event, the Chairperson inspected various departmental and entrepreneurial stalls, showcasing high-yielding seed varieties, soil-health technologies, agri-machinery, organic farming models, PM Kisan services and allied sector innovations including in horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, floriculture, etc. While interacting with farmers, the



DDC Chairperson emphasised the need to adopt climate-resilient practices, scientific interventions and government-supported schemes to enhance productivity and farm income. She appreciated the Agriculture Department for organising the Mela and encouraged officers to intensify awareness regarding welfare schemes, subsidy components, FPO support and market linkages. She said today's event is not just an exhibition, it is a symbol of the collective commitment of our district towards agricultural growth, innovation and farmers empowerment. She said events like this mela provide our farmers with a golden opportunity to directly interact with experts, understand new technologies, explore high yielding crop varieties, learn about scientific farming practices and gain awareness about flagship schemes.

CAO, Kulgam, Farooq Ahmed Reshi, briefed the gathering about ongoing initiatives under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), integrated farming and support available to farming community under self-employment schemes.

The Mela exhibited stalls of departments showcasing impact of government-supported schemes and of agripreneurs in farm machinery & sustainable practices, horticulture sector innovations, honey, mushroom, fish and vegetable farming which demonstrated the application of Integrated & organic farming.

DDC members of the district, Head KVK, officers/officials of agriculture department and line departments and a large number of locals participated in the mela and showed keen interest in visiting stalls and engaged in activities in the trade mela and exhibition activities.



Tejas accident should not derail India's indigenous fighter programme:Ex- IAF Chief Arup Raha

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 : Former Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha has cautioned against any rethink on India's indigenous fighter aircraft programme following the recent Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) mishap at the Dubai Airshow, stressing that the country must stay firmly committed to building its own combat jets.

In an exclusive interview to UNI, Raha said the accident , which occurred during a stunt manoeuvre, should not undermine decades of work or India's strategic goal of self-reliance in defence aviation.

"India should not, under any circumstances, give up its aim to produce an indigenously built fighter attack aircraft. This is an essential requirement," he said. Raha noted that the Tejas LCA has performed "reasonably well," but acknowledged that manufacturing has been "rather slow."

With the IAF's fighters squadron



strength declining steadily, the need for rapid induction has become urgent. "Right now our fighter strength is depleting, and in five to seven years' time, we may be down to as low as 25 squadrons if we do not beef up our air force quickly," he warned.

Highlighting the progress made, he said the Tejas Mark 1 is only the second fighter jet fully developed in India and incorporates several advanced systems.

"It has an extremely good electronically arrayed radar, a

very capable fly-by-wire system, and enriched technical features —including refuelling capabilities, missiles, electronics and computing operations. They are very well done indeed," he said. Raha stressed that isolated accidents should not derail the

programme.

"Simply because we have had one accident, two accidents, after so many hours of flying this plane, we should not think of giving up development. Its track record is extremely good.

"Two accidents out of so many aircraft built and operated is a very low accident rate," he said.

Speculating on the causes of past incidents, he said the first Tejas accident was linked to an issue with the US-made F404G engine, adding that a thorough technical investigation would determine the precise reasons behind the latest mishap.

The former air chief asserted that India was on its way to develop and manufacture Mark2 in the Tejas series and this would prove even more successful.

Raha reiterated that continued development, improved production timelines and unwavering commitment to indigenous capability remain vital for India's long-term air power and strategic autonomy. UNI

Cinema Icon Dharmendra Dies, Nation Mourns End of an Era

■ BY SHAGUFTA YASMIN

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 : After over six decades of captivating audiences and leaving an indelible mark on Indian cinema, Dharmendra has passed away.

Though he had been unwell for some time, recent rumours of his death, briefly denied by his family, had shaken his admirers. Today the news became heartbreakingly real, as tributes poured in from politicians, actors and fans alike.

Dharmendra was more than a star, he was a storyteller of love, courage and sacrifice. He made people laugh, made them cry, and inspired them with his patriotism. His journey began in 1960 with Dil Bhi Tera, Hum Bhi Tere, for which he earned a modest Rs 51. Throughout the 1960s and '70s, he established himself in romantic and action roles, with films like Phool Aur Patthar (1966) and Mera Gaon Mera Desh (1970).

His career peaked in 1975 when he became a household name with the blockbuster Sholay, playing the beloved "Veeru." That film's legacy endures, its dialogues still quoted decades later. It was made on a budget of roughly Rs 3 crore, and Dharmendra was paid Rs 1.5 lakh, the highest among the cast.

Even as his fame grew, he faced rejection. Early in his career, some directors told him he did not belong in films—that he should return to his village. But Dharmendra's passion ran deep: as a child, he would walk miles just to catch a movie. In 1958, drawn by a Filmfare advertisement seeking new faces, he auditioned and his dreams began to take shape. Over his career, he acted in more than 300 films, always giving every role his full heart and commitment.

His humility and simplicity won him as much love off-screen as on. Proud of his rural roots, he often said, "I am the son of the soil... I came from a village. I cannot stay away from my roots ... it is my mother." In his latter years, he lived quietly, gardening and caring for cows, buffaloes, chickens and ducks — grounded in the same innocence that defined his life.

From 2004 to 2009, Dharmendra served as a Member of Parliament for the Bharatiya Janata Party, but he later stepped away, admitting that politics was not for him. He once said, "Love is the feeling that takes up residence in the heart." He loved deeply — his family, his fellow actors, his fans — yet he was uncomfortable with praise. Whenever compliments poured in, he would reflect, "If people say such things, then maybe it is so," always cautious not to lose the place his admirers had given him.

Fluent in Urdu, Dharmendra felt a special connection to its poetic beauty. He once expressed his gratitude in verse, "I am indebted to you, Urdu language; in your tongue the expression of feelings of the heart came."

His passing is not just a loss to Indian cinema but to the human spirit: a loss of gentleness, decency, and integrity. In tribute, fans said, "The final spark in the flames of memories has gone out," while others lamented, "The sun of cinema has set; today, the nation stands still." Many called it "the end of an era." Yet his memory will always remain alive — in film, in poetry, and in the hearts of those who knew and admired him.UNI

Former IAF Chief Arup Raha warns of rising risk of two-front terror threat

■ JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 : Former Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha has warned that India must brace for the mounting possibility of a two-front terror threat emerging from both Pakistan and Bangladesh, urging heightened vigilance, intelligence preparedness, and military deterrence.

In an exclusive interview with UNI on Monday, Raha said the "probability" of a coordinated or near-simultaneous terror challenge from both fronts is increasing in the current geopolitical climate.



"A terror attack from two fronts is a probability which is increasing, and we have to guard against it," he cautioned.

Raha described India as "an oasis in a desert of instability," noting that its stronger economy and stable political system contrast sharply with the turbulence gripping the wider neighbourhood.

"The rest of this region is suffering from instability, both political and economic," the former air chief who also heads defense think tank SENERS-K said.

Recalling past skirmishes with Pakistan-backed terror groups, he warned that Bangladesh, too, is witnessing an ideological shift.

"Bangladesh is turning towards fundamentalism ever since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime," he noted, adding that India must consider the "consequences and the possibility of a two-front terror attack."

Calling for sharper intelligence coordination and a more proactive posture, the former Air Chief said agencies must be equipped and empowered to detect and dismantle threats early.

"We need good intelligence. We also need good preparedness for our security forces," he stressed.

Raha emphasised that India, despite a successful strike against Pakistan through Operation Sindoor, which he praised, must avoid drifting into recurrent skirmishes or open conflict, but simultaneously remain militarily prepared for all contingencies.

"Deterrence will be the key," he said, underscoring that credible defensive and offensive readiness remains central to preventing any such escalation.UNI

VHP to push for Temple autonomy, anti-conversion vigil, global Hindu unity: Alok Kumar

■ ANANYA DASGUPTA

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 : Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) international president Alok Kumar has said the organisation will intensify campaigns to "take back temples from government control," curb "fraudulent conversions," and mobilise Hindus globally, even as the Ram Mandir nears completion.

Speaking to UNI, Kumar said the construction of the Ayodhya temple was "not the original mission" of the VHP, but one of its major projects.

The organisation's larger goal, he said, was to "erect a temple in the hearts of all Hindus" and promote a way of life based on Dharma, Sanskrit, Vedas and cow protection. Kumar announced that in 2025 the VHP would meet chief ministers across states to press for ending government control of temples.

He argued that colonial-era policies weakened temples by stripping them of their historical role as centres of social and cultural life, and accused states such as Tamil Nadu of diverting temple funds.



"When the government does not control a gurdwara, mosque or church, why should it enrich itself from temple funds?" he said.

On the rise of anti-conversion laws, Kumar claimed there was "organised effort," to convert people through "allurement, deceit or fear."

He said the VHP had stationed trained volunteers in 8,500 "sensitive blocks" to monitor conversions, counter "love jihad," and carry out "ghar wapsi." Kumar also expressed concern over demographic changes in border states and metropolitan regions.

"Even in Delhi, there is a huge population of illegal migrants... They try to change election results," he said, adding that the VHP liaises with

authorities to identify and deport them.

On the situation of Hindus in Bangladesh, he said the community "resisted" attacks following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina and did not flee to India.

He welcomed Nobel laureate and interim Bangladesh head of government Muhammad Yunus' remarks calling for an end to the violence. Kumar said the VHP is active in nearly 100 countries and focuses on engaging second-generation Indians abroad through weekly programmes, temple activities and interactions with visiting gurus.

The organisation has also set up a training institute in Ayodhya for priests bound for foreign temples. On the Bihar election results, he argued that increased Hindu consolidation was reshaping political equations. Despite its global presence, Kumar said constructing new temples abroad is not the VHP's primary activity.

"We tell Hindus to keep their regional associations, but also unite as Hindus. And we are succeeding," he said.UNI

EC to meet TMC amid rising concerns over Bngal voter roll revision

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 : The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India has agreed to meet leaders of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on November 28 at 11 am, signaling an important dialogue amid escalating tensions around the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

This move forms part of the Election Commission's ongoing effort to engage with political parties and address their concerns ahead of forthcoming elections.

The decision follows a series of letters from senior TMC leaders, including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has expressed grave concerns about the management and human costs associated with the SIR exercise. In her letter dated November 24, Banerjee questioned whether the Commission's actions were being conducted "at the behest of a



political party to serve vested interests." This was her second appeal within days, following an

earlier letter on November 20 urging the Commission to halt the revision, citing distress and

suicides among Booth Level Officers (BLOs) involved in the process.

Responding to concerns raised by TMC MPs such as Derek O'Brien, the CEC has referred the matter to a panel tasked with enhancing communication between the Commission and political parties. While the specific agenda of the upcoming meeting remains undisclosed, it is anticipated that the TMC will emphasize the issue of BLO deaths and the overall impact of the SIR process, while the Commission will likely discuss election preparedness and address party-specific grievances.

Given the TMC's significant political influence in West Bengal and its active opposition during the electoral process, this engagement is being closely watched. It highlights the delicate balancing act the Election Commission must perform—ensuring electoral reforms are implemented effectively while navigating political sensitivities to uphold the integrity of India's democracy. UNI

Piyush Goyal concludes Israel visit with engagements to strengthen strategic, economic partnership

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 25 : Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal concluded his visit to Israel with a series of high-level engagements aimed at strengthening India-Israel strategic and economic partnership.

During the visit, Goyal held discussions with Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry, Nir Barkat, on India Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Signing of

the Terms of Reference for the FTA was a key highlight of the visit marking an important step toward structured negotiations for a balanced and mutually beneficial outcome.

The discussions with Israel's Minister of Finance, Bezalel Smotrich, covered opportunities for Indian companies in the fields of infrastructure, mining and Indian workers in Israel.

Goyal also held discussions with Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security,

Avi Dichter, on Israel's long-term food-security strategy, seed-improvement technologies and leadership in agricultural water-reuse.

The Minister also participated in India-Israel Business Forum and CEOs Forum which saw strong industry participation from both sides. Over 250 B2B meetings were also held.

In his remarks Goyal underscored India's vast potential for Israeli innovators



and businesses, particularly in technology, agritech, water tech, defence, science and technology, fintech, AI, quantum computing, pharmaceuticals and space.

He also held interactions with leadership from leading Israeli companies, including Check Point, IDE Technologies, NTA and Netafim, focusing on partnerships in cybersecurity, desalination and wastewater management, metro and urban mobility solutions, and precision

agriculture respectively.

On the last day of his visit, Goyal called on Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and briefed them on the successful India-Israel Business Forum and CEOs Forum.

He also discussed expanding bilateral economic and strategic cooperation in the fields of agriculture, water, defence, cybersecurity, science and technology and innovation. UNI





Shamsi Withdraws; Kaber Replaces Him for SA20

Defending champions MICT bought Shamsi for R500,000 in the September 2025 auction

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ANTIGUA: Tabraiz Shamsi, the South Africa and MI Cape Town wrist-spinner, will not feature in the upcoming SA20 season. Shamsi made himself unavailable for personal reasons and has been replaced by all-rounder Thomas Kaber, who also bowls left-arm wristspin.

MICT's spin-bowling contingent for the fourth season includes Rashid Khan, George Linde and Dane Piedt. Their fast-bowling attack features Kagiso Rabada, Trent Boult, Corbin Bosch and Dwaine Pretorius.

Kaber returns to the franchise he represented in the last two seasons. He played one game in MICT's 2024-25 title-winning campaign and eight in the 2023-24 season.

Overall, Kaber has bowled in seven innings in SA20 and has taken 10 wickets, averaging 16.60 at an economy rate of 8.05. In four batting innings, he has scored just 34 runs but with three unbeaten knocks. In the ongoing CSA T20 Challenge, he has seven wickets in six games for Warriors at an economy rate of 6.31 and average of 17.42.

Shamsi was picked by MICT in the auction held in September for R500,000 (US\$ 29,000 approx.) and was set to play his maiden season with the franchise. He represented Joburg Super Kings last season and Paarl Royals for the first two seasons. Shamsi is currently representing Northern Warriors in the Abu Dhabi T10. Earlier this year, he opted out of a Cricket South Africa (CSA) national contract, and was not selected for the ODI series against India. His last T20I appearance was in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Defending champions MICT play in the season opener on December 26 against Durban's Super Giants. Newlands, the franchise's home venue, will host the opener as well as the final on January 25.



England need to shut out the noise and look in the mirror

■ GREG CHAPPELL

PERTH: The England dressing room on the final day of last week's Perth Test must have resembled a building struck by a sudden, shattering explosion. One moment there was light, order, and a firm structure; the next, a deafening, visceral shock wave.

It was more than a defeat; it was a systemic failure that felt like the lights had been plucked out. The silence that follows such a blast is rarely peaceful. It is instantly replaced by the sounds of the resulting chaos: the alarms begin to blare, smoke and dust swirl in a disorienting, suffocating cloud, and the structure groans under considerable damage.

As the initial shock recedes, the occupants - Ben Stokes, Brendon McCullum, and the rest of the squad - begin to grasp the new reality. They are hurt, disoriented, and the damage is real.

ESPNCricinfo

Khawaja's back issues to be examined as Australia float flexible batting order

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

PERTH: Australia coach Andrew McDonald has said there will be further investigation into Usman Khawaja's back issue in the lead-up to the Brisbane Test and admitted the selectors have "a lot to consider" around the batting order after Travis Head's match-winning performance as a stand-in opener. Australia's players and staff flew to their home cities on Sunday after the first Ashes Test finished inside two days in Perth.

Khawaja's back spasms have become a major talking point, with the 38-year-old unable to open in both innings and only able to

bat once in the game. He also dropped a catch at slip before leaving the field in England's second innings. McDonald confirmed that the medical staff would look into the injury further as Khawaja has never suffered a back spasm of that nature in his lengthy career.

"There was discussions around further investigation to whether it was more serious than what we sort of first anticipated," McDonald said on Monday. "So we'll work through that. We'll get a squad together. We'll step through everything that we normally step through. "We get to camp in six days' time. It's a long way out, a lot of information to gather between



now and then, and hopefully Usman is fit and available for selection. "I think anytime you spasm, it's a result of something going on in your back. So I think that further investigation is just due diligence around that. You spasm for a reason. He

hasn't had it before, so that's what will probably entail a bit more further investigation.

"My gut feel is that it should be okay, but as I said, we'll wait for that information to present."

McDonald dismissed Khawaja's age as a reason for the back issue flaring up. Khawaja did play 18 holes of golf on each of three days leading into the Test match (54 holes in total), something he had done previously leading into a Test without issue. But McDonald, like CA chief executive Todd Greenberg, reiterated that it had never caused a problem before.

"These things can happen," McDonald said. "And I don't think

you can join the dots to something around his age. I think it's just one of those things that's happened."

McDonald was asked whether Head's extraordinary performance in the second innings, where he made 123 off 83 balls to win the Test match, would cause a rethink about a permanent change at the top of the order. "We've got a lot to consider," McDonald said. "Batting orders are always debated heavily over a period of time. Middle order players haven't been sort of the ones that have been the popular ones to open the batting. So we'll discuss and work through what it looks like.

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